

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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The Heinlein Society Newsletter is a periodic report, published by the Society, issuing up to four issues annually, to membership of the Society, reporting on charitable and other activities and items of interest to its membership, supporters and the public. It is co-edited by Society members Max Baskin and Marie Guthrie, who may be contacted by email to newsletter@heinleinsociety.org or via secretary@heinleinsociety.org. Contributions written by Society members may be considered for publication if they pertain to the Society's charitable goals. Mailed circulation of the last issue was approximately six hundred copies. Other copies are distributed at conventions and other events.

newsletter

1938 Heinlein House Visit Makes World Con In Anaheim Memorable



View of patio opening off new fireplaced kitchen in former location of pool.

Photo by The Heinlein Society

It's a small house tucked into the hillside, with narrow brick stairways that lead you up to this house which feels larger than it is. Although modified since 1948 when it was sold, you can still imagine Robert and Leslyn living here. While each room is clean-lined and simple, and flows into each other well, it's unlike the planned houses we are used to today. The feeling is organic, as if it grew from the hill itself. Its twists and turns make it easy to imagine how this house could inspire "—And He Built a Crooked House—".

Every evening during the recent L.A.Con.IV (WorldCon), the

Heinlein Society sponsored get-togethers and events in its Society con suite. On the last afternoon of the convention, Society members were afforded a rare opportunity: to tour the first home that Robert Heinlein owned. Ten Society and family members were able to make the trip from Anaheim to Laurel Canyon in the Hollywood Hills to view the home.

The Heinleins bought the house in 1938 to establish residency and also as a vehicle to take a bank loan to underwrite his political campaign expenses of that year. When he failed to win election, he was left with a mortgage to pay. He

Cont'd on Page Three

Secretary's Report

Snow was falling on Pikes Peak when I started this report. You can almost guarantee that there will be snow in October, but September is a bit early from my experience since arriving here in 1986. It has not even been a month since Worldcon in Anaheim where I re-acquainted myself with the sweltering heat and humidity associated in the months of August and September in Southern California.

Since I've joined the Heinlein Society I have attended Worldcons in Toronto, Boston, and Anaheim and NASFiC in Seattle.

In Toronto, my baptism of fire, I learned that most convention organizations have a tendency to fly by the seat of their pants. For anyone who travels to and fro in the course of their business endeavors, the "wait for confirmations that are forthcoming" leaves a lot to be desired. I learned that you must always have a backup plan in place because you might be standing in front of the convention center, surrounded by your suitcases, with no place to go. Toronto was where

er than my dinosaur 486, learned quickly the joys of making arrangements via the Internet.

In Boston, applying lessons learned in Toronto, our awards banquet was even more successful. That was the year that we managed a live hook-up with Sir Arthur C. Clarke, in Sri Lanka, who was the recipient that year. It was really exciting when we finally managed to have exchanges of dialogue between Sir Arthur and those who were attending the event.

By the time the NASFiC in Seattle came we had worked most of the bugs out and, thankfully, held a banquet co-sponsored by the organizing committee of Cascadia Con. This was by far the best-attended event thus far. Not only did Dr. Pournelle and Larry Niven enjoy their part of the evening but the Golden Duck and other awards were presented as well.

This year in Anaheim we hosted an evening in our suite for the Heinlein Award, after they were formally announced on Thursday night at the opening ceremony presentation. We looked forward to seeing both Greg Bear and Jack Williamson. All was set up, we even had our friendly bouncer, Keith Kato, available ready to help people along and not tire Dr. Williamson unduly.

But, alas, we received word that he was regrettably too infirm to attend. [We all were saddened to hear recently that Dr. Williamson had died.] Undaunted, to honor both, we (Andrea, Pam, and myself) prepared a cornucopia of comes-



Part of a collection of Jack Williamson's lifetime achievement awards, including his Heinlein Award, shown at right. Literary agent Eleanor Wood delivered the award to Dr. Williamson, in early September.

Photo courtesy of Patricia Roger.

tibles. (I am aware of the alliteration). Indications, from those who attended, were that this event was the one not to have missed. Most of our guests arrived after the opening ceremonies where Dr. Pournelle and Mr. Niven announced the winners of the Heinlein Award. At least 80 people attended our open house that evening. We had announced a 'black-tie' optional; and the ladies of THS looked fabulous, as did our men. Let's face it, we don't have many occasions to dress up and when that moment presents itself I go for it. There is someone we all know and love who felt it was very appropriate to dress for an event.

In all four of the conventions I've attended, faces and names keep reappearing to help and enjoy our activities. This, my brother, David, explained to me when I first started to attend. "It's a great way to meet friends and for old friends to see each other." In Boston, I first met Pam Somers and Bob Preisinger. A propitious meeting for me especially and one I thank God for every day. There are many reasons, not the least of which is Pam taking on Membership Services duties. Putting other faces this year



President Silver presents pin and awards plaque for Heinlein Award to Greg Bear.

Photo by The Heinlein Society
we held the first annual Heinlein Award banquet that, I say with some personal pride, went over quite nicely. I, who had just been introduced to a computer a bit new-

to names, I met Alec and Pam Iorio who did a reading in Anaheim of a few chapters from the then yet unpublished *Variable Star* one very wonderful evening; Hugh Staples, who I first met in Seattle, with his wry comment and camera always at the ready; Lindalee Stuckey, our tirelessly dedicated Library Chair who has accomplished so much you may read about in her column; and Mike and Sharon Sheffield, the best ballroom dancers I have personally seen on the floor. Mike, our Blood Drives chair, has diligently built up the numbers of our drives to an astounding total.

My list goes on, ever growing: Bill Patterson; Dr. Robert James; Spencer Vaughn; Fran and Kent Van Cleave; and, last but not least, L. N. Collier. Our General Meeting was well attended, judging from the last three I have sat at. Two new committee chair people were announced in that meeting and they are Tim Morgan and Juliet Vogel. Welcome! Tim will be working to establish new and reestablish some old activities, Juliet to open up membership opportunities in the aerospace professions. I am happy to say that the female committee chairs are now at about par with the male. "It's a *good* thing."

We now look forward to our plans for the forthcoming Centennial Year. These will take one heck of an effort from all. I am at the ready. Are you?

Oh, and by the way, your dues accrued on January 1. Please pay them, soon.

Respectfully yours,

Jane E. Silver

Secretary-Treasurer

secretary@heinleinsociety.org



Heinlein House Visit Cont'd from Page One

turned to writing, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The house, originally built in 1933, is partly described in several stories, including "Year of the Jackpot" and "—And He Built a Crooked House—". Later, the Manāna Literary Society would often meet in this house, as described in Anthony Boucher's *Rocket to the Morgue*. The lot is 6,250 square feet, on a steep hillside. The front side of the house is quite lush. The current owner of the home purchased it in 1997. He later learned that Heinlein had lived there. He reported that in the 1960s, a famous rock photographer had lived there, and Karen Townshend, wife of Pete Townshend of The Who, subsequently owned it.

Heinlein updated the house by adding a bathroom to the story above the garage, which became the room where he did his writing. Reportedly, he brought materials into the

house at night so that the neighbors would not see that he was making un-permitted changes to the home! This construction work was a prelude to designing the two subsequent houses where he lived, in Colorado Springs and Santa Cruz. The swimming pool that had once been

there is gone, and another wing containing the current kitchen had been added some time after the Heinleins lived there, presumably where the pool was, giving a current total of 1840 square feet. The house lists with 11 rooms, including 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms.

Since WorldCon will be held in Denver in 2008, we hope to be able to sponsor a tour of the "home of the future" that Robert and Virginia built in 1950-51 in Colorado Springs, which was profiled in *Popular Mechanics* in 1952. That was the home under which



Heinlein built a bomb shelter.

Tim Morgan

Membership Activities Chair

morgan@taa.com

Top: the entry and fireplace of the Heinleins' home in Laurel Canyon. The very gracious current owner is shown at right. The knotty pine panelling, native stone fireplace and open beam ceiling is typical of period Southern California hillside construction. Bottom: the other end of the wide sunny living room. A few additional photos are on Pages 1, 4 and 12.

**Talk is cheap
and not worth the paper it's written on!
"Pay It Forward" Must Become A Vital Action Plan!
What Are YOU Going To Do
To Help THS Celebrate Robert A. Heinlein's Centennial Year?**

During the past months, there's been an enormous amount of talking about the "Best Ways" to Celebrate, Commemorate, or Memorialize the centennial anniversary of Robert A. Heinlein's birth. There's been a lot accomplished, but there's still a lot more to do. In previous Newsletters, I've asked all of you for your help and everyone has pretty much responded as expected, for which I thank you.

Well, the pressure is rising and it looks like the glass is falling. "Now is the time." Here I am, once again, standing before you, hat in hand, self-respect left at the kitchen door, and manners in my back pocket. The Heinlein Society needs some help from its own. That's YOU!

During 2007, many SF conventions will be organized in various disparate venues all around the USA and the world. Many of the attendees, both authors and *fen*, are THS members. In order to enable the creation of a valid and cohesive plan of activities and to best use the resources available to the Society, I believe it is imperative for **EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER** to set aside a bit of quiet time, **IMMEDIATELY**, and focus on this question: What do *I* personally think the Society should do for the Heinlein Centennial Year Celebrations?

Please give yourself a little time to consider it. Here are some "prompts" to assist you:

1. Which do *I* think are the TOP TEN Conventions? [Stating reasons would be an "extra."]
2. On which Conventions do *I* think the Society should focus its efforts? [Does that create a *different* list? Consider *both* of them.]
3. What discussion panel topics would *I* like the Society to offer to the organizers of the various Cons? [Dif-

ferent topics for different conventions? Which topics for which Cons?]

4. Which topics do *I* think will most likely be accepted by those who organize Cons and attract attention and participation of the greatest number of attendees? [In your considerations I pass on to you the advice I've received: Many Convention Organizing Committees — the Secret Masters Of Fandom (SMOFs) — don't like to schedule *one-author panels*. Therefore, integrating RAH content/themes/



Photo above shows the bathroom plumbed by Heinlein in the Laurel Canyon house level above the garage which he used as a study and to write after the lost campaign for State Assembly in 1938. Today, it serves the present owner as part of a small one-bedroom rental.

Photo by The Heinlein Society

topics with those of other authors will advance greatly the prospects for a suggested topic.]

5. On which discussion panels will I serve? [Don't be shy on *this one, please*. I've been informed by a typically reliable source that it's been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the U.S. Federal Government that the IQ

of an "average" RAH aficionado is between 15 and 20 points higher compared to that of "general audience" SF *fen*. Send me an email and I'll send you the figures.]

6. Which Convention(s) will I attend? [Please don't respond with "Well, I *might* be there." Rather say "I'll definitely be there!!"]

7. What help will I offer to the Society?

a. Will I interact with the Con organizers to facilitate the Society's involvement?

b. Will I staff/decorate the Society's Fan Table?

c. Will I organize/assist with set-up/clean-up in the Society's hospitality suite?

d. Will I organize/assist with set-up/clean-up an "event" on behalf of the Society during the Convention? [a book reading, a *tea reading*, a costume party *or what-you-will*.]

e. Will I make chili/spaghetti/*boeuf bourguignonne*/"My Specialty" for a Society-sponsored get-together? Will I organize/assist with the Society Blood Drive?

These are, I hope, only provocations for your thoughtful consideration. The Society's plans should be a reflection of the concerns and participation of its members. Take the time NOW to tell us how *YOU* want to celebrate Mr. Heinlein's Centennial.

Please send any and all suggestions to me and I will deliver them to the Society's Board of Directors in your name. Thanks again for everyone's continued support. I know that working together we can make this special anniversary something that our namesake would be proud of!

Alec Iorio

Convention Programming Chair
baybus@mindspring.com

Aerospace Needs You!

This year, for the first time in nearly a decade, I had the opportunity to attend a WorldCon. It was wonderful to renew some old acquaintances and in several cases, finally put faces to names! I will refrain from rambling descriptions of all the fun, but suffice it to say that the highlights included the reception for the Heinlein Award winners, Keith Kato's Chili (never to be missed!) and hours spent at our fan table or in the THS Con Suite enjoying company and conversation with the many delightful people who hold membership in THS.

Certainly another highlight was attending this year's annual THS General Meeting. During the meeting, I was asked to serve as Chair

of the Aerospace Outreach Committee and eagerly accepted. As a physicist, I meet people every day who credit Heinlein's work as an inspiration for entering their field of study. My colleagues are ripe pickings to help further the goals of the Society!

I'm requesting your help with further organization of the Aerospace Outreach committee. The committee is tasked with expanding membership in aerospace and other scientific fields. Our hope is to introduce THS programming, including exhibits and blood drives, to major aerospace and scientific conventions. Eventually, we would like to sponsor a lecture series at major conferences, with the goal of adding some of our own lecture

and panel programming. As a personal project, I am also looking to expand the Society's space advocacy programs.

The planned work depends on Heinlein Society members willing to contribute their time to these events. In addition to scientists and engineers who are already attending these conferences, we need anyone who can attend to help work tables and organize events, or just offer ideas on further outreach activities. Please contact me with any questions, comments, or to join our Aerospace Outreach mailing list and get started!

Juliet Vogel

Aerospace Outreach

Committee Chair

aerospacechair@heinleinsociety.org

Library Committee

The Heinlein juveniles now all have summaries and Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes written and they soon will be submitted. Hopefully AR will make these quizzes into official tests, as many school libraries are throwing away books that do not have AR tests written. Additionally, in some schools students are only allowed to read AR books during school hours and must spend thirty minutes each evening reading AR books. It would be a shame if any Heinlein titles would be thrown out.

Currently, only two titles by Heinlein have official AR tests

written: *Have Space Suit—Will Travel* and *Glory Road*. Hopefully we'll see tests for the rest of the juveniles published before they're lost to schools around the country.

One of the Heinlein juveniles, *The Rolling Stones*, has been adapted as an audio book by Bruce Coville of Full Cast Audio and has won a special award from the Golden Duck Awards for excellence in children's literature.

Reading For the Future, <http://www.readingforfuture.com/puts> donated books in the hands of students and members are looking for a traveling road show to help teach-

ers to use Science Fiction in the classroom. They have been discussing the problems of Accelerated Reader and the lack of science fiction titles. It has even been suggested by some that the SFWA or other parties consider legal action against Accelerated Reader, which already has a lock on several states. AR is required by many states for schools that have a high numbers of students reading below expected level. If AR fails to include Heinlein or other SF titles, they won't be read.

Lindalee Stuckey

Library Committee Chair

redunicorn@sbcglobal.net

For Us, the Scholars

Those who have participated in the yearly Heinlein Studies panels at the national Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) conferences know how rewarding the experience can be. Next year's conference in Boston will be even more

rewarding for one panelist: for the first time, the Heinlein Society is sponsoring a \$500 cash prize for the best Heinlein area paper presented at the conference. The winning paper will also be published on the Society website. The award is the latest in a long list of ways

that the Heinlein Society continues to support Heinlein Studies and its efforts to promote Heinlein scholarship at various academic conferences around the country.

The theme of this year's Heinlein panels at the PCA will be "1907-

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Are You Wondering Where that Lovely Copy of *Glory Road* Came From? —Read this!

The Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Trust
3106 Beauchamp Street
Houston, TX 77009

December 8, 2006

To All Members of the Heinlein Society
c/o The Heinlein Society
PO Box 1254
Venice, CA 90294

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust, I would like to thank all of you for your generous support of the Heinlein Society. It is your support that allows us to continue propagating the ideas and works of Heinlein to others. I'd also like to take a moment to tell you about the Trust's Heinlein-related events of the past year.

In July, the Heinlein Trust had the privilege of awarding the first Heinlein Prize to Mr. Peter Diamandis for his many commercial space accomplishments and his establishment of the X Prize. The Heinlein Prize is a monetary award to be given no more than once a year and only when the trustees feel a candidate has sufficient merit. We feel that Peter Diamandis's accomplishments made him a worthy choice for the first Heinlein Prize. For more information, please see the Heinlein Prize website at www.heinleinprize.com.

The Trust has also established Heinlein Student contests in both Europe and Asia. The first unified Asian Prize will be awarded next year in Beijing. The Trust is proud to present the Asia award in association with the Chinese Society of Aeronautics. Information on these contests can be found at the Heinlein Prize website.

We are also pleased to announce that, in conjunction with Meisha-Merlin Publishers, we are releasing the definitive collection of Robert Heinlein's works. The Virginia Edition is a forty-six volume limited-run print containing all of the Master's works, embellished with his personal correspondence and beautifully decorated by one of the industry's finest illustrators. The most ambitious collection of a writer's works since the 1929 collection of the works of Mark Twain, the Virginia Edition recognizes that Robert Heinlein is not just a great American author, but, with works printed and appreciated around the world, a great author. The first four volumes of the Virginia Edition have already been released and a new volume will be published every four weeks until all have been released. Copies of the Virginia Edition are available by order from the Meisha-Merlin website, www.meishamerlin.com. Heinlein Society members receive a ten percent discount on their purchase.

Working with Space Week, we have distributed fifteen thousand educational packets to students which incorporate excerpts from *Have Spacesuit—Will Travel* as well as science and language arts activities to educate students about space. Additionally, classes who make use of the educational packet are eligible to win \$250 and exhibition of an authentic spacesuit. It is our belief that by introducing new generations to Heinlein, we can inspire them to reach for the stars and ensure the prosperity of the space industry in coming years. For more on this endeavor, see the Space Week website at www.spaceweek.org under the education tab.

With the help of the Heinlein Society's own George and Deb Rule, we have begun putting the Heinlein Archives online. The Archives encompass all of Heinlein's correspondence and manuscripts —including the unpublished original ending to *Number of the Beast*. The Archives are still in the process of being uploaded, however the full archive will be available online as of Heinlein's centennial on 7/7/07.

Bill Patterson, the Heinlein Scholar operating from the University of California Santa Cruz with a grant from the Trust, has completed the manuscript of a two-volume official biography of Robert Heinlein which we hope to release for publication as soon as possible.

Again, I'd like to thank all of you for your support of the Heinlein Society; your generosity will keep the works of Heinlein alive for years to come. As a sign of our appreciation, we enclose a hardbound copy of *Glory Road* for your personal libraries. If you already have a copy, I encourage you to give this copy to a young child or a local library.

Happy Holidays, and,

*Best personal
regards, Art*

Arthur M. Dula
Trustee



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

Board Of Directors
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[1916-2003]
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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: _____

Variable Star: The Collaboration, a review

by Marie Guthrie

Heinlein, Robert A. and Robinson, Spider. *Variable Star*. NY: Tor, 2006.

“I do *not* want you to try and do the literary equivalent of a Rich Little impression of Robert Heinlein. I want you to take his outline and write the best damn Spider Robinson novel you are capable of.”

— Art Dula, trustee of the estate and Heinlein’s literary executor, as reported in the “Afterword” of *Variable Star*.

How are we to receive this lost Heinlein, this gift from beyond the grave?

Most of all, we have to remember that it is not a Heinlein novel; it’s a Heinlein/Robinson novel.

The basic plot is pure Robert A. Heinlein: a teenaged male orphan leaves everything behind to start a new life among the stars, where mentors help him evolve into a responsible adult. Spider Robinson weaves in references to Heinlein juveniles, the future history of Nehemiah Schudder, and the post-Prophet world of Coventry. The Einstein effect even helps bring two time-crossed lovers together

(much like *The Door Into Summer*.)

Variable Star is, nonetheless, a collaboration, and Robinson’s unique style is unmistakable. Our hero is a musician, and at times, something of a jerk. This is the sort of character development at which Robinson excels: creating a character whom readers embrace despite his obvious failings, and then showing how that flawed human transforms into an exceptional human. Robinson’s trademark puns abound, and his universe kicks our hero in the pants more than once.

Some readers will complain that the novel is too dark. It is dark. But neither Heinlein or Robinson have ever been afraid of the darkness. Review Heinlein’s “Concerning Stories Never Written: Postscript” to *Revolt in 2100*, or *Farnham’s Freehold*. Heinlein was well aware of America’s potential for self-destruction. Robinson’s *Very Bad Deaths* examines the darkest of human impulses, and even his funniest Callahan stories explore painful, even unresolvable antimonies.

Robinson chose to center *Variable Star*’s central message on a

sound clip from Heinlein’s 1987 Butler, Missouri, radio interview. Thus *Variable Star* becomes a post-humous order from the Admiral himself to get out there, colonize the stars, and earn humanity’s survival. Robinson also doesn’t soften the message; he shows us the true horror and despair of failure — absolutely essential — and then kicks our butts with all the Admiral’s authority ordering us “To the stars, now!”

In short, *Variable Star* has elements of a classic Heinlein juvenile — but with all the maturity of his later novels. It has the dark, somber, urgent warnings that Heinlein rarely indulged (but which he was too honest to sugarcoat or ignore), yet it sustains an unconquerable hope that is the hallmark of any Spider Robinson tale. It is a true collaboration — created across time. It is, in every possible sense of the phrase, death-defying.

It took me a few days to come off the high.

Marie Guthrie, author of this review, wrote her 1993 Ph.D dissertation on Robert A. Heinlein. Dr. Guthrie teaches English at a Midwestern university.

For Us, the Scholars, cont’d from page five

2007: A Century of Infinite Possibilities.” We are seeking papers on all topics related to Heinlein and from all academic areas, not just literary studies. Possible topics include: the Human Diaspora, the Future History, World-as-Myth, the juveniles, defining humanity in sf context, cultural contexts, popular culture and science fiction, the space program, short stories and novels, social structure, and critical analysis of any of Heinlein’s works. We are particularly inter-

ested in papers that put Heinlein and his works in dialogue with other authors, science fiction and otherwise. Other than literary studies, we enthusiastically welcome papers from academic areas such as sociology, sciences, psychology, philosophy, human sexuality, women’s studies, linguistics, history, law, film studies, theology/religion, political science, engineering, bioethics and economics. Each year, papers presented by scholars representing these areas contribute won-

derfully fresh perspectives.

To participate in the upcoming conference, submit a 250-word abstract via the RAH Studies website (www.rahstudies.org) or directly to pca@rahstudies.org. If your proposal is accepted, you will be invited to join us in Boston to present your paper. Also, many of the papers presented at the conference will be published in the Heinlein Journal. If you are from the Boston area, please feel free to attend the conference and all of our Heinlein

Studies panels. Information about the conference, including dates and times, will be available on the RAH Studies website as it becomes available (usually by February).

Heinlein Studies will also be participating in the Heinlein Centennial Academic Summit to take place during the Heinlein Centennial celebration July 6-8, 2007 in Kan-

sas City. The Academic Summit will feature numerous panels on all things Heinlein. Calls for papers will be issued in early October with due dates in early 2007. In addition to traditional academic panels, there will be numerous open roundtable discussions and lectures given by Heinlein scholars and experts from many other academic fields.

For more information on the Centennial and the Academic Summit, visit www.rahstudies.org.

If you wish to get involved in Heinlein Studies, please e-mail me.

Lisa D'Amico

Academic Committee Chair
pca@rahstudies.org

A Call to Arms: Uncle Robert Wants You!

...to step up and help. Robert Heinlein frequently gave of his time and his money to others who were in need. He passed along his great experience and knowledge to those who could use it, which I'm sure includes almost all of us. He offered his sweat, likely more than a few tears...and blood.

We are members of an organization dedicated to promoting that same spirit and preserving that legacy. There are many charitable groups in the world who will gladly take your money to support the good work that they do. So will we. But we are looking for something more from our members: a willingness to roll up your sleeves and go to work. Our membership is growing, but we are still a relatively small group. We need more than dollars. We need every able body to get the job done.

Next year we will be celebrating the Centennial of the man who made *Paying It Forward* a way of life. Every member of the Society, and indeed everyone who calls themselves a Heinlein fan, should be asking, "What can I do to honor this man who did so much?" There are a number of committee chairs here in the Society who can help to answer that question. Here are some of the ways that you can help:

As I reported in the last newslet-

ter, one of the drives we do over Memorial weekend is at Kublacon, a gaming convention in the San Francisco Bay area. The drive is small, but growing, and 2007 will be our third year there. The past two years I have run this drive by myself, as none of our local members have been able to be there. Unfortunately, I definitely will not be able to attend next year, as I have other commitments for that weekend. I need someone in the Bay Area to volunteer for this drive, preferably more than one person, as it is much nicer to spend the time with another and will help to keep a lone volunteer from getting burned out. Even if you don't normally attend gaming conventions (or any conventions, for that matter), I want you to consider stepping up to this task. Membership is provided by the convention for the blood drive workers, so there will be no cost to you and the folks at the convention are very supportive.

We are also trying to expand our blood drives beyond the regular convention circuit. I mentioned in the last newsletter that one of our new members, Beethka Hendrix, had contacted her local blood center about setting up a drive to celebrate the centennial. Another new member, Carlin Black, has

suggested a very interesting idea for how to go about organizing such a drive. His plan is to advertise to fans in his area to make appointments and come down to his local blood center and donate blood on the same day. It will be a sort of mini-Heinlein convention. We could have dozens of similar drives around the country next year (and beyond). I would like to hear from members who are willing to coordinate such a drive in their area. We can work out the logistics as a team. I also want to hear from anyone who has any other ideas for blood drives or other centennial celebrations.

And now, here is a rundown on what we've been doing recently. On July 29th, we had our second annual drive at Demicon in Des Moines. This year's drive saw an increase in donors to 32, with sixteen pints collected, ten of them double red cells, which means we really got the equivalent of 26 pints. Fifteen of the donors were first timers. This drive has a bright future. Thanks to Sheril Harper for running the drive there again this year. Unfortunately, what was to have been our 3rd annual blood drive at Gen Con in Indianapolis had to be cancelled this year, though not for lack of support.

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THS member Scott Hann was there to handle things on site and the convention is very supportive. But sadly, the blood center representative we have worked with the past two years retired and our drive did not make it into their schedule. The new representative tried very hard to get together a crew with a very short lead time, but wasn't able to work things out. We have made sure to get on the books early for next year. August 25th and 26th was the blood drive at L.A.Con.IV, the World Science Fiction Convention in Anaheim. Dennis and Kristine Cherry, who have been running the LosCon blood drive for many years, were in charge of the drive there and we were able to supply them with extra hands and extra arms as well as books and pins for

the donors. Dennis made the most awesome balloon aliens to give out to each donor as well. They collected 59 pints of blood, and would have had quite a few more, but the Red Cross was unfortunately understaffed the first day of the drive and many potential donors left. Our fourth annual blood drive at Dragon Con in Atlanta over the Labor Day weekend was, as always, a great success. The drive lasts all four days of the convention, and they had 269 donors and collected 211 pints of blood. This was down slightly from last year's drive, which took place shortly after Hurricane Katrina, but was still a great turnout. There are already plans afoot for more and better advertising for next year's drive and I think we'll see those numbers rise

further still. Thanks to Scot Mealy and Alan Koslow for again working this drive, and to new member Justin Waits who joined them. They also received a hand from a mystery woman named Heather, who is not a THS member, but pitched in and helped to staff the table. Coming up, we have our 4th annual drive at Arisia, January 12-14, in Boston. That will be followed by ConDor, March 2-4, in San Diego. As I write we are also trying to set up drives at Gen Con in Anaheim, November 16-19, and at Chattacon in Chattanooga, January 26-28.

Please email me at blooddrive@heinleinsociety.org with any ideas or suggestions or to volunteer. Thank you all for Paying It Forward.

Michael Sheffield

Blood Drives Committee Chair
aeropagan@earthlink.net

The 2007 Centennial Year ... and a few small things.

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one from Art. It includes a thoughtful essay written as Afterword by Samuel R. Delany, and is edited by David G. Hartwell, one of our earlier members, who joined at the Torcon dinner in 2003.

Speaking of Mr. Hartwell, I had a brief conversation with him at L.A.Con.IV this August. He felt we now need to focus our efforts, now that we've been in existence longer than a couple years and our membership has grown, on worthwhile charitable or educational efforts in addition to blood drives and SF con educational panelling. It's time to spread out a bit further. I agree. We're readying an effort in aerospace as Juliet Vogel's column reports, and we've offered a substantial prize for academic critical research writing as Lisa D'Amico's article notes, but I'm looking for recommendations and suggestions for other important areas from Mr.



Opening moments of our fifth annual general membership corporate meeting on August 26, 2006, at Anaheim. Table (L to R), directors Jane Silver, David Silver, and the kilted version of Mike Sheffield.

Photo by The Heinlein Society

Hartwell and all of you. Write or telephone me, please, to let me know what you think we should be doing new or differently to advance the Heinleins' and our goals.

We always need your help. Pay your annual dues earlier this year rather than latter, please. They've all accrued as due on January 1. Remember us when you donate to

charities. You intended to donate something to us this past year, didn't you? Write your check now, date it back to December 31, and send it in. That's perfectly proper and a legal way to make an annual charitable contribution and deduction. Your prior intent governs.

Returning to L.A.Con.IV, let me report on our fifth annual general membership corporate meeting. Although three other directors were present in Anaheim, illness prevented two from attending, leaving only Michael Sheffield, Jane Silver, the secretary-treasurer, and myself, with director Kondo's power of attorney to satisfy any quorum requirement for board meetings—of which none were necessary, present. One director, Dr. Jerry Pournelle, was stricken Thursday after his presentation of the Heinlein Award during the guest of honor introduction speeches with some form of sinus illness that kept getting worse. He tried to work through it, but had to confine himself to his bed by our general meeting. Charles N. Brown, who has attended all our general meetings held at World Cons, recently has begun to require a motorized wheel chair, telephoned he was on his way Saturday and attempted to attend—as you can tell from the vacant chair awaiting his presence in the photo of the opening of the meeting on the previous page, but his exhaustion after four days in Anaheim August stifling heat precluded that.

The meeting was duly and properly held without their help this year, twenty-five or so members in attendance, and three directors were elected to fill new three-year terms: David Wright, Sr., newly appointed to the expanded board this summer, was elected to serve a full

three-year term; Charles N. Brown, our senior founding director, was reelected to his third three-year term; and I, myself, David Silver was also reelected to a third three-year term.

With some luck, my heart and the rest of my body willing, I'll serve it out.

That is *the* problem for many who serve in volunteer organizations. Alec Iorio, whose article, "Talk Is Cheap ..." I commend to your renewed attention, understands it perfectly. Alec, getting along in years, cannot travel any substantial distance except in dire necessity. He's suffered from consumptive heart failure for several years. He knows that, although I'm not quite at his poor state of health yet, for our Centennial programs to succeed at the many venues we plan to take it to I'm going to need the back-up he's asking for. A small thing ... a little atrial flutter, for example, and they'll have me back in the hospital for a week, trying to figure out: "Is it time for the pacemaker yet? Or can we yet adjust this with medication? What about increased possibilities of a stroke if this goes on?"

It's not the future for my health you need to concern yourself with, it's the future impact on this Society's health that you need to consider in deciding to lend your help. Every one of us ages and we all need to add our little share of help for worthy charitable goals—you and me especially.

Heed him and volunteer, please. I'm not planning on checking out soon—what I plan on is continuing to nag, or flatter, or do whatever works to convince you to continue to help our charity's goals these next three years,

With that in mind, I'm going to

be relying more and more on an appointed deputy chairman on the board of directors this year, director Michael Sheffield, whom I have previously appointed and authorized to act as Chair in my illness or disability. We also have one vacancy on the board of directors, occasioned by a resignation, and I announce here that I am recommending to the board that it appoint Pamela Somers to fill that vacancy until that term runs out in 2008. Year in and year out, Mike and Pam have been most reliable in accomplishing tasks they have volunteered to fulfill for the Society.

We've been fortunate in many volunteers—old and new; and I'd like to see more and more of us volunteer to continue tasks Robert and Virginia have set out for us.

Use email, agplusone@heinlein.society.org, or my cell telephone (310-346-5669) to contact me to let me know how you'd like to Pay It Forward.

To help you consider a purchase of the new novel *Variable Star*, we've included in this issue a post-release review on the collaboration.

One other small thing ... your addresses. They change when you move. Please remember to let us know as soon as they do. About your email address: please give us a reliable one. We don't abuse you by sending out spam, or advertisements seeking "Hermaphrodites of the World" to arise, so give us an email address you actually use, not a spam box. Enjoy *Glory Road*!

I hope I see you at a local event in your area this year. Remember, "The Lieutenant expects ...".

David M. Silver
President and Chairman
"The Lieutenant expects
your names to shine!"
agplusone@heinleinsociety.org
310-346-5669

The 2007 Centennial Year ... and a few small things.

Perhaps you'll notice this column is a little longer and the newsletter is a little shorter than usual. It's shorter because we've chosen to focus on less, particularly mindful of the load on two new co-editors, Max Baskin and Marie Guthrie, who each kindly volunteered after reading the appeal in our last newsletter; and this article is a bit longer because I've more than usual to write to you about.

Please notice there is an insert—actually two—but the one which may surprise you is the insert from Heinlein Centennial, the group that is planning to hold its own convention in Kansas City on Robert Heinlein's 100th birthday.

Throughout the last several years there has been one thing that has been constant: The Heinlein Society has tirelessly worked to further interest in the literary works and life principals of, and public interest in Robert A. Heinlein. The last thing THS would ever want to have happen is for any publicly-recognized Heinlein event to be anything less than completely successful. With that in mind, when they asked for access to our mailing lists, while I could not grant full access in light of the assurances of privacy we've made to you in collecting your addresses—no one will ever obtain copies of our mailing lists, absent a Bylaws change, I did propose to the board of THS that we help as much as we can by including their mailing along with our next newsletter. The board approved and, thus, you have their mailer along with this newsletter.

We need to support this event if we can. I plan to attend. It should

be restful, and I always wanted to taste KC barbecue, see the Butler birthplace and library, that railroad track running through the middle of Swope Park, and find out whether you can really fry an egg on the sidewalk in mid-summer. Perhaps we'll help them more if they ask, on the same terms we'd help any other SF convention interested in celebrating Robert's Centennial.

The undoubtedly pleasant other

kinds of organizations that are not full charities offer.

There was one exception.

The founding director, Virginia Heinlein, before our first New Year's holiday, decided to gift charter members with a copy of a lost recording of a speech, Heinlein's first public speech on the writing of science fiction, to thank them for their support in our first teetering year. One of our members had been instrumental in recovery of that lost item, all copies of which had been supposed destroyed. She later expanded that gift to include those who retroactively purchased a charter membership and that gift is still available to those few who elect charter memberships.

Art Dula was on his way to Russia on business when he first wrote this year in mid-December to offer and, later, actually there when his office contacted me to arrange shipment of his gift, made in Ginny's stead as trustee of the Prize Trust. She left to him and the other trustees both the duty and pleasure of continuing the good work Robert and she had agreed the Trust will

do. As with the Centennial group, we couldn't let Art have the mailing list, but could send his gift and report out to you at the Trust's request. Factors precluded getting them to you before Christmas, but now is close enough for the delay to matter only a little. Belated season's greetings to all of you.

The hardbound edition of *Glory Road* Art and the other trustees are giving you is a particularly good one. I've had a copy for a few years and enjoyed it well. Now I've got to find a likely looking kid for the

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"Up and down narrow flights of stairs"—what a good idea! Actually, climbing them wasn't all that bad. David Silver resting afterwards at the entrance of the Heinlein Laurel Canyon home.

Photo by The Heinlein Society

surprise is the letter and enclosed gift to each of us from the Heinlein Prize Trust. When we started THS, six years ago, we determined this would be an active, bona fide full charity. No benefits, discounts, big or little "things of value" for the membership. No insurance plans, discounted loans, or what have you, that perfectly legitimate other