

# 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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We continue to need more help to issue this Newsletter timely. If you can help, please contact [agplusone@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:agplusone@heinleinsociety.org).

# newsletter

## The Ensign's Prize Court: Recovered Pirates' Booty Now Made Available!



Ensign Virginia Doris Gerstenfeld, U.S. Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services), 1943.  
Courtesy of the Heinlein Prize Trust

Her father called her "Tiki" after Rudyard Kipling's Riki-Tiki-Tavi, perhaps because, characteristically, once she got her teeth into something she never let it go. With the advent of World War II, she enlisted in the WAVES, and was commissioned an Ensign after officer's training. Thereafter assigned to the Navy Aircraft research facility at Mustin Field outside Philadelphia and, on occasion, assigned to work with a research team supervised by civilian engineer Robert Heinlein, a medically-retired regular Navy officer, she became friends with him and his wife, Leslyn, and participated in their social set. Brilliant, educated as a biologist, athletic and social, she added the skills of an aviation engineer, contributed substantially to the research activities at Mustin Field, and had been promoted two ranks to full Lieutenant by the end of the war. She competed when off-duty for the Washington Figure Skating Club, represent-



Lieutenant Commander Virginia Doris Gerstenfeld Heinlein, U.S. Navy Reserve, Retired, about 1980.  
Courtesy of the Heinlein Prize Trust

ing the District of Columbia in intercity competitions, which her team regularly won. Unmarried, she dated men, including her skating partner and another whom she didn't name but once mentioned as having been an infantry officer lost in action in Europe during the winter of 1944-5.

After release from active duty in 1946 she moved to Los Angeles and enrolled in a doctorate program in biology at UCLA. There she resumed her friendship with the Heinleins. In 1947, Robert divorced Leslyn. A year later, Virginia Doris Gerstenfeld became Mrs. Robert Heinlein, his third wife; and she so remained for the rest of his life. She became his business manager, his Muse, his first reader, his collaborator, spokesman to his fans, his nurse when he became ill, and his grieving widow.

After he died, the volume of fan letters continued unabated and, slowly going blind, she continued answering them as

## The Ensign's Prize Court

Cont'd from page one

diligently as she had for years before. As his trustee and literary executrix, she continued to manage his business affairs.

Once she got her teeth into something, she never let it go.

By 2000, she had discovered the Internet, using a massively-sized display for the time which enabled her to read the monitor despite her macular disorder. Researching, one day, she:

*... happened to spot Mr. Heinlein's name on a list of books offered on eBay. "Published by Amereon," the list said. I found many other references to these offerings. I called a copyright attorney and ordered copies through friends of all ten books I found Amereon to be offering.*

*After receipt of the books, I instructed my attorneys to file suit. For years, I had kept a tickler file which I took out each year and made out renewal forms for everything Mr. Heinlein had written, twenty-eight years before. When each came up, I filled the forms out for copyright renewal and sent them to the Copyright office in the District of Columbia. I kept a file of the returned renewals, and my diligence paid off in this lawsuit.*

*Amereon and their attorney put me through the paces: first they demanded the original copyright certificates, which we had never had—publishers keep those in their legal departments, I suppose. I had never seen a single one. Amereon's lawyers got copies of all those certificates of renewal of copyright. At long last they were persuaded to throw in the towel, and offered me a consent judgment. I accepted the offer, and the judge looked over the judgment against Amereon which contained, in my opinion, sufficient stipulations of proof of violation of the law against Amereon, and approved and signed the consent judgment.*

By the time that consent judgment was entered, she had founded The Heinlein Society. Four days before Thanksgiving 2002, at the board's monthly business meeting, she announced she expected to receive from the defendants their inventory of printed books containing works of Robert A. Heinlein produced in violation



of the copyright laws of the United States. She notified us that she wished to donate those books to The Heinlein Society as her gift for use in fund-raising to support its charitable goals.

Two days later in Florida she produced a Letter of Provenance, and approved changes suggested by the Secretary of the Society in California who prepared a final copy for her signature. Two days after that, Thanksgiving Day, 2002, leaving her condominium to attend her holiday dinner with friends at a Naval Officers' Club, she broke her hip and entered a hospital, eventually to die in her sleep almost two months later on January 18, 2003.

"The Ensign's Prize," booty she recovered at no little expense from copyright pirates, will be offered for sale for charitable fund-raising purposes by The Heinlein Society for the next year from our website and at all events we attend.

Mrs. Heinlein's lawyers received and forwarded to the Society hardbound copies of seven of the infringing printings she

had discovered. Supposedly, the infringer had no other copies in print of the works of Robert Heinlein. Subsequently, during a contempt proceeding they had to bring, they received copies of an eighth hard-bound volume still being offered for sale. The infringer has now "walked the plank" out of business—a result the woman we call Ginny, but whose husband called her "Ticky," the spelling having morphed, would have enjoyed living to see. Would that she had.

Barry Levin is likely today's best-known dealer of SF collectables. He has been in business as "Barry R. Levin Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature," in Los Angeles County, for more than thirty years <<http://www.raresf.com/bhome.html>> and is frequently consulted as an expert appraiser. Lately, for example, he appraised a collection at the University of California, Riverside, well known as the repository of the Eaton Collection, *"the largest publicly-accessible collection of science fiction, fantasy, horror and*



utopian fiction in the world.”

To allow you to make your own evaluation of his opinion, you should know Barry is, of course, a member of The Heinlein Society. He has enjoyed reading Heinlein since his childhood.

In his expert opinion, a set of the eight volumes Virginia Heinlein recovered in mint condition from Amereon and its alter egos, “conservatively is worth a *minimum* of \$1,000, and will soon increase in value,” particularly noting that three of those volumes, including the only known hard-bound edition of the D.F. Vassallo-illustrated *The Notebooks of Lazarus Long*, are unique and particularly valuable.

We really have not had a good fund-raising opportunity since inception. This is the beginning of one. Consider helping us, and yourself, and invest in this valuable collection which will soon increase its value.

In past times, Naval officers and crews fought pirates and others, capturing their ships and, in some cases, like the officer and lady named “Tiki,” recaptured their loot. Those captured ships, loot and booty

were sold at Prize Courts for the benefit of those officers and men. Some officers, who received a larger share of the Prize, became fabulously wealthy, namely one named George Anson, who is, of course, one real life counterpart and model for the Aubrey character in the late Patrick O’Brian’s immensely popular Aubrey-Maturin series of sea tales.

Help the widow of another Anson, Robert Anson Heinlein, realize her goal in donating these unique works of Robert Heinlein for funding our charitable efforts. We won’t become fabulously wealthy — there are only thirty or so sets; but you can help pay forward our charitable goals. At the present time we are offering the sets at \$1,000. Expect that price to increase.

Tell your collector friends. Tell them also about our charitable efforts and goals: blooddrives, scholarships, prizes for academic and other writing, restocking libraries, adult and children’s education alike.

To order a set, email chairman@heinlein society.org, or write to Chairman, The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, California 90294-1254.

## The Secretary-Treasurer’s Table and Reports



Secretary-Treasurer Jane Silver verifying voting eligibility before the general membership meeting at L.A.con.IV at Anaheim in 2006.

Photograph by The Heinlein Society

By Jane Silver

In my last column I told you of travels to conventions in Toronto and the contiguous US. I’m going to tell you more about travel, because that is what we need this year: people to travel to conventions to help with The Heinlein Centennial Year; and I’d like to convince you to volunteer to help out. I’ve been across this continent many times. Been to one of the northernmost points, Lubec, where I experienced my first clam bake on Campobello Island off the coast of Maine. Enjoyed all the wondrous and thought provoking attractions in Manhattan from a premier at the Lincoln Center of a play I was intimately associated with; the many museums and art galleries; to the street theatre in the Village and SoHo. I’ve traveled to the heartland, Iowa and Arkansas as an auditor for a hotel chain. Been to the Gulf Coast and beyond. Took a memorable driving trip up the West Coast from my home in California to Seattle, Washington. Since moving to Colorado I’ve driven to Montana and Wyoming. Spent as little time as possible in Texas but understand there are nicer sights to see further south and west of El Paso, Harlingen, McAllen and Brownsville. Have yet to visit the deep south, wanted to get a tattoo in New Orleans to commemorate one of my Big “0” birthdays before Katrina. My travels were not limited to the U.S. I’ve been to France, Italy, the UK and Ireland too. I dream of someday going back to visit Spain.

Traveling has always been my number one most favorite thing ever. Finding your way around an unknown area, getting lost and in that process finding little jewels and perhaps new friends.

By the time this newsletter gets ‘put to  
Cont’d on Page Four

### Offerings of the Ensign’s Prize Court

There are duplicates of a few stories here because of two unique pirated collection volumes compiled by the infringer, but that makes the set more valuable because of their uniqueness.

*The Green Hills of Earth* (labeled “Rivercity Press, a division of The American Reprint Company, Republished 1978, by special arrangement with The Gnome Press,” Mattituck, NY, in green buckram).

- a. “Delilah and the Space-Rigger”
- b. “Space Jockey”
- c. “The Long Watch”
- d. “Gentlemen, Be Seated”
- e. “The Black Pits of Luna”
- f. “It’s Great to Be Back”
- g. “—We Also Walk Dogs”
- h. “Ordeal in Space”
- i. “The Green Hills of Earth”
- j. “Logic of Empire”

*Life Line* (labeled “Aeonian Press, P.O. Box 1200, Mattituck, NY, in light gray buckram)

- a. “Introduction By [unnamed]” [Damon Knight, from *The Past Through Tomorrow*].
- b. “Life-Line”
- c. “The Roads Must Roll”
- d. “Blowups Happen”
- e. “The Man Who Sold the Moon”
- f. “Delilah and the Space Rigger”
- g. “Space Jockey”
- h. “Requiem”
- i. “The Long Watch”
- j. “Gentlemen, Be Seated”

*The Menace from Earth* (“Republished 1976 by Arrangement with The Gnome Press, Inc.” and labeled “Aeonian Press, P.O. Box 1200, Mattituck, NY, in dark brown buckram)

- a. “The Year of the Jackpot”

- b. “By His Bootstraps”
- c. “Columbus Was a Dope”
- d. “The Menace from Earth”
- e. “Sky Lift”
- f. “Goldfish Bowl”
- g. “Project Nightmare”
- h. “Water Is for Washing”

*Methuselah’s Children* (“Reprinted 1976 by Special Arrangement” labeled “Aeonian Press, P.O. Box 1200, Mattituck, NY, in dark blue buckram)

*The Notebooks of Lazarus Long* (1973 ed. D.F. Vassallo lettering, labeled “Amereon House, the publishing division of Amereon, Ltd.,” P.O. Box 1200, Mattituck, NY, in yellow buckram)

*Ordeal in Space* (labeled “Amereon House, the publishing division of Amereon, Ltd.,” P.O. Box 1200, Mattituck, NY, in pale blue buckram)

- a. “The Black Pits of Luna”
- b. “It’s Great to Be Back”
- c. “—We Also Walk Dogs”
- d. “Searchlight”
- e. “Ordeal in Space”
- f. “Logic of Empire”
- g. “If This Goes On —”

*Sixth Column* (labeled “Amereon House, the publishing division of Amereon, Ltd.,” P.O. Box 1200, Mattituck, NY, in bright red buckram)

*Stranger in a Strange Land* (copy of 1991 ed. Ace, in tan vinyl. No Amereon or alter ego label). [The volumes recovered in a contempt proceeding].

## The Secretary-Treasurer's Table and Reports, Cont'd

bed' we will more than likely be preparing for trips to the Heinlein Centennial celebration in Kansas City and NASFiC in St. Louis. Usually, when one goes to a convention you stay pretty close to the convention activities. This year I plan on getting 'away' at one point to see what these two cities may offer. You can help. Volunteer and we'll trade off getting 'away.'

St. Louis has a literary reference that may be a bit obscure for a lot of you but one that is dear to me. Look for a character named Sadakichi Hartmann in Gene Fowler's *Minutes of the Last Meeting* and the quote attributed to Mr. Hartmann about St. Louis. And, of course you know of the literary references for Kansas City and Butler, Missouri, that we all share in common. Some of us will have to make a choice relative to which event we can budget for in time and money. I look forward to seeing all of my old friends and making some new ones. I also plan to see if you *can* fry an egg on the sidewalks in Kansas City in July. [*Late press note: Sadly for all of us, St. Louis is cancelled.—ed.*]

We've had wonderful responses to our dues solicitations and I want to thank all of you and especially those whom we haven't heard from in a while who have responded so positively to the efforts of our newly elected Director Pam Somers who is also chair of Membership Services. We have been able to really clean up our member roster with the corrections received in this process for current email and mailing addresses. We currently stand at over 700 registered members. A significant increase since I registered five years ago at number 132 and, we're still growing daily. We've received some wonderful feedback from our membership as well, suggestions for the newsletter and offers of help for our Centennial Year celebrations. It is great to hear from you and please do not hesitate to let us know what you think about how we are doing, please, don't be shy. Give a holler!

We'll be having our annual general meeting and election of directors shortly. Please read the Notice on the right of this page closely. It's legally required and our notice to you of your valuable membership rights.

Jane Silver, Secretary-Treasurer and  
Director

## The Heinlein Society Notice of Annual General Meeting And Voting Procedures

June 22, 2007

Board of Directors  
Virginia Heinlein (1916–2003)  
Charles N. Brown  
Yoji Kondo  
Joe Haldeman  
Jerry Pournelle  
Michael Sheffield  
David Wright, Sr.  
Pamela Somers  
Jane Silver, Secretary-Treasurer  
David M. Silver, President and Chairman  
P.O. Box 1254  
Venice, California 90294–1254

Dear Members of The Society:

Our by-laws, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2002, as amended, require that the board conduct an annual general membership meeting each year during the time and at the place of the annual World Science-Fiction convention, when held in North America, and when not at a place in North America, at whatever place it shall determine.

This the written notice of that meeting as required in our by-laws to each member entitled or likely to be entitled to vote at the meeting. You will be entitled to vote only if you are registered as a regular member and only if your dues are fully paid up and through the current year of 2007 at the time of the meeting. An opportunity to make dues current will be afforded members prior to and at the beginning of the meeting. Supporting members are not entitled to vote, but, subject to ruling of the chair, may address the meeting.

This year's meeting will be our Society's sixth annual general meeting. It will be held at the annual World Science-Fiction convention (Nippon 2007) at Yokohama, Japan, on **Saturday, September 1, 2007, at 12:00 PM, Japan Time, GMT +9**, in a suite or convention room as yet to be assigned to The Heinlein Society by Nippon 2007, at either The Grand Yokohama International Continental Hotel, or Pacifico Yokohama (Pacific Convention Plaza, Yokohama). Nippon 2007, the annual World Science-Fiction convention, has not yet published its programming schedule, and notice of this meeting may not be in its program. Check the front desk at the International Continental (The Grand Yokohama) for The Heinlein Society's suite, and telephone for further information. You need not be a purchaser of Nippon 2007 membership to attend the meeting if it is held at the hotel. The hotel is a public venue, open to non-Nippon 2007 members. Visitors are encouraged to attend, subject to ruling of the Chair.

The regular order of business specified in the by-laws to be observed is that customary for non-profit membership charitable corporations and will include, this year, election of three of the nine directors of The Society for the three senior non-exempt positions on the Board for a term of three years, as specified in the by-laws.

The three senior incumbents by length of service in their current term are Yoji Kondo, Joe Haldeman, and Jane Silver. Dr. Kondo has served as a director of this Society since his appointment in June 2002, and was reelected to a three-year term in 2004. Mr. Haldeman was appointed in August 2003, and reelected to a three-year term in 2004. Miss Silver was appointed pro-tempore Secretary-Treasurer in 2003, and elected to the board of directors for a full three-year term in 2004. Other nominations may be made and accepted at the meeting.

Further business consistent with the by-laws will occur at the meeting.

**You may vote at the meeting in person, or by an assigned written proxy, if you are eligible to vote at the time of the meeting. All proxies must be written, signed, and notarized, or accompanied by a clear and legible photocopy of a government-issued photo identification containing a signature for comparison purposes, to be valid.**

**Further, they must designate in writing the person to exercise the proxy; and they must be received by the Secretary of the Society by postal mail or in person at or before the time of the meeting. If you mail your proxy to the Society's postal address in Venice, California, please note that an officer of the Society will finally check that post office box address on the afternoon of Monday, August 27, 2007, before he departs to Japan; and it is solely your responsibility to ensure it arrives before his departure. You may designate any natural person to attend the meeting and vote your proxy. Further, the by-laws specify that failure of a non-attending member to designate a proxy shall constitute designation of the president as the holder of the proxy of the member not in attendance.**

We all hope as many of the Society's members as possible do attend the meeting.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

/s/Jane Silver

Jane Silver  
Secretary-Treasurer and Director

## The Robert A. Heinlein Centennial Year \$5,000 Writing Contest



**Mike Farr, Heinlein Society Centennial Year  
Writing Contest Subcommittee Chair**  
Photograph courtesy of Michael Farr

The Society recently received a significant donation of \$5,000 and request that we sponsor a science fiction writing contest open to all, professionals and amateurs, to be judged in terms of the best short story submitted in general literary quality, expressing the spirit, ideas, and philosophy of Robert A. Heinlein, using original characters and settings (i.e., not Heinlein's own, as there would be a copy-right issue there).

We agreed, and immediately also received a matching grant, to pay for advertising and other expenses attendant to the contest.

Our goals in sponsoring this contest will be to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mr. Heinlein's birth, continue the spirit, ideas, and philosophy that make the works of Robert Heinlein a testament to the human spirit, and get writers and others thinking deeply about his works.

We might also find ourselves with new fiction in the style of Robert Heinlein to read, because most, if not all of us, have already read and re-read many times all the ones he wrote.

The Society plans to announce the Contest formally during the July 7th weekend perhaps at "Gala" banquet in Kansas City, while we attend the celebration held in that city.

Mike Farr, a retired software executive, has volunteered to chair the subcommittee responsible for the project, having sufficient time, interest and energy to donate. Appointed to help him is a subcommittee consisting of Charles N. Brown, Yoji Kondo, Joe Haldeman, Jerry Pournelle,

David Hartwell, Geo Rule, and Alec Iorio, surrounding Mr. Farr, so to speak, with as much knowledge, wisdom, skills and talent as we can to help the project succeed.

The \$5,000 will be allocated, unless further supplemented, among a first, second, and third prize. We'd like to give the full \$5,000 amount to a first prize winner, but we'd need additional contributions made to reward the second and third prize winners appropriately. Three guesses what comes next? (The last two don't count.)

If you'd like to contribute a sum to help truly compensate its winners in a manner befitting a Contest in honor of Robert Heinlein's Centennial, we'd love to accept it and put it to that use. It will be interesting to see how easily the Society, from among its members, can match the sum originally donated. **Ten dollars** each would easily do it. Send your donation, this month to celebrate Robert's birthday, earmarked if you wish, to The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, CA 90294-1254, or use the webpage for donations <<http://www.heinleinsociety.org/fundraising.html>>. **Fifteen dollars** a head would allow us to begin to open the contest to a series of prizes also for school children entries that we'd like to consider. **Twenty dollars** might also let us implement the scholarship program for secondary school graduates we've envisioned since inception when the late Dr. Philip Owenby was Education Committee Chair. Don't let me stop you at twenty dollars if you feel the urge to do a good thing.

Expect to see that matching fund donation put to good use. We'll place appropriate advertisements in Locus, Analog, and perhaps other magazines, budget permitting, throughout the year; and we'll make use of our visits to various conventions in this, The Year of Heinlein, to publicize the Contest as well. Help us. We'll have flyers available and every SF writer's panel at every convention in the world should receive them, to say nothing of asking for announcements at Clarion West or other stand-alone writer's workshops. There are other ways to help: contact fanzines (we'll have flyers containing information they may use), on-line advertising, perhaps by Society-sponsored links, and personal invitations and direct mail will be used or considered.

If you particularly admire a writer and

would like to see him or her enter, write him and tell him about the Contest.

Public service announcements are an option. If you've contacts with your local NPR station, appropriate shows include "Science Friday," "All things Considered," and others. Let us know to whom we should write.

We're, perhaps, going to ask the authors of entries to assign their first North Ameri-



**Thinking about: "... expressing the spirit,  
ideas, and philosophy of Robert Heinlein."**

can publication rights or some other option to publish to us. We may decide to entice a publisher to produce an anthology of the Best of the Contest. David Hartwell isn't on that committee by accident. No one's on that committee by accident—we're giving it our very best efforts. We want this project to succeed; and we can use your help.

The subcommittee Mike is chairing is a subcommittee of the Education Committee. Write or email [education@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:education@heinleinsociety.org) if you have time or ideas or talents or skills to help.

While you're at it, if you write SF, don't forget to enter. All members of the Society except members of its board of directors, and their families, will be eligible to enter. Tell your friends. Let them know they may donate too.

We plan to announce and award the prizes at an appropriate venue at the end of The Year of Heinlein, as close to July 7, 2008, as possible. Perhaps it will be at a SF convention held on or about that date.

We'll have additional announcements later in the year.

Good speed to Mr. Farr and committee.



## 2007 Heinlein Award



Dr. Yoji Kondo, Heinlein Society director and Heinlein Award Judges Board Chair, talking to Arthur Dula, Heinlein Prize Trustee, on the occasion of the first award of the Heinlein Prize.

Photograph by The Heinlein Society

Heinlein Centennial, Inc., has announced that the 2007 Heinlein Award will be presented at the Centennial convention by none other than Dr. Yoji Kondo.

The Heinlein Award was established in August 2002, at the request of Virginia Heinlein by The Heinlein Society and Dr. Kondo, who personally enlisted a number of other science fiction authors and two Naval Academy English professors to form an autonomous board of judges to present an annual Award as a means of honoring outstanding written works of science fact and fiction that inspire the human race's exploration of space. Past recipients have been Virginia Heinlein (posthumously), Michael Flynn, Sir Arthur Clarke, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Jack Williamson, and Greg Bear.

Dr. Kondo is best known to members of the Society for three reasons: since August 2002, after enlisting the board of judges he has served as a member of the Society's Board of Directors; he was the editor of *Requiem: New Collected Works by Robert A. Heinlein and Tributes to the Grand Master*; and he was immortalized by his good friend Robert Heinlein as 'Tiger' Kondo in the novel *The Cat Who Walks Through Walls*. Dr. Kondo writes science fiction under the name of Eric Kotani.

The autonomous board of judges include Greg Bear, Michael Flynn, Joe Haldeman, Yoji Kondo, as its chair, Elizabeth Moon, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Spider Robinson, Stanley Schmidt, Herb Gilliland, and John Hill. The late Charles Sheffield was an original member of the

board.

In addition to contributions from the Heinlein Society, the Baltimore Science Fiction Society and individuals have donated funds to pay for the original silver medallions created by artist Arlin Robbins which are presented to awardees.

Although the board of judges have not yet disclosed the name of their selected awardee for the year 2007, the Award will be made on "Saturday evening," July 7, 2007, in Kansas City, Missouri, at the "Gala Dinner" presented by Heinlein Centennial, Inc., at the Westin Century Ballroom, Westin Crown Center Hotel, 1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64108 (Phone: (815) 474-4400).

Reservations *which must be made by July 1*, six days before the dinner, at the added cost of \$35 per person, in addition to Convention Membership, are required to attend the "Gala Dinner." See, <<http://www.heinleincentennial.com/070707.html#dinner>> for further information.



Arlin Robbins' rendering of the beautiful Heinlein Award Medallion she created.

## Editor's Corner

By Max Baskin, Newsletter Editor  
Happy 100th Birthday!

On July 7th, 1907, in Butler, Missouri, Robert Anson Heinlein was brought into the world. It will be 100 years very shortly now, and I don't think that anyone could truly have guessed the kind of impact that he would have in the world.

I could go on for the whole of this newsletter just talking about how his books have influenced my life and I wouldn't even be scratching the surface. From other SF authors to scientists, the works of the late Grand Master have inspired and made people think. That's a big part of what has brought us all together in The Heinlein Society: a mutual recognition of what we owe to him and a desire to pay it forward as he did.

This Centennial year is a big one for the Society and for Heinlein fans everywhere. In addition to attending the first of many SF conventions, the Robert A. Heinlein Centennial being held in Kansas City over the weekend of Heinlein's birthday, the Society is working on a few projects of its own to celebrate the Heinlein Year, including a Centennial Reader. But more on that later.

One of the things that we're really hoping to do with *this* newsletter is hear more from the rest of the Society. The members of the board and the committee chairs have always had a chance to use the newsletter as a way to communicate to the Society, but we'd like to hear from everyone. Specifically during the Centennial year, we'd like to hear a little bit about how the

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## Sparking the Imagination

### An Obituary by Max Baskin

Although the Heinlein Society is focused on the legacy left to us by Robert Heinlein, there were other people who were important in ways that he was. In the area of inspiring youth to look at the sciences, I can't think of many people more key than Don "Mr. Wizard" Herbert.

I am too young to have seen his original show, but I have fond memories of watching him on Nickelodeon while growing up. He would always show how to do the most amazing things with the most commonly found household components, and it captivated me. While I credit Mr. Heinlein for giving my interest in science a proper polishing in my adolescence, Mr. Herbert was the one responsible for planting the initial seeds in my childhood.

Donald Jeffrey Herbert passed away on June 12, 2007, at age 89 after struggling for years with multiple myeloma. I know I'm not the only one who will miss him. But I also know that I'm not the only one who will celebrate his life and hope fervently that more science educators will be there to follow his footsteps.

## Editor's Corner, cont'd

works and philosophies of Robert Heinlein have affected you.

Drop us a line at [newsletter@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@heinleinsociety.org) and tell us a story. If, Bog willing, we get more than we can publish, we'll either continue them in the following issue or find some other way to share them with the rest of the Society.

Enjoy the Centennial celebration and thanks again for being a part of the Heinlein Society.

### What is the Centennial Reader?

While discussing what to do for Heinlein's 100th birthday celebration, members of the Society's board came up with the idea to compile a collection of essays and articles from those with personal memories of Robert and Virginia Heinlein, scholarly discussions of his books, and stories about how people's lives had been shaped by the ideas he shared in his work. The articles would be collected, reviewed, then bound and offered for sale.

The Centennial Reader project has begun with a number of close acquaintances of the Heinleins and authors being contacted and asked to contribute. This isn't the only group that we hope will contribute, though.

This is a project of an organization built upon supporting the concepts that Heinlein's works inspired in us, and we want to give everyone who felt that inspiration a chance to share their thoughts.

If you would like to be a part of this special celebration, you can find all of the details on the Society's website. For those without easy access to the web, a basic overview follows:

1. The submission deadline is August 1st, 2007.
2. Articles must be submitted in either plain text or rich text formats via email to [reader@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:reader@heinleinsociety.org).
3. Include a brief (100 word) synopsis of the article at the beginning of the manuscript.
4. Include your brief biographical sketch at the end of the manuscript.
5. Make sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in the email, not in the manuscript.

In addition to the information above, there is also a legal statement granting publication rights that needs to be in the email. The authors retain copyright and may republish elsewhere, but it is vital that the legalities be observed.

Also, there are no royalties or other payments granted. All profits, if any, will be going to the Society to help support its charitable activities. Authors whose works are selected for publication will receive a copy of the Reader, but no money.

So if you're interested, please let us know as quickly as possible. The more people contributing, the better the Reader will be, and more likely it will come to be.

### Announcements

Alan Milner has resigned as Fund-raising Chair and from the Society's Board of Directors. David Wright Sr. has stepped down from his position as Chair of the website committee for the Society. If you are interested in filling either of these Chair positions, please contact the chairman@heinleinsociety.org.

Mike Sheffield is running a panel at the Kansas City Centennial on Sunday, July 8th from noon to 1 PM titled "Philanthropy 101 - Heinlein and Paying it Forward." He's looking for co-panelists. If you're interested, please contact him ASAP by e-mailing [areopagan@earthlink.net](mailto:areopagan@earthlink.net).

Mike is also looking for panelists for a panel at the San Diego ComicCon. Please contact him ASAP if you're planning to attend that enormously successful convention and want to be a part of the Heinlein Society's contribution to it. In recent years, there have usually been, oh, around eleven or twelve thousand attendees. Don't forget to reserve your hotel rooms early—there aren't any available at the last minute in all of downtown San Diego when ComicCon comes to town.

Mr. Denis Foley, a member of the Society, has very generously donated several hardcover and soft cover copies of Heinlein books to the Public Library in Manheim, PA. Our thanks go out to him for paying it forward to give today's children the same chance to get introduced to the works of the Dean of Science Fiction the same way he did.

### How can we make the Newsletter better?

One comment that we've received from a number of sources is that the newsletter needs a little more 'oomph.' The articles and reports are informative, but the basic format can be dry. To repeat myself: the newsletter isn't simply a place for the board and committee chairs to speak about what's going on in their area, but a place for the whole Society.

We would like to hear from you, the readers. What do you want to see in upcoming issues? What aspect of the Society's goals is the most meaningful to you? How do you try to pay it forward?

We don't know what you want unless you tell us. Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. If you want to help shape the future direction of the newsletter, send an email to [newsletter@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@heinleinsociety.org) with your ideas.

In addition, if you have an opinion piece related to one of Heinlein's books or a direction you feel the Society should be moving in, send it in. Not every article can be published, but we'd be overjoyed to hear more from other members of the Society.

Expect to read more in that same vein, particularly, from our newest director, Pamela Somers' Member Services Report.

## SOMERS APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR



**Pam Somers at Cascadia Con**  
**Photograph by The Heinlein Society**

Born in (and a lifelong resident of) Baltimore, Maryland, Pamela Somers had only one ambition throughout her primary and secondary education: to teach. After realizing while in college that she'd be an unlikely match with the education system as it was evolving then, she pursued book-keeping and accounting and fed her desire to teach as a volunteer instructor for the American Red Cross. Her volunteer work as an Advanced First Aid and Emergency Care instructor led to her becoming among the first female Emergency Medical Technicians certified in the mid-70s, which led (if somewhat less directly) to a 26-year

**Cont'd on Page Eight**



## Somers Appointed, cont'd from page 7, and Membership Services Report

career in the field of public health with a specialty in emergency response. Long before the tragic events of 9-11, Ms Somers assisted with the development and editing of one of the first-ever coordinated plans for response to domestic terrorism, outlining a strong role for public health agencies in non-biologic field response. There, also, she continues to teach - developing, writing and teaching in-house classes. She and her husband, Robert Preisinger, live in the vicinity of Baltimore and keep tabs on five active grandchildren. Ms Somers joined the Society in 2003, and accepted an appointment to Membership Services Chair late in 2004. She was elected by the Board in 2007 to fill a vacancy left by a resignation.

Just as those who have gone before, Pam has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours to The Heinlein Society since joining. She has proved herself always reliable, accepting all manner of volunteer assignments, and always accomplishing what she's set out to do, always with the utmost good judgment.

The Board is gratified that she has accepted an appointment as a director and is certain her steady record of devotion to the goals of this Society will continue. On behalf of the Board of The Heinlein Society, Welcome Aboard!

David M. Silver, President and  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
**Membership Services Report**  
**By Pam Somers**

Around the beginning of the year, I foolishly offered to assist Jane Silver, our Treasurer, with the mailing of dues invoices. I say "foolishly" because I had no idea what an incredible time vortex this task would turn into. On the other hand, I've had wonderful little chats with a lot of members who were only names to me before. What? What? You say you haven't heard from me? But ... I've sent at least one Email to every member since the first of the year! (Two to most.) Well, this could mean a couple of things. Most of the returns were "user unknown," so most likely, you've changed your primary Email address and forgotten to notify us. I don't know what to do about that handful of e-mails that keep coming back with the notation "Cannot deliver within three hours" - heck, I'm not even sure what that means. And the "mailbox over quota" messages - maybe you're no

longer checking your freebie Email and forgot to update us? Or, perhaps I'm getting caught in your spam filter. Because we sent dues invoices individually, we used a private Email address instead of our heinleinsociety.org bulk mailer, so spam filters are less of an issue - but, to be on the safe side, you might want to set your filters to allow mail from heinleinmembers@aol.com. While you're updating spam filters, please take a minute to allow mail from heinleinsociety.org so we can be sure you get news and updates. If you haven't heard from me, please Email membership services@heinleinsociety.org and update your Email address. Remember, we never share your private information, we don't sell or give away your Email address, and we bulk-mail notices to our members only very rarely and, then, only on very important matters.

Sadly, there have been a few members who have decided not to continue. I always feel a little pang when a member resigns, but I also try to view it as learning. I've tried to respond to every member who resigns and ask why they chose to leave. Most never answer. A few are cryptic with no elaboration. Some few have very prosaic and practical reasons. The rarest gems are the members who challenge us - they want more from the Society than we are doing now. You'll find a communication from one of these members elsewhere in this Newsletter. Llywelyn Graeme works and lives outside the U.S. so his primary connection to the Society is our newsletter and he finds it ... well, bland. He challenged me strongly about it. I did what any sensible coward would do - I threw the challenge back at him. And he came through like the champion he is. I urge you to read his communiqué and share your thoughts with us - and him.

Llywelyn's fairly brief communication caused quite a stir among Board members and committee chairs. What, we asked each other, is a newsletter supposed to be? There was one contingent defending the position that a newsletter is meant to be just that. A newsletter. It should inform the members, they said. Tell the members what we're doing and what we've done. Another contingent thought a newsletter should be a forum for the members to express their opinions and discuss their differences of opinion. About what? Why, RAH, of course. Or, maybe scholarly pa-

pers belong in the newsletter. (Should that be a journal? Oh, heavens! Another publication?) Spice, said another. We should top this white bread with some herbs and cheese and maybe a dash of pepper. No, came the last voice. What a newsletter should be is whatever the members want it to be.

That's probably the best answer to come out of the whole discussion. This is, after all, your newsletter and your Heinlein Society. What do you want it to be? What should be in your newsletter that isn't there now? Do you want to read about how I got a new printer and I'm back in the Member Certificate printing business again? Is this everything you'd like to see in your newsletter? It's up to you.

Here's another question: where do you see the Society going? Is this what you expected when you joined? If not, why not? How would you change it, if you would change it? What ideas are percolating around in your head? Are they too wild, too impractical? Or, are they? Write us a letter. Write an article. Write an essay. Write us a book!

This is *your* Heinlein Society. Shake it and move it!

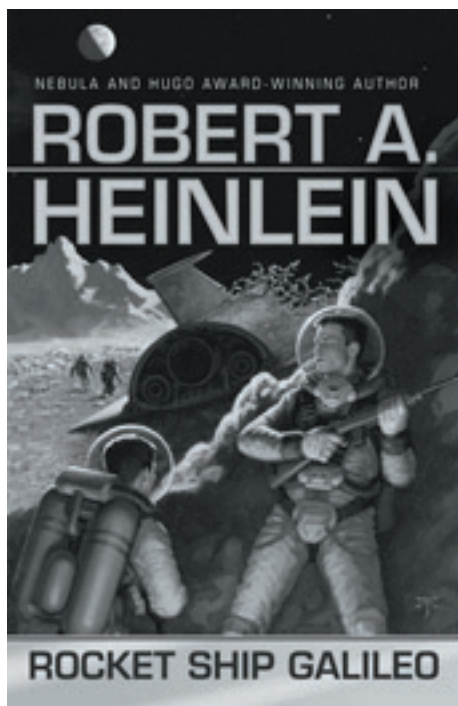
Pamela Somers, Director and  
Membership Services Committee Chair  
heinleinmembers@aol.com

*Just remember "one small thing," when you write. That "last voice" was called 'Zim' back in the reading group days; and he has a favorite cartoon and a real bad habit, putting people to work. —ed.*



"I need a couple guys what don't owe me no money for a little routine patrol."





## “Beans in the Bottle” An Adventure in Heinleiniana



**“Mister Interlocutor”**  
Alec Iorio, “sitting in the sun.”  
Convention Programming Chair  
Photograph by The Heinlein Society

At sides: Recently published trade sized editions of Heinlein “juveniles” now available.



*In an attempt to change up the newsletter a bit, our very own Alec Iorio has designed a couple of trivia games for Society members. If you want to participate, answers can be E-mailed to [newsletter@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@heinleinsociety.org); and the best scores will be posted in the next newsletter. A full list of answers and results will be posted to the website before we send out our next newsletter, and the answers included in a subsequent issue of the newsletter. If you don't have access to email, you can always send a regular letter to the Society's main address.*

In his 1948 juvenile novel, *Space Cadet*, Robert A. Heinlein included a number of tests taken by the new arrivals at Hayworth Hall who were hopeful of advancing into the ranks of the Space Patrol. One of the tests was described this way: “Once he was given a handful of beans and a small bottle, and was told to sit down, place the bottle at a mark on the floor and locate in his mind the exact position of the bottle. Then he was to close his eyes and drop the beans one at a time into the bottle—if possible.”

In the spirit of that test, YOUR TASK is to identify the Heinlein story/novella/novel in which the following characters appear.

This is not intended to be a research project. Please rely on only your “wetware,” “feeble file,” or “organic memory” to respond to the questions below.

Each CORRECT response earns +2 points.

Each INCORRECT response earns -1 point.

No points will be earned or deducted for any question without a response.

### Part 1

1. Zebadiah Jones

2. Sam Jones
3. Mei-Ling Jones
4. Hank Jones
5. Max Jones
6. Roberto Dominguez Jones
7. Friday Jones
8. Booker T. W. Jones
9. Chang Jones
10. Iver Hird-Jones
11. Galahad Jones
12. Gaston P. Jones
13. Holly Jones
14. Waldo Farthingwaite-Jones
15. Spade Jones

### Part 2

It's a commonplace that Robert A. Heinlein tends to seize and maintain the attention of his readers from the first word. As an exercise, please identify the specific RAH stories/novellas/novels which begin with the following quotations.

Please use only your memory, this is not a research project.

Each correct attribution earns 1 point.

Incorrect responses are penalized -1 point each.

As RAH quoted: “Audace, toujours audace.”

1. “Easy, boy, easy.”

2. Bob Wilson did not see the circle grow.

3. As I left the Kenya Beanstalk capsule he was right on my heels.

4. “Don't be a sentimental fool, Sam!”

5. It was cold on the rampart.

6. All my life I've wanted to go to Earth.

7. The two brothers stood looking the old wreck over.

8. “We need you to kill a man.”

9. I was there to see beautiful naked women.

10. According to their biographies, Destiny's favored children usually had their lives planned out from scratch.

11. If a man walks in dressed like a hick and acting as if he owned the place, he's a spaceman.

12. The room was old-fashioned, 1980 baroque, but it was wide, long, high, and luxurious.

13. “Have you anything to say before sentence is pronounced on you?”

14. “Everybody all set?”

15. “Whose spells are you using, buddy?”

**GOOD LUCK!**

Alec Iorio, Convention Programming Chair  
[baybus@mindspring.com](mailto:baybus@mindspring.com).

## Final Update on The Heinlein Centennial Year

We are readying for attendance at a series of national and international conventions this year, "The Heinlein Centennial Year," beginning with a celebration in Kansas City to kick off, but continuing on throughout the year with attendance of at least twelve or thirteen conventions in all.

### Where

We already started Memorial Day weekend, May 25 through 28 at **(1) Balticon 40** in Maryland. We received information quite early last year that the Baltimore SF club had assumed, understandably, that the Centennial would begin January 1st—six months and seven days before Robert's birthday, and accordingly scheduled Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle as Guests of Honor, intending to begin their celebration of Heinlein's Centennial then and there. We wished to support that effort and so ar-



Rear Admiral Caleb Laning's grandson, Laning Polanty, and David Silver chat at Heinlein Society fan table at Balticon 40. Photograph by The Heinlein Society

ranged to be present.

It was a quite fruitful visit to the East Coast for several reasons. One guest who stopped by our fan table turned out to be the oldest grandson of the late Rear Admiral Caleb Laning, Robert's best friend at the Academy. The grandson, Laning Polanty, joined the Society and regaled us with some fascinating stories about his grandfather and family and Robert Heinlein. It's fairly well-known his mother and her sister, "the two J's" who are Cal's daughters, Gillian (known as Jill) and Judith (known as Judy), are among those to whom Robert dedicated *Beyond This Horizon*; but what wasn't known to me until I spoke with Laning was his mother and sister read in draft and expressed their opinions to Robert on the novel *Have*

*Space Suit—Will Travel*, when he visited the Admiral's family while Cal was stationed in Italy.

Robert may not have fathered his own children, but it's clear that he consulted children when writing his novels about adolescents. I wonder what the two girls thought and said to Robert about PeeWee?

I think we'll be fortunate enough to enlist helpful new members such as Laning's grandson at all our visits over the next year. We do on every visit to every convention we attend. Every one of you is just as valuable to The Society for what you offer. We plan to be at, tentatively, the following additional conventions:

**(2) Heinlein Centennial** in Kansas City, Missouri, from July 6 through 8; **(3) Archon31 (NASFiC)** in Collinsville, Illinois (St. Louis, Mo) from August 2 through 5; **(4) Nippon 2007 (World Con)** in Yokohama, Japan, from August 30 through September 3; **(5) Eurocon 2007** in Copenhagen, Denmark, from September 21 through 23; **(6) MilehiCon 39** in Denver, Colorado, from October 26 through 28; (one or two of the following) either **(7) World Fantasy Convention 2007**, in Saratoga, New York, from November 1 through 4; and/or **(8) WindyCon 34**, in Chicago, Illinois, from November 9 through 11; and/or **(9) LosCon 34**, in Los Angeles, California, on November 23 through 25—or, perhaps all three, depending on finances; (one of the two following) **(10) Arisia 08** in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 18 through 22; or **(11) Boskone 45** in Boston, Massachusetts, on February 15 through 17—or, perhaps both depending on the same old thing—money; **(12) UK Eastercon (Orbital)** in Heathrow, London, UK, on March 21 to 24; possibly the **(13) SFWA Nebula Awards** in Austin, Texas, on April 25 to 27; **(14) MarCon 43** in Columbus, Ohio, on May 23 to 25; and, finally, **(15) Westercon** in Las Vegas, Nevada, on July 3 through 6, 2008.

### How

This year, we'll focus not only on convention programming but also on increased efforts to recruit new members and fund-raising from a slightly different venue than we have used in the past. We'll be paying for, occupying and taking advantage of significantly greater opportunities for visitor contact at dealer's tables, rather than a 'fan table.' Blood drives of

course, where possible, will continue as well. Mike Sheffield will tell you right now he knows he must have some help in Europe, because it's unlikely his budget or the Society's will be enough to send him to Europe—even assuming he can take time off from Northrup-Grumman. Email him: areopagan@earthlink.net, wherever you are, if you think you can help not only in Europe but at any of the scheduled locations.

It is legally important to focus on how because questions might arise from a tax standpoint to understand precisely what we will be doing and **not** doing at the dealer's tables throughout the year. I'll try to keep it short. We will be primarily there for the increased and more focused deliberate foot traffic by convention goers to actively solicit membership and donors from among them to support our charitable, educational goals. We will be selling, ourselves, only one major thing besides membership and the opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile charity.

You've likely already read the article titled "The Ensign's Prize Court" that begins this Newsletter. Let me repeat some of it however so you can see how priorities must fit.

In November 2002, succinctly, Ginny Heinlein donated some valuable books to the Society to use for fund-raising.

Appraised by a professional, as a set, the works should sell for a minimum of \$1,000 apiece to collectors. That \$1,000 is the **minimum** price we will begin selling from the dealer's table. They are donated completely to us and, appropriate for a charity to sell for fund-raising purposes because they were fully **donated**. That legitimately gets us in the dealer's room where people with money to spend browse, stop and will chat about their interests, and buy what they're being sold if they see value in it, not simply smile, if that, and pass on by on the way to something else: registration, panels, meetings, or lunch.

But, as a charity we cannot usually function as if we are in a for-profit trade or business, i.e., generally, we cannot act as a retailer or distributor of books which are not created by ourselves solely for our charitable educational purposes. Heinlein-authored books are not books created by us for our charitable and educational purpose. They already were created by

Cont'd on Facing Page



## Final Update, cont'd

Heinlein and are published by commercial publishers such as Scribners, or DelRey, or Baen, or TOR, and all the others, and sold through their distribution networks to make a profit. Some of that profit winds up in the hands of the Prize Trust which has its own charitable objects, but we're not the Trust. We may not, the donated exception aside, **directly sell or promote the sale of Heinlein-authored books.**

There is, aside from another miniscule dollar exemption for non-related business income (e.g., it covers the tiny commission we receive on Amazon.com links on our website), one other exemption: items that substantially contribute to our charitable purpose..

It can be a rebuttable exemption, and we have to be careful, very prudent, and conservative with it. We must expand educational interest in Robert Heinlein's writings since our general educational goal in all things Heinlein makes it part of our charitable purposes. So doing, we may produce, sell and accept subscriptions to items we, as The Society, produce to substantially contribute to that charitable and educational ("eleemosynary" the law books call it) purpose such as the Centennial Reader Project, assuming it ever develops into anything of substance (we're not received much response, but, perhaps after publicizing it in Kansas City and elsewhere we will), or the publication of academic papers proposed by our Academic Chair for "the best of" present and past ACA/PCA Heinlein Studies Section proceedings, including those papers to be presented at the Kansas City convention in July and later in the year at the ACA/PCA's own regularly scheduled convention (perhaps, if we think the question "not substantially related" is getting too close, we might consider contracting to publishing something else by a separate entity that might pay us royalties on their use of copyrights we might possess—since royalty payments on literary property are exempt from taxation in this situation). And, we can certainly give away other educational items, such as the CD we produced in 2005 in conjunction with CascadiaCon and the SF Museum for teachers and librarians, and those of worth which others may have produced, if made available.

Finally, as an incident of our educational purpose to support a general educational goal of all things Heinlein, we can also

call attention to other worthwhile items related to Heinlein studies and scholarship, even if they are being sold commercially for a hoped-for profit by others, e.g., authoritative publications and scholarly journals we do not own or produce such as The Heinlein Journal, for its scholarship and criticism of Heinlein writings, and the Virginia Edition, for its definitive introductions, restored and authoritative texts, letters and other items from the archives that its publisher has advertised will be included within it. We may also call attention to the on-line debut of the UC Santa Cruz Heinlein archives which we understand will be announced on July 7th. We may **not promote** and we may **not** actually **sell** subscriptions to those items ourselves, as they are not donated to us; but we may display exemplars and descriptive advertising for inspection and make publisher's subscription forms available



Blood donors starting to stack up at Heinlein Society fan table at Balticon 40 chat with hard-working Bob Preisinger (obscured behind young lady with shoulder bag) and J.J. Brannon (partly obscured by short-haired lady wearing dark T-shirt and jeans).

Photograph by The Heinlein Society

for visitors to our dealers table to fill out and mail in themselves, just as we did with Scribner's form for advance copies of *For Us, the Living* in 2003 in Toronto. We can even allow them, as a free courtesy or convenience to leave the filled-in form with us (with a check payable to the publisher or Trust) for our immediate transmittal to the respective publishers or each or to Trust for their own approval and acceptance of the subscription. We will not be selling The Heinlein Journal or the Virginia Edition, or anything else other than fully donated or otherwise tax-exempt items appropriate for a tax-exempt charity to sell.

I must note, significantly, that the grant from the Trust which will fund the effort we are making this year will measure the success of our performance, before we are

funded for the 2008 half year mid-way through The Heinlein Centennial Year, not in terms of any sale of anything, or referrals or collection of unapproved subscriptions to anything, but solely in terms of our achieving increased membership and donations, and in terms of our contribution to "The Heinlein Centennial Year."

These points include fine distinctions; but all law, especially tax law, requires adherence to fine distinctions.

Now that you as informed members know exactly the how of what we are doing you need to know the why of what we are doing this year..

### Why

Quickly answering why: with us and any charity it's always all about increasing our ability to do the objects of our charity, by increasing membership and fund-raising ability. Members and money. Money and members.

Now, let's turn to what we as members must do in this, "The Heinlein Centennial Year," to increase our membership and fund-raising ability, to increase further our contribution to "The Heinlein Centennial Year," and to allow us to continue effectively to Pay It Forward.

We need to get to a membership base of 2,000 active, dues-paying members. That, so they say, is the membership level at which an organization becomes self-sustaining. The L-5 Society, the National Space Society, all these other organizations that have succeeded or failed in the past half century since futurist became a name for those who see humanity's future to include space supposedly have found a self-sustaining level reached with that number of membership. I believe any

## Final Update on The Heinlein Centennial Year, cont'd

voluntary organization that stops striving soon vanishes, so we'll see about "self" sustaining, but it's worth a try.

### What

#### a. Panels

We want to increase the number of Heinlein-related convention panels this year. I can visit fifteen conventions, but only **WE** can convince programmers to schedule panels at them. When I write it's just a letter or email to heads of programming who have probably never heard of me; and unless I can tell them that our members including those whom they regularly schedule on panels themselves want to do and hear Heinlein-related programming, it's just one email or letter. **We're** most successful when we can say: X, Y, and Z, who are our members or strong supporters, are already listed as participants and, in fact, Z is your writer/editor/publisher/artist/fan guest of honor.

We cannot do that unless we know who of us are attending which conventions. If you plan or can plan to attend any of the conventions that are listed that we intend to budget and attend in this Year of Heinlein celebrations, please let us know right now. Let me repeat that list, in the box immediately to the right. Do you know someone else who is attending any of them who would love to support us and be on a Heinlein panel? Write and let us know.

And when we can say: we'd like to put on a panel on this topic, which as you can see isn't exclusively about Heinlein, but can include discussion of the works many other writers. Biggest bit of fun, perhaps, I've had in the past few years was a panel I did in Seattle with Rob Sawyer, the "dean of Canadian science fiction," whose Hugo-winning novel *Hominids* turns the Anglo-American system of jurisprudence on its head. We spent maybe sixty percent of the time talking about the ideas portrayed in Rob's books—and about ten talking about the critiques of legal systems in Heinlein's; and everyone had a great time and maybe learned a thing or two. Rob's not a Heinlein Society member, or truly a well known supporter—maybe I should ask him to join, and neither is Greg Bear or James Hogan, to name just two others, but they are typical of most SF writers who will be happy to sit on a panel, and hold their own, in a discussion of some topic or other that relates to Heinlein. You

might be one—we've got a lot of writers, and SF&F writing professionals and amateurs, who regularly attend SF&F conventions. Simply knowing that you regularly do panels and are going to be there is helpful. You know and have built a workable relationship with the programming people. Give us a hand, suggest something, tell us who to call, and we'll work together and achieve our goals. A few examples of how well this may work. Bob Buettner, a writer promoting his first published novel then living in Colorado, did that. Walked into an empty con hospitality suite at MileHi in Denver, found a Society membership pamphlet and membership application on a table, filled it out, sent it in with his check, and then told their programming that next year he wanted to do a Heinlein panel with us. He did, along with Guest of Honor Elizabeth Moon and Sarah Hoyt, another local Colorado writer who just happens (heh, her son is named "Robert Anson")

to be a member. We recruited several members from that convention, and one that followed in a few months in Colorado Springs where we were invited after they saw the Denver panel. Every time we do a good panel, we get more members and invitations. Another two examples of ways you may help is Gerry Nordley, a member and writer in Central California, who has arranged reception rooms and shared them with us the past two BayCon; and he's going to MinCon in Minnesota while we'll be in Kansas City, with a packet of membership applications and flyers, to help Jim Yount man a recruiting drive. Who is Jim Yount? He is a Heinlein Society member, a career Navy enlisted man (nuclear submarines, if you don't mind), retired to a small town in Minnesota, who is taking time to pay it forward, as many others have done. You don't have to be a writer of SF to help. You can do that too. Let us know, if you can.

#### b. Pod-casting

We're going to pod-cast panels this year. It's Jerry Pournelle's good idea. Every time we think about recording a panel for pod-casting we know we need someone who can aim and focus a camera. You can't just leave it running and have a good result. You can help us out by letting us know where you plan to attend, or if you can possibly attend, and are willing to point and shoot.

It is criminal to put on a great panel and then not be able to share that experience and education beyond the crowd that happens to see it at one location on one day for ninety minutes or an hour. We've had great, packed the entire room, people sitting on the floor and holding up walls, listening from the hallways, audience participating, running past scheduled time when possible, panels. We had one in San José where they wouldn't let us stop and go to dinner for two-and-one-half hours. What we need are editors, persons familiar with cutting and making an interesting presentation out of outtakes, and writers or scripters. Some of you do editing, or can do it, or might quickly learn if motivated—on iMovie and other available editing programs that make it possible. Prepared outlines might help. Conceivably we could rough out a plan for a panel, so we know everything that should be covered will be. I do that with every panel I can that I moderate; but programmers have no idea

**Heinlein Centennial** in Kansas City, Missouri, from July 6 through 8;

**Archon 31 (NASFiC)** in Collinsville, Illinois (St. Louis, Mo) from August 2 through 5;

**Nippon 2007 (World Con)** in Yokohama, Japan, from August 30 through September 3;

**Eurocon 2007** in Copenhagen, Denmark, from September 21 through 23;

**MileHiCon 39** in Denver, Colorado, from October 26 through 28;

**World Fantasy Convention 2007**, in Saratoga, New York, from November 1 through 4;

**WindyCon 34**, in Chicago, Illinois, from November 9 through 11;

**LosCon 34**, in Los Angeles, California, on November 23 through 25;

**Arisia 08** in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 18 through 22;

**Boskone 45** in Boston, Massachusetts, on February 15 through 17;

**UK Eastercon (Orbital)** in Heathrow, London, UK, on March 21 to 24;

**SFWA Nebula Awards** in Austin, Texas, on April 25 to 27;

**MarCon 43** in Columbus, Ohio, on May 23 to 25; and,

**Westercon** in Las Vegas, Nevada, on July 3 through 6, 2008.

Is there another convention you think we should add? Let us know about that one, please.



## Final Update, cont'd

who I am, and rarely are willing to assign me without firm knowledge of what I've done. Imagine the scripting outline David Hartwell could whip up. Some of you can do pretty near as well. I don't claim to be a fan today of SF. My SF reading, except for Heinlein, was done forty years ago, bar a few exceptions. I studied literature and read law cases for a living, mostly, since; and only a bit of my leisure reading is current SF. Certainly you can do better than I. The PBS Fred Friendly-produced seminars that many of us enjoyed greatly and learned from employed scripting outlines. Imagine what might result in a Heinlein pod-cast—Robert James and I did a panel with Jerry Pournelle and Larry Niven on Robert's help to them with *The Mote in God's Eye* in Seattle in 2005. Such a broadcast could be invaluable to aspirant writers.

Jerry offered to call on Larry, sit us down in his library, which itself is a sight worth viewing, and create pod-casts. Other writers and scholars, Heinlein Society members or not, in the Los Angeles area could drive over and help plan and create. We can surely come up with someone who would be better on such a panel than me.

Imagine a pod-cast of a meeting of the Mañana Literary Society—one operating today. Would you find it educational? Like to watch it to celebrate The Year of Heinlein?

We could duplicate it, with Mike Cassutt, well-known screenwriter and columnist for SciFi.com who has worked on several Heinlein projects, including the recent production of "Jerry Was a Man" we all hope to see August 4, on ABC (Saturday night at 10), Dr. Michael Eisenberg, the producer of the movie *Robert A. Heinlein's Puppet Masters*, and Alec Iorio, who was one and taught student to be actors and directors. Los Angeles crawls with actors, directors, screenwriters who admire Heinlein. Robert Crais, best-selling author of the Elvis Cole-Joe Pike detective romance series, started writing SF before he went on to TV screen writing for a living. He slips a little tip-of-the-hat to Heinlein in practically everything he writes. Pick one up and see. An early Cole novel had Cole recall his instructor in Army Ranger school—a sergeant named Zim.

It boils down to "we need help," with everything: panels, scheduling and par-

ticipants, and pod-casts, writers, panelists, editors, and producers.

You know the schedule, and where you are and control what you'll be doing on the scheduled dates. Make time to pay it forward, register for the convention, and give me a call (310-346-5669) or email <agplusone@heinleinsociety.org>. We'll set something up for us together to do to help pay it forward.

### c. Fund-raising

It's time to get serious. Appraising those books Ginny donated and selling them is just a start.

It's also time to treat our supporters as mature adults. We had a fund-raiser, who knew enough not to let a good opportunity go to waste. In Toronto, site of the first World Con we attended after Ginny died, and before we ever got a penny donated from the Trust, he knew that the Heinlein Awards Banquet was a prime opportunity. He contacted the Trust, and it agreed to his proposal to match funds we raised at the dinner. We rented a restaurant banquet



Gerald Nordley, Sandy Bumgardner, Charlie and Sandy Fee, and Mike Sheffield at Wondercon, at the blood drive in San Francisco in March 2007, resulting in 75 units of blood.

Photo courtesy of William Hackley



Bob and J.J. wait as blood donors really start backing up at Balticon in May 2007.

Next year we ask for another bloodmobile.

Photograph by The Heinlein Society



Marie Guthrie, Michael Kagan, Shane Rasmussen and John Quel at ACA/PCA Heinlein Studies section in Boston in April 2007.

Photo courtesy of Lisa D'Amico

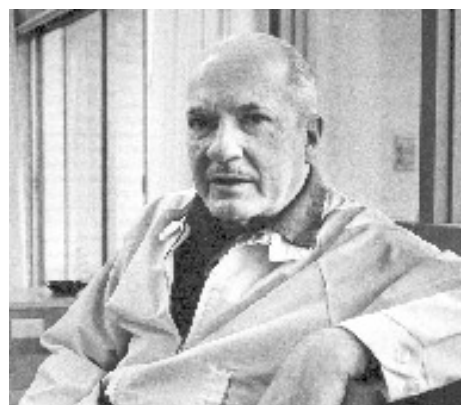
facility, heavily advertised the event and saw half of our advertising go down the drain when the convention didn't even get their major publication out until after it was held, paid for the entertainment, subsidized the food cost, bought dinners and drinks for all our honored guests, and would have been in the hole another couple thousand, but for that fund-raising attempt. Instead, with a brief presentation by the fund-raiser, and a longer, totally delightful and inspiring surprise presentation by Art Dula, the Trust's spokesman, on our behalf, we raised nearly \$7,000, with the matching fund agreement, i.e., about \$3,400 from around 99 guests.

But for one reason or another, good, bad, indifferent reasons, no other fund-raising was attempted at subsequent banquets.

This year the former fund-raising Chair resigned. His position remains vacant. We need an experienced member to take that vacant place; but whether or not we get the replacement we need, expect to be asked for money, everytime you see us. That's what we need to do to do charity; that's what we're here for. Begging.

### d. Volunteers

It all boils down to YOU. I can take my by-passed heart onto thirteen airplanes and go to thirteen conventions, for as long as my wife and daughter let me; but without your help, WE cannot properly celebrate the Year of Heinlein as it should be. It's His centennial, not ours. He influenced our lives, not someone else's. Pay It Forward the way he deserves to be paid forward, with your efforts and mine. Call me: 310-346-5669. Email me: agplusone@heinleinsociety.org. Write me: David Silver, President, The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, CA 90294-1254. Or walk up to me at one of those conventions and say, "What can I do?"



Yes, what can you do?

## Letters to The Society

### “... from our Special Correspondent in the South Pacific”

Pam Somers sent out a series of dues reminders this year, beginning in January; and to some she received word the member didn't plan on renewing. She inquired why of those who took the trouble. One of the letters developed into a dialogue that ended with this wonderful critique:

#### **“What the Heinlein Society Could Mean to Me”**

Llywelyn C. Graeme ~ “Special correspondent in the South Pacific”

While serving the US government in China I befriended a member of the society who told me about its existence. [See, editor's note.]

I will get the obligatory questions out of the way first. My first book was *Have Spacesuit...* my favorite was *Citizen of the Galaxy* and yes, I agree, *Number of the Beast* could have used a lot of editing. (You be captain, no YOU be captain, no I'LL be captain, let's let the SHIP be captain... on and on!)

Living overseas the only benefit I get from membership is the Newsletter. I greatly appreciate all the work everyone does on blood drives and dinners and award ceremonies, don't get me wrong, and the work-a-day business of the society has its place as well, but it's not what I was most looking forward to. I wanted news of what is going on in the Heinlein Universe. *Variable Star*, good idea, bad idea? What did *For Us, the Living* reveal about RAH? It is the only one he never edited, did he move characters and plot devices around in his books frequently, or was Scudder's appearance a one-of?

I would love to see more opinion and criticism. Yes, these are

divisive things, but as long as we all remember we are drawn together by our love of Heinlein's work, we should be able to disagree about which ending of *Podkayne of Mars* is better.

I am not a literary critic, I have far more questions and uninformed opinions than I should, so I am selfishly looking to the other members of the society to round out my education.

I do not want literary fist fights in the pages of the newsletter, but I do want to see some healthy argument, change minds, change opinions and discuss what happened to characters AFTER the story was over.

I'll even get the ball rolling with a real spit ball. I like Paul Verhoeven and think Heinlein would have enjoyed the film adaptation of *Starship Troopers*. It's not the story he wrote, but it has many elements of the source material, and strong female leads. And it would have been a nice healthy paycheck.

But the real question is “what do YOU think?”

Llywelyn

#### **Editor's Note**

Mr. Graeme is very likely referring to Dave Jennings who is still teaching English to business and law students at Zhoyue College, University of Beijing, who we reported needed some Heinlein juveniles sent since Dave found his students loved SF and were reading American fiction to improve their language skills using English. See, page one article, “Heinlein Invades China!” and its continuation, “And A Warrior of Another Sort: The Pen ‘Have Books—Will Travel in the March 2004 Society Newsletter. Dave reported by email Llywelyn was very helpful trying to resolve a problem Dave had back home in California.

This is the sort of communication every

membership organization must respond to with attention. We are adding some requested features to this newsletter and will try to develop more for later issues.

There's a column elsewhere (page 18) in this Newsletter by Tim Morgan, who has been helping out L.N. Collier, our Reading Group Chair, while he gets over his quintuple by-pass, and leading the reading chat group meetings we have monthly. The chat groups are how a great many of us got started with The Heinlein Society in the first place: Ginny slipped in anonymously and discovered there really were “people who really believe and really understand what he is trying to accomplish philosophically ... a serious-minded group of individuals who are out to change the world for the better.” That inspired her to found The Heinlein Society; and we forget about it at our peril.

We don't just pay things forward with blood drives, dinner and award ceremonies; and the work-a-day business of a Society may simply get in the way of really accomplishing our goals.

Would you like to engage in the dialogue Llywelyn is starting?

What do you think about what Heinlein was doing with “You be the captain, no YOU be the captain, etc.” in *The Number of the Beast*? Was it all, as David Potter once suggested [see, <<http://www.heinleinsociety.org/rah/numberbeast.html>>] perhaps mainly a hacker's Easter egg, or a Manual of How To Write Good Science Fiction? What do you think an examination of the original manuscript (what's left of it) will reveal? It'll be available on line for examination come July 7th. Look for an announcement about it on our website.

What about the other questions?

Verhoeven? Should we lynch him, or admire his auteur's vision, even if it did violence enough to Heinlein's themes to result in Ginny's refusal to allow them to use Robert Heinlein's name in the title, as she allowed Dr. Michael Eisenberg? What do you think about that hijacking of vision? Kindly note Ginny put the checks in the bank, and watched sales of the novel upon which it was based jump after it was released; and then all novels jump a few months later. A nice healthy increase in royalty paychecks all around.

Llywelyn's about to find out something

**Cont'd on Facing Page**



in this issue. Zim puts critics to work—his way of thanking them for good advice most sincerely. Llywelyn, if he agrees, will be editing a “from our Special Correspondent” column from now on. Its purpose—just as Llywelyn wishes, a chance for us to engage in some healthy argument, change minds, change opinions and discuss what happened to characters after the story was over.

Send your replies to the questions Llywelyn raises to chairman@heinleinsociety.org or to agplusone@heinleinsociety.org. Let me know your email is in reference to “from our Special Correspondent” so I’ll be able to distinguish them from the usual questions about Heinlein I find weekly in my mailboxes. I’ll see he gets them; and we’ll have other people answer them as well. Later, perhaps I’ll turn the relaying of letters over to the Newsletter Editor; but just now I want him (or the committee) focused on getting the newsletter out in time.

Let me take another contrarian viewpoint for a moment: the important thing about education is stretching your mind, as noted here. Did it stretch your mind when *For Us, the Living* came out to find as Dr. Robert James implied in the “Afterword” he wrote for the work, Heinlein, in 1934, went to work for a political campaign that California capitalists viewed as coming first for their heads, and then for their wallets? What do you think about Social Credit? Could it ever work?

Was *Variable Star* a good idea? Forget, for a moment, that it shows a character who can be said to have really never developed, what do you think about the notion that it generates excitement about and analysis of how Robert Heinlein might have finished the book despite how you view his alleged “incomplete” outline? Compare the ending with the ending of *The Puppet Masters*: “...—the free men are coming to kill you! *Death and destruction!*” Is Spider Robinson’s ending compatible with Heinlein? Or not?

Let’s give this useful suggestion by Mr. Graeme a try. Remember: “The Lieutenant expects your names to shine!”

**The Sweetwater, Wyoming Amateur Radio Club (WY7U) contacted us to say it is celebrating the Centennial by a broadcast on July 7, 0700 to 1900, on IRLP node 3831 and HF (+/-QRM) 7.250 MHz SSB, 14.235 SSB, and 14.040 CW.  
We’ll try to give them something they may use. Listen.**

## Blood Drives



### Pin designed by Robert Heinlein in 1976 for first SF World Con Blood Drive

By Mike Sheffield

Final results for ConDor (San Diego) are 20 donors and 17 units collected. Not bad for a convention that only gets about 400 attendees. Thanks to Mike Mahoney for honchoing this again. He distributed pens that have “Pay it forward” and our website URL printed on them, which he had made at his own expense.

Two different conventions which host blood drives recently contacted me to add them to our blood drive list. In the past our list was primarily for drives we had set up, but if other cons specifically request to be on there it can’t hurt, and we can send them pins for the donors. The conventions are: Inconjunction (Indianapolis, July 6-8) and Shore Leave (Baltimore, July 13-15).

I have been unable to get any response from any of the following conventions: Baycon, Westercon, Philcon, Orycon. If anyone has any suggestions for shaking something loose in any of those places, please let me know.

Results for Minicon (Minneapolis) are 13 donors, 5 of them 1st timers, and 10 units collected. We are already on the schedule there for next year. Thanks to Greg Ketter, who has been our liaison there for several years. He not only coordinated things on the convention side, but also rounded up a couple of people to staff the sign up table since I was unable to find any THS volunteers for this year.

Results for Demicon blood drive: 22 donors registered, 14 units collected, but 2 of them were double red cells, so that really counts as 16. There were 8 first time donors. Thanks to Sheril Harper for running this drive..

Results for Balticon: 50 donors registered, 41 units collected, 12 from first timers. This is 2 fewer donors than last year, but 3 more units taken. They must be getting healthier in Baltimore. Thanks to Pam Somers for again running the drive there, and to her husband Bob and J.J. Bannon for their valuable assistance.

Results for Kublacon: 34 donors registered, 27 units collected. This is up from 28 and 25 respectively last year. Gertrude Stopper, the Pacific Blood Center representative ran the table for us herself this

year, as I couldn’t find any THS members who were able to attend.

Results for Marcon: I don’t have a total for registered donors, but they collected 29 units, 6 of them double red for a total of 35. The Red Cross indicates that 17 of them were first timers, though that may only mean they were first time donors for the Red Cross in that region. I would be surprised if more than half of all the donors at that drive were first timers. Thanks to Vaughan Spencer for heading this up again with assistance from his fiancée and THS member Vernon Ickes.

Results for Star Wars Celebration IV: 75 donors registered, 62 units collected over 2 days. This is a vast improvement over Celebration III, which was in Indianapolis in 2005, where we only had 12 donors and 9 units of blood. We had much more visibility this time and a larger team on site. Thanks to LeRoy Lauer, Keith Kato and Tim Morgan for helping me with this one.

Coming up we have another weekend filled with drives right after Independence Day, though only one of them is being run by us, the Heinlein Centennial. We are also sending pins to Origins, a gaming convention in Columbus, OH and Inconjunction in Indianapolis, both of which have their own drives. I’ve also E-mailed Convergence to see about sending pins to them for their annual drive. The weekend following we are sending pins for Shore Leave in Baltimore, MD. Then July 26-29 is the Comic-Con blood drive, which we will send pins to as we have in the past.

It is undetermined whether Archon, which is hosting this year’s NASFiC in Collinsville, IL will have a blood drive. I’ve been in touch with Michelle Zellich there, and she had tried to set something up but unfortunately her original message went to the wrong individual at the blood center and they didn’t bother to tell her or forward to the correct person. She will let me know if they can pull it together in time.

August 16-19 will be Gen Con in Indianapolis. We’ve done a couple of successful drives there in past, though last year’s drive didn’t happen due to a SNAFU with the blood center. But we’re good to go for this year and even have a team lined up to run things, headed up by Scott Hann who ran things there 2 years ago.

Michael Sheffield, Director and Blood Drives Committee Chair  
areopagan@earthlink.net

## Academic Committee Report



Lisa D'Amico at Cascadia Con.  
Photograph by The Heinlein Society

By Lisa D'Amico

The 2007 national Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) conference took place April 4-7 in Boston. On Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, twelve panelists presented as part of the Robert A. Heinlein Studies area of the PCA. This year's papers ranged from a study of Heinlein and Jonathan Swift to a long-overdue positive take on the *Starship Troopers* film and everything in between. The following is a complete list of this year's presenters and their papers:

### **"Swiftian Echoes in Heinlein: Two Studies"**

Chris Brooks, Wichita State University  
**"Civil Disobedience Ad Astra: Jefferson and Thoreau's Influence on Robert Heinlein"**

Robert James, West Los Angeles College  
**"The Wife of Bath and the Man from Mars: Classic Literary Allusions in Three Heinlein Works"**

Lisa N. D'Amico, Wichita State University

### **"Ipsé Dixit': Literary Allusion in Heinlein's Juveniles"**

Pete McCluskey, Middle Tennessee State University

### **"Kill 'em all!': Starship Troopers and the Critical Stomach"**

Shane Rasmussen, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

### **"Vedantic Anomalies and Arabic and Hebrew Names in *Stranger In a Strange Land*"**

Michael Kagan, Le Moyne College

### **"Beyond Hypothesis: Thinking about the Future from Heinlein to de Bono"**

John L. Quel, Independent Scholar

### **"Variable Star: The Collaboration"**

Marie Guthrie, Western Kentucky University

### **"Adult Heinlein and the Anthropological Imagination"**

Chris Leslie, The Polytechnic University  
**"Art and Rule in *Job* and 'Jonathan Hoag'"**

C. Herbert Gilliland, US Naval Academy

### **"Leadership and the Characters of Robert Heinlein"**

Rodger Oren, Macon State College

### **"Robert A. Heinlein: Centennial Man"**

Bill Patterson, Heinlein Biographer

There also was an open roundtable moderated by Bill Patterson entitled "The Significance of the Centennial." Heinlein Studies panelists and various audience members discussed current and past criticism and what should be done to gain more recognition for Heinlein in the academic community. The group's consensus was that scholarly editions must be published of Heinlein's major works, including *Stranger in a Strange Land*, *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* and *Starship Troopers*, complete with critical essays. Scholarly editions will allow more teachers and professors to use Heinlein's works in their classes, as well as form a basis for future scholarship.

All of the presenters are eligible for a \$500 prize offered by the Heinlein Society for the best paper. A panel of judges selected by the Society will be judging the papers. The winner will be announced on the Society website, which will also publish the winning paper. The papers from the conference may also be published together as an official proceedings; more information about this will be forthcoming.

Once again, the quality of the papers and the enthusiasm of the presenters exceeded all expectations. Most of the presenters lunched together and then dined as a group at a nearby restaurant, where we toasted the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert A. Heinlein's birth and celebrated how far the Heinlein Studies Area of the PCA has evolved in the past four years. Heinlein Studies has a bright future with the PCA. Next year's conference will take place March 19-22 in San Francisco. A call for papers will be issued in July 2007 for that conference, with submission deadlines in October.

Several members of the Heinlein Studies group will be presenting papers at the Centennial convention in Kansas City in July.

We hope you do attend and attend our academic track panels.

Lisa D'Amico, Academic  
Committee Chair  
rahstudies@yahoo.com

## Education Committee Report



Deb and Geo Rule at Cascadia Con.  
Photograph by The Heinlein Society

### **The Heinlein 'Juveniles' and The Heinlein Society's Educators CD** By Geo Rule

Robert A. Heinlein (1907-1988) enjoyed a successful and much-honored career. He rejuvenated and dominated a genre that before his appearance in 1939 was confined to newsstand pulp magazines. Heinlein, in partnership with legendary editor John W. Campbell, interjected literary values, scientific realism, and visionary speculation into a genre of American letters that had rarely enjoyed any hint of these assets, let alone all of them simultaneously.

Having dominated the field in only three short years from 1939-1942, the medically retired former naval officer stopped writing to serve his country as a civilian aeronautics engineer during World War II. Returning after the war, Heinlein decided that the pulp magazine "ghetto" for science fiction was too small and limiting. He pioneered the successful effort to lead science fiction into mainstream popularity and respectability. By the early 1950s his works were appearing in that icon of American culture, the *Saturday Evening Post*, and other "slick" magazines, and were being collected and republished in hardback novel format.

But also as an important part of his plan to break science fiction out of the pulps, Heinlein contracted in 1947 to write a series of annual juvenile novels for Scribner's, issued for the Christmas gift markets each year. Scribner's eventually published twelve Heinlein novels for young readers. They rejected his thirteenth after submission, but then Putnam's published it—and it won the Hugo award as the best science fiction novel of 1959.

Robert Heinlein continued his career for nearly thirty years after the publication of the last "Heinlein juvenile," winning

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further awards and honors, including a posthumous Distinguished Public Service Medal from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Many of us were introduced to science fiction and the works of Robert A. Heinlein through his wonderful series of young adult novels written for Scribners in the 40s and 50s.

Though he was well rewarded monetarily for his writing, when asked what gratified him the most, Heinlein usually told of drawers full of letters from his legions of young readers. Many thanked him for putting them on the path to being the scientists, engineers, mathematicians, teachers and other professionals they eventually became, often citing the first Heinlein juvenile found at a public or school library as having opened their eyes and inspired them to the careers they now enjoyed. Dr. Jerry Pournelle, Chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Council on National Space Policy, often notes most of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientists and engineers would never have been there if Heinlein's stories had not called them to study and learn so that they could make his dreams of space exploration a reality.

The secret ingredient of the always successful Heinlein novel for young readers is an irresistible mixture of page-turning adventure combined with the ever-present message that learning is not an impediment but rather an enabler to adventure. Marianne Dyson, author of science books for children and one of the first women to work as a flight controller in Mission Control at NASA, tells both student and teacher audiences on her many visits to schools that it was a Robert Heinlein juvenile that set her on the path to her future career. Astronauts Jon McBride and James Voss also cite the works of Robert Heinlein as early influences.

Heinlein stories for young readers withstand the test of time. While modern science gives us new insights and knowledge, Professor C. W. Sullivan of East Carolina University noted in the *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* nearly forty years after the publication of the first that "these novels are still 'contemporary' and are still among the best science fiction in the YA range." Other institutions agree. Many libraries today recommend Heinlein novels for young adults, including the Chicago Public Library.

Sadly, these days the school library is if not a dying breed, at least a seriously

wounded one. Many of those libraries, if they haven't been closed altogether, only purchase books that are on approved reading lists and/or part of the curriculum.

This means that if we don't want today's children to be foreclosed from the route we followed to discover Heinlein's works that we have to create a demand that the works be available in school libraries.

With that goal in mind, the Society agreed to partner with CascadiaCon, the Science Fiction Museum, and Reading for the Future (RFF) in the preparation of a CD of materials that would be used both for an "Educators Conference", 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 in getting it started. 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 is as basic, yet friendly, as we could make it, so that both Windows and Mac-using schools could use the same CD.

We included the materials provided as hardcopy to those teachers who were lucky enough to be present themselves at the original Educators Conference. Materials from such leading educators as Julie Czernada and James Van Pelt are included, and subjects as diverse (just to pick a few) as fairy tales, speculative poetry, H. G. Wells, and Teaching Science Fact with Science Fiction were featured.

The CD also features even more material relevant to teachers who want to use Heinlein's works. Included are two excellent lesson plans from Robert James, PhD—one on *Have Spacesuit—Will Travel* and another for *Tunnel in the Sky*; an educators presentation on *Have Spacesuit—Will Travel* from David Silver, focusing on broadening teachers' thinking on what this book is really teaching our children; a Language Arts and Science Arts program based around *Have Spacesuit—Will Travel* that [www.spaceweek.org](http://www.spaceweek.org) prepared for World Space Week; and with the permission and cooperation of the Heinlein Prize Trust, three Heinlein juvenile shorts—the complete text of each and with included license for teachers and librarians to reproduce a copy for each student who is assigned them as class reading. Of course, we all love the "official Heinlein juveniles," but what many people don't real-

ize is 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 is a wonderful opportunity to get a new generation hooked on Heinlein by one of his shorter works, and then use that to move them into the novel length works. On the CD, we have the complete text to "A Tenderfoot in Space," "The Black Pits of Luna," and "The Menace from Earth."

The Society's CD is the best resource that exists today for teachers interested in teaching Heinlein or science fiction in general in their classrooms, thus opening up their school libraries as well to those books. **Teachers may order one gratis from this page on our website: <<http://www.heinleinsociety.org/education/index.html>>.**

Robert Heinlein and his wife Virginia had no biological offspring, but the many spiritual heirs his works created have come to be known as "Heinlein's Children." Many, by now respected scientists, authors, academics and professionals in their own right, helped form The Heinlein Society to "pay forward" the debt they owe to Robert A. Heinlein. Among the Society's ongoing projects are producing and distributing these teaching aids and lesson plans for all of the Heinlein novels suitable for young readers free of charge to any qualified teacher willing to use them, so that future generations of young scholars will have the advantage they had, reading and being taught by the Heinlein young adult novels.

We are vitally interested in critiques from teachers so we may better serve their needs in continuing to make it possible, in the words of Robert Heinlein's posthumous NASA citation, that "his books live on as testimony to a man of purpose and vision, a man dedicated to encouraging others to dream, explore and achieve."

If you're a teacher or librarian please contact the Secretary of the Heinlein Society and request one of these marvelous CDs. And if you're not a teacher? If you're just "a friend of Robert's" who'd like today's kids to have the same opportunity that you did to find and fall in love with Robert Heinlein's works? The most effective way you can do that is to support this Society's ongoing efforts to support teachers by making a generous contribution to our Education programs.

Geo Rule, Education Committee Chair  
[georule@civilwarstlouis.com](mailto:georule@civilwarstlouis.com)

## Reading Group Report

Hi, I'm Tim Morgan, Membership Activities Committee Chair. Since December I've been helping out Les Collier and David Wright with the Reading Group meetings that we hold each month. I thought I'd report briefly with a summary of what we've done. For those who are unfamiliar with the on-line Reading Group, notices are sent out to the newsgroup alt.fan.heinlein and to a mailing list, to alert people to an upcoming discussion meeting, which are typically held monthly on a Thursday evening at a time convenient for those on either coast or in between. If you'd like to be added to the list, please send a note to dwrighsr@alltel.net. The notice sent out before the meeting gives the general topic, and contains sample questions that the group may discuss. Pre-meeting discussion then occurs on the newsgroup, while the live reader's group meeting is held in an AIM "chat room." Pre-meeting, plus the logs of the live discussion, are archived on the Heinlein Society's website shortly after each meeting. The volume of pre-meeting posts can be more than the live discussion, so it's a very important part of the process, letting people participate whose schedule pre-

cludes their being in the live meeting.

In December we looked at the recently-issued collaboration *Variable Star* written by Spider Robinson from an outline left behind by Robert Heinlein. I knew this would generate some heated discussion, and I was right. Llywelyn Graeme's letter "from the South Pacific" asks whether it was a "good idea, bad idea"? That question was in the minds of everyone as we reviewed it. Discussion of the topic began with a rant, listing everything perceived to be wrong with the plot line of the story, the characterization, the protagonist's favorite artist, etc. Although others disagreed with some specific points, I think most were in fundamental agreement the book is more Robinson than Heinlein.

In January, we discussed a somewhat less controversial book, *Rocket Ship Galileo*. This was Heinlein's first "juvenile," and his inexperience in writing for that market showed. One important point raised in the discussion concerned the quality of public education as portrayed in the books, and how that description changed from very positive, in this 1947 work, to fairly negative in 1958's *Have Space Suit—Will Travel*. Another of the points was whether any of these books are of interest to today's young readers,

because many of the technological premises are no longer believable. This evolved into a discussion of good SF books aimed at today's young adult market, some of which are every bit as exciting as the Heinlein stories in their day, and how they differ from the books of the 40s and 50s.

February's discussion was on *Glory Road* because the Heinlein Society was fortunate enough to be able to send out new hardcover copies of this book thanks to the Heinlein Trust. This was Heinlein's only sword and sorcery novel, so its relationship to that genre was discussed. A lot of the discussion focused on the motivations of Star and Rufo, what alternatives they might have had if Oscar failed in his mission, etc. Another area touched upon was the nature of heros, at least in the Heinlein universes, and whether Oscar was a hero by Heinlein's definition. The entire structure of the book was debated, the purpose of the Cabellian satire, and whether it constitutes the literary equivalent of a musical round.

This moved into a discussion of the World as Myth (WaM) theme into which Heinlein's books of the 1980s are lumped, so *The Number of the Beast* and the World as Myth books became our focus of

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## Heinlein Award Banquet at CascadiaCon, September 2005

A few newsletters back we promised to publish more photos from the Heinlein Award Banquet at CascadiaCon in Seattle. Here are a few more, all taken by The Heinlein Society's L.N. Collier.



Hiroaki Inoue, this year's Nippon 2007 chair, presenting two Seiun Awards.



Head Table (left side): L to R: Hiroaki Inoue; Helen Gbala and Doug Drummond, Golden Duck Awards; Jane Silver; Jerry Giesek and Bobbie DuFault, CascadiaCon Chairperson; Andrea and Danielle Silver.



Head Table (right side): L to R: David Silver, Greg and Astrid Bear, Mike Flynn, Herb Gilliland, Alan Milner, Amy Baxter, Louis Calderon, Pam Somers and Bob Preisinger.



Larry Niven and Mike Flynn chat before award ceremony with background crowd.



Mike and Linda Sheffield and Vaughan Spencer enjoying the cocktail hour.



Navy Academy Professor, Captain Herb Gilliland, and ER pediatrician Doctor Louis Calderon exchange perspectives.





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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 website at [www.heinleinsociety.org](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** .....

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: ☐ M ☐ F

DATE

OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: ☐ MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MS ☐ OTHER, SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR

WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS OPTIONAL:

WHAT SORT OF

WORK DO YOU DO? \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYED

AT: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Dues Enclosed:**

☐ \$35.00 – Regular Membership                      or                      ☐ \$70.00 – Charter Membership

☐ \$15.00 – Supporting Membership \*

(\* Supporting membership is available only to students enrolled for a degree or certificate, or to retirees on a limited income. Supporting members are not eligible to vote or to hold Society office.)

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

☐ Aerospace Outreach                      ☐ Fund Raising                      ☐ Membership                      ☐ Foreign language outreach

☐ Blood Drives                      ☐ Library Support                      ☐ Website Support

☐ Education (K-12th grade)                      ☐ Literary                      ☐ Other (see below)

Language: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Other Comments:**

## Reading Group Report cont'd

the March meeting. Many disagreed that WaM involved only books from the 1980s, going back as far as "Elsewhen," and certainly including *Time Enough for Love*.

*Number of the Beast* is also interesting because it is probably the only book that Heinlein wrote twice, as Ginny told him not to publish the first version because it wasn't up to his standards of quality, then later he rewrote it, after his brain surgery, and that version was published. The Trust plans to have the original on-line on July 7th and the plot, or lack thereof, of the both versions may then be compared.

April and May's discussions were on *Time Enough for Love*, again a book related to the World as Myth theme. The group felt that this book was big enough, and contained enough points for discussion, to warrant holding it over for a second month. For me, one thing I picked up from the discussion concerned the relationship between this book and *1001 Arabian Nights*. While I realized that both books used a theme to tie together a collection of more-or-less unrelated short stories, and the stories are being told by someone in the book, I hadn't seen the inversion that Heinlein used. In the *Arabian Nights*, the storyteller spins stories to put off being killed because she wishes to live, while in *Time Enough for Love*, the listeners entice Lazarus to tell stories to keep him alive when he wishes to die.

June's discussion was *The Door Into Summer*. Was this book too optimistic in predicting general house cleaning robots in 1970? Here we are in 2007, and the best we have available to us is Roomba. John Campbell didn't publish *Door* because he didn't like the character Pete, the cat. But everyone in the discussion agreed that Pete was a critical character. Pete establishes a simple example, a metaphor, to Dan Davis, showing Dan that you should keep searching until you find the Door that you're looking for to achieve a happy and successful life. Dan at first runs away from trouble (taking the "big sleep"), and only later learns Pete's lesson.

July's discussion will be on Heinlein's "horror" stories, *The Puppet Masters*, "The Unpleasant Profession of Jonathan Hoag," etc. This meeting will be held July 19th. Please join us!

Tim Morgan, Membership Activities  
Committee Chair  
tim@us.ibm.com

## A slightly smaller "... few small things."



David Silver and Nippon 2007 convention chair Hiroaki Inoue, taken at CascadiaCon in 2005.

Photograph by The Heinlein Society

When it's a "bad news-good news" situation, it's best to just say the bad news. We're not going to reschedule the annual general meeting from its usual World SF Con location, and visit Archon, the NASFiC. Delays in grant funding, not being able to build the relationship we had with CascadiaCon—not in any way Archon's fault, have made it impossible to hold our annual meeting there. There is no reasonable basis for rescheduling. There won't be anything for us to do. We couldn't commit in time, in the absence of budgeted and received funds, especially with a commitment later in the year to seek out larger, better attended other conventions. Unless you live there, two back-to-back trips to the Mississippi Valley within a month during the hottest part of the summer ask too much of visitors from outside the area. We don't expect many Heinlein Society members to attend Archon, with a Heinlein-centered attraction down the road less than a

month earlier.

We'll go to Nippon 2007 and hold our meeting there as the By-laws allow.

The good news is there are 250,000 SF readers in Japan most of whom are active in SF conventions—and, while none are yet Heinlein Society members, despite Heinlein's great popularity in Japan among SF readers, perhaps we'll come away with 50 new members by taking our Society off-shore this one time.

There is pending an attractive, if unique, proposal from a contact in Japan, of something unusual to generate interest in the Society. Popular among young Japanese is emulating "the 60s culture," of the U.S. The idea offered is The Heinlein Society might recreate a 60s style coffeehouse that actually serves beverages and snacks, and has the usual adornments such establishments had. Running in the background could be a television. It might be July 20, 1969; and on CBS Walter Cronkite is interviewing Arthur Clarke and Robert Heinlein, as man takes his first "small step."

We'll see if this notion gets anywhere, and report back.

Meanwhile, look below at the recent Monthly Member Report. We'd like to improve that in the next months. Let me know how you think we can.

David M. Silver, President and  
Chairman of the Board

agplusone@heinleinsociety.org

"The Lieutenant expects your names to shine!"

2007 Monthly Member Report				
	05-10-2007		12-31-2006	
Total Registered	719	100.0%	674	100.0%
Not Active	155	21.6%	140	20.8%
Unperfected	61	8.5%	65	9.6%
Total Inactive	216	30.1%	205	30.4%
Total Active	503	70.0%	469	69.6%
Dues Current	256	50.9%	252	53.7%
Last Pd 2006 (due 07)	92	18.3%		
Last Pd 2005 (due 06)	76	15.1%	112	23.9%
Last Pd 2004 (due 05)	77	15.3%	102	21.8%
Last Pd 2003 (due 04)	2	0.4%	3	0.6%
Total Active	503	100.0%	469	100.0%

(Totals may be slightly off due to rounding.)