

The Heinlein Society

newsletter

July - September 2007



Crowd of 250-300 guests assembles in closely partitioned Westin Crown Center ballroom before the beginning of program at the celebration's "Gala Dinner" on Saturday, July 7th, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Photograph courtesy of and © 2007 J.R. Ashworth

Heinlein Centennial Celebrated in Kansas City

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The Heinlein Society

Newsletter

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Secretary-Treasurer's Table

We Had a Ball!

and some calls
from a fellow named
"Bob"



Buckner Hightower, Heinlein Prize trustee, answers further questions from attendee Fred Reynolds after an individual panel he held in Kansas City to explain to all the activities of the Prize Trust.

Photo by Geo Rule

It was hot enough to fry an egg; no need to convince me otherwise. My inner thermometer told me this. Exposure to the elements was limited but not completely. I've experienced Las Vegas, Nevada and Palm Springs, California in July. Humidity far outweighs temperature. Then we went to Kansas, need I go on?

I arrived early to help set up our hospitality suite. I was overjoyed to greet one of our long-time members, Mike Osborn (who helped us host the many gatherings in our suite), again. Mike, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, was in Colorado on a recent visit to his family, and I enjoyed meeting him. It was a treat to have him help in Kansas City, as raconteur and great singer and musician.

The convention started out slow. Friday attendance was sparse, but then Saturday and Sunday showed a good expansion of foot traffic. We had a very nice location for our dealer table in the "Market Place," at the entrance to the art show, and met a lot of Heinlein's Children. I was not surprised, but somewhat gratified to see the many different types of people who fit that description. Many told wonderful stories about how they became exposed to the writings of RAH, some that we will pass on for your enjoyment in future newsletter editions.

This year has prompted some reminiscences from those who knew RAH, not necessarily personally, but by personal contact.

I received an email recently from a retired radio disc jockey telling me of his personal experience annually, with a 'Bob' phoning in. Let me reproduce that letter, with his permission, here:

For over 30 years I did a call-in radio talkshow in San Francisco. My station, KGO NewsTalk 810, was the highest-rated station in Northern California, and my show was always Number One in its time-period. Okay, enough bragging. I'm writing to inform you, the Society, and the authors of any upcoming works about Robert Heinlein, of a series of incidents. Every year, KGO radio sponsored a fund raiser for the Leukemia Society. For 24 hours, we suspended our regular programming and presented all manner of entertainment, singers, musicians, celebrities (Yul Brynner, Bob Hope, Andrea Marcovicci, and many top performers appeared). Listeners would call in and pledge money - similar to the Jerry Lewis telethon - and every year the total got larger than the previous year. Here's the main point of this email. Every year, at some time during the broadcast, Robert Heinlein would call in, chat briefly, and pledge a large sum of money. I discovered that Mr. Heinlein was a regular listener to my show - perhaps because much of what I believed, and still believe, was right in tune with him. But he never called in, to my knowledge, except on the Cure-a-Thon broadcasts. He would identify himself to the producer when he called, but only to the producer, not to the audience. I would get a note that "A Robert Heinlein is on the phone." I would answer the same way I answered every caller, "Hi, this is Jim Eason, and you're on KGO." I would hear a beautiful, clear, strong voice saying,

"Hi, Jim. This is Bob." That was it; no showboating, no big deal, just a caller named Bob. We would chat for a couple of minutes, mostly about his health, how his wife was doing, what he was writing at the moment. He always ended the calls with a heartfelt pitch for listeners to pledge money to fight leukemia. I discovered a few months after his yearly calls began that he had a special interest in supporting health care and fighting disease. After the second or third anonymous yearly called, I couldn't resist: I told the audience who the caller "Bob" was, and how generous he was. So, there. A short item about a literary giant and a very nice man. Thanks.

Jim Eason

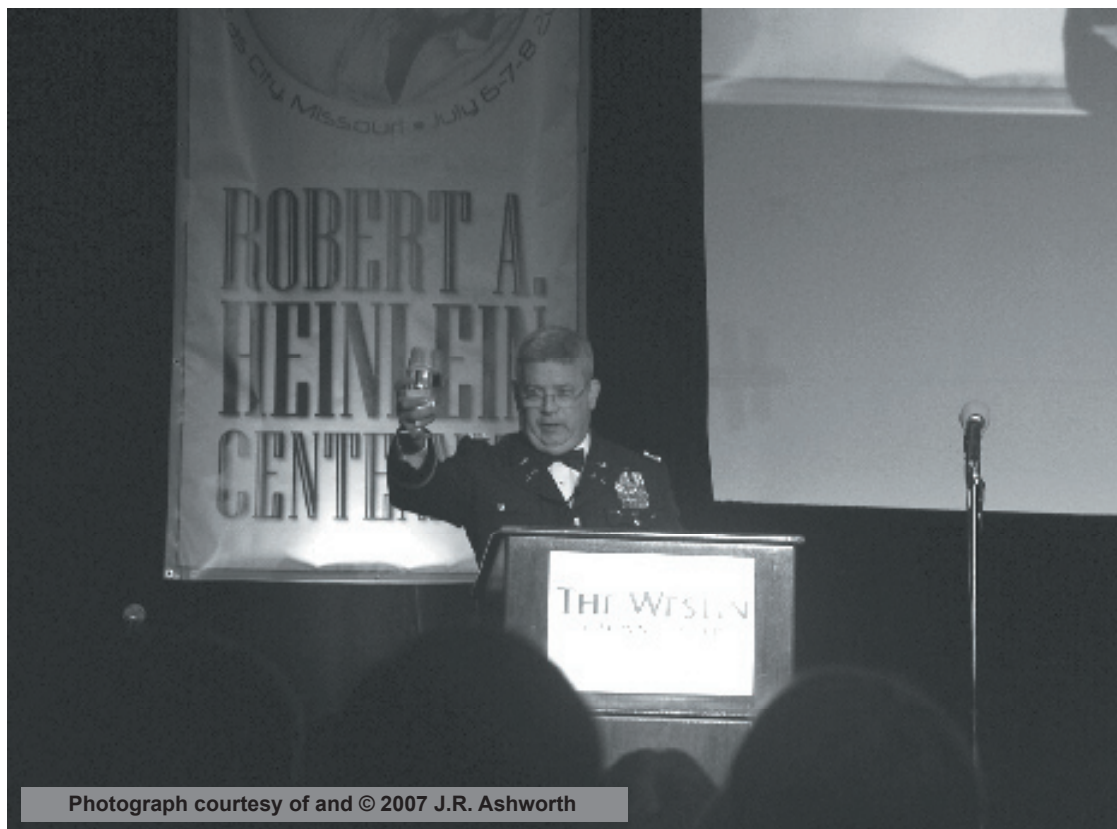
Back to the convention. We hosted many evenings in our suite. The night of the Gala we must have seen more than 150 come and go. The best part was the conversations, laughter and some tears. It was an eye opener to me, and I had been to a few of these shindigs. Dr. Yoji Kondo was able to visit with us two nights as well as Dr. Keith Kato; Mike and Sharon Sheffield (who ran the blood drive); Geo and Deb Rule; Fran VanCleave; J. J. Brannon; Hugh Staples; Lindalee Stuckey; Bob Pressinger; and last but not least L.N. Collier, and a multitude of others. I think that, all in all, everyone had a great time.

The best for last? Not exactly. Pam and I have been working and there are members who have received the dreaded suspension letter in past weeks. This is the hardest part of the job. An impression that dues are only a one-time event has been adopted by some members. This is not so, and has not been since Ginny had the idea to start the Society. Since most of you who are reading this are current you can stop at this point.

However, in order for us to continue we must have memberships that pay annually and, considering we have not changed the dues structure since inception (now eight years ago), it would seem like a bargain. We've been lax in the past carrying delinquent memberships beyond two years. The Board has given compassionate discretion to the Secretary and Membership Service Chair. We understand circumstances may prevent some delinquent members from becoming current. We cannot operate in a vacuum; we need information provided by you. If we receive no communication we have to presume that you are no longer interested in being a member of The Heinlein Society and proceed accordingly, although it pains us to do so.

Please contact either me at secretary@heinleinsociety.org or Pam Somers at heinleinmembers@aol.com about how you feel about your membership or anything else going on in the Society. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jane E. Silver, Secretary-Treasurer
And Member, Board of Directors



Photograph courtesy of and © 2007 J.R. Ashworth

"I always get the shakes before a ... toast," Lieutenant Colonel Charles F. Coffin, Infantry, USA, R'td, opens Saturday Gala ceremonies with a toast, "To Robert Heinlein!" Linda, his wife, is a registered nurse; both have volunteered to help mid-west area Heinlein Society blood drives. They attended two aerospace conventions together with Robert and Virginia Heinlein, in the 1980s, when Coffin was approaching mid-way in his career. Colonel Coffin was one of several officers who graced the formal Gala occasion by wearing dress uniforms.

What We Saw and Did at the Kansas City Centennial:

by Geo Rule

[Ed. note: What follows is a selection of notes by several who attended the Kansas City celebration. All were edited, some drastically, to reduce length.]

Day Zero: First you have to understand that I met my "tundra blossom" (what this California boy calls a Minnesota girl) in Prodigy's online Heinlein Forum in early 1992, and Deb and I have been married since 1995. Even back then we had one eye on this weekend. There was never any doubt where we'd be, Robert's boyhood home of Kansas City, Missouri, with his birthplace of Butler just down the road. Happily, we certainly weren't "the only ones there."

We arrived from Minnesota by car Thursday. While standing in line to speak to the concierge at the Hyatt (most of the programming would be at the Hyatt), we noticed organizer Peter Scott standing there as well. It came to mind that we first met Peter at ConJosé in 2002, on a Society-organized trip to the Heinlein archives at UC Santa Cruz. Given one of our major tasks that weekend was to launch the online version of the Heinlein archives, the feeling of having completed a cycle was strong. After checking in, we headed over to the Westin (where most major events and the dealer room was located) on what the locals call "the Link," a glass enclosed skyway connecting major portions of downtown Kansas City. Many of the convention goers referred to it as "the habit trail" or even "the greenhouse." Yep, KC in July is darned hot and muggy and, even with air conditioning every few feet, "the Link" was quite toasty. We ran into Keith Kato, The Heinlein Society's Social Activities Chair, who volunteered to be

a jack of all trades for the organizers, on the way.

"How's it going, Keith?"

"Up to my ass in alligators!"

"Well, when they get to your chin, sell!"

We saw David Silver, president of THS, chatting with some folks near registration and stopped to say "hi." Madam Secretary, Jane Silver, was there as well, bubbly and bustling as always. Next, we went into the pre-convention reception which featured author Bill Patterson reading from his still-unpublished biography of Robert. We said "hi," and ran into Robert James a Heinlein scholar and educator as well. Doc James wrote lesson plans for both *Tunnel in the Sky* and *Have Space Suit—Will Travel* included on the Society's Educator's CD (All you teachers and librarians reading this have one of those, right? They're free, you know, and may be requested from the Society's website). As we waited for Bill to start reading, I noticed J. Neil Schulman, the author and editor of *The Robert Heinlein Interview and Other Heinleiniana*. I'd first downloaded Neil's book electronically from a dial-up bulletin board in the early 1990s before it was published in hardcopy, and then reviewed it in *The Galactic Citizen*, official organ of the Heinlein Forum that Deb founded and edited for a few years. So I greeted Neil, at this the first time we'd met in person.

I had finished chatting with Neil, when a hand tapped me on the shoulder. J. Buckner Hightower, one of the trustees of the Heinlein Prize Trust, introduced himself to Deb and I; he's a member of the extended network of Heinleiners who we've

talked to and worked with electronically and were now getting to meet in person.

Day One: Friday. Wandering I: I was off on my own to start the day, as Deb had a brochure to design and get printed for the launch of the online Heinlein Archives. I took The Link again and ran into Linda and Chuck “Doc” Coffin. Linda and Chuck are more Heinlein Forum originals. They knew the Heinleins personally and were still in contact with Ginny in 1992 when they joined the Forum. Two of the photos in *Grumbles from the Grave* are credited to the Coffins. As we chatted, a lady costumed as Joan Eunice from *I Will Fear No Evil* walked past, wearing paint and not a whole lot else. I saw Chuck’s eyes dart right for a moment to confirm what he thought was happening, before returning to mine. I briefly felt I should let the strictures of 21st century America control my reaction, and apologize; but, in retrospect, I wish I’d accorded her the full Loonie male applause — at least as much as possible in a 1 G field. My wife once pointed out to me, “When a woman puts a flashing blue light in her belly-button (as she herself did at Torcon in 2003), she’s expecting you to look at it.” Joan Eunice clearly expected a reaction. I heard later that the Westin hotel staff didn’t buy the character-based dressing explanation and made her cover up. Pity.

Programming in General: Next I visited my first official session of the convention, and here is as good a place as any to discuss my impression of the panels presented by the Robert A. Heinlein Centennial convention. They were the best I’d ever seen in a long career of science fiction con-going. This convention was designed specifically for Heinlein readers so the subject matter selection was easy. On the other hand, getting those panels populated with folks who could knowledgeably speak on the subjects, share time well and interact interestingly among themselves, as well as manage the audience effectively, was a couple of orders of magnitude more difficult. Dr. Robert James and Bill Patterson deserve a significant part of the credit for that weekend, having volunteered to present a combined 30+ hours of convention programming over those three days. Me, I requested and volunteered for only one panel (on the Heinlein Archives), and allowed myself to be drafted for another without fighting too hard.

The first panel I really enjoyed was “Private Human Spaceflight: An Idea Whose Time is Soon.” The presenter was Patti Smith, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a delightful spokesman. She explained that a key moment in the history of private spaceflight took place when Congress directed the FAA’s role regarding private space flight to primarily protect “the uninvolved public” while allowing those willing to be pioneers to engage in reasonable risks to their own lives. Re-tasking of the FAA with protecting those who have no interest in private spaceflight was a huge enabler for progress. Everyday folks who have no interest (they think) in going into space appreciate it if the government makes every effort to ensure that a malfunctioning rocket doesn’t land on their house. Even the most ardent advocates of private spaceflight accept that as a reasonable sphere for government regulation.

A variety of budding private operators in the audience, during the Q & A afterwards made it clear that everyone associated with private spaceflight both recognized that deaths are inevitable and feared possible public and political reaction. Could some tragedy create enough backlash to cause

Congress to backtrack? Could it dry up venture capital funding or demand? No one is sure, and no one wants to be the producer of such a tragedy. One romantic wanted to know if, like D. D. Harriman in RAH’s “Requiem,” he’d be allowed to choose to die on a flight. The reaction from the operators in the audience was a blunt and fervent, “Not on my flight!” Most interestingly, Ms. Smith reported in talking to the presumed early operators, the business model they assume for the passenger cost of a flight is in the \$250,000 range within three to four years, ramping down over time into the \$20-30,000 range. Ms. Smith also reported early companies are seeing strong demand, even at that higher price, for those first few years.

Welcoming Ceremonies: These were pretty basic. Tim Kyger, general chairman for the con, plopped a glass of drinking water on the podium and introduced it as our guest of honor, Robert A. Heinlein. As his ashes had been buried at sea (as were Ginny’s), this was not inappropriate. Kyger is one of those names that I’d been hearing around the Heinlein community for ten years or so without ever having met him. Tim was responsible for putting the technical and scientific space component of this convention together, and from the program schedule it appeared he’d done a great job, even though Buzz Aldrin had to cancel due to a schedule conflict. Tim spends his professional career kicking around Washington, D.C. in a variety of positions, both in and out of government, where he advocated for the space program. Mike Sheffield, The Heinlein Society’s Blood Chair, in charge of the blood drive for the Centennial con as well, announced where the drive was located and urged the crowd to do its duty.

Friday Wandering II: I decide to give blood while Deb headed off for a Kinko’s to print her flyers. No muss, no fuss, minimal waiting. I collected a couple of ribbons for my badge-holder, and one of the pins that Robert Heinlein designed, a blood-red heart with a gold “SF” in the center. Returning upstairs, I decided it was time to see what wonders the Dealers Room held. As a Dealers Room, it was actually a bit underwhelming, with only a few booksellers. I didn’t suppose many of this crowd would have been willing to part with their signed first edition Heinleins anyway, but I had been sort of wistfully hoping that some dealer would show up with a near full set of first editions



Dr. Yoji Kondo meets a body-painted Joan Eunice.

Photograph courtesy of and © 2007 J.R. Ashworth

for me to slobber over. Alas, no such luck. The Heinlein Prize Trust did have a very nice double booth at the front though; one showing off posters for the new Online Heinlein Archives, audio books of various of RAH's works. Manning the booth was Sean Thompson, who is the Heinlein Prize Trust's program manager for The Virginia Edition, amongst other duties. We'd been working with Sean by email over the previous several weeks to finalize some of the last details in preparation for the launch of the Online Heinlein Archives, so it was nice to get a chance to meet him also in person. I decided not to share with Sean what Ginny once wrote to agent Lurton Blassingame as her husband's view of the typical patrons of audio books: "They should learn how to read." That was in the 1970's though, long before the audio book industry became the sizable contributor to authors' incomes that it is, and long before Ginny's macular disorder became a serious problem for her reading. Still, old book elitists everywhere probably snigger to themselves in agreement with Robert's assessment. The other half of the booth was dedicated to selling subscriptions to The Virginia Edition of Heinlein's collected works, with samples of the first six books, both leather and cloth bound, on display. We heard later that The Virginia Edition did reasonably well for sales at this convention, which should be no surprise. Down the row a bit was The Heinlein Society's booth, capably "manned" by Jane Silver, Pam Somers, and "Major Oz" (Mike Osborne, whom I met for the first time as well). There was a copy of *Colliers* with the Caleb Laning & Robert Heinlein's "Flight Into the Future" article in it, and I dropped off our copy of the *Saturday Evening Post* with "The Green Hills of Earth," and the December 1972 edition of *Oui* containing the Heinlein interview that *Playboy's* publisher sent down to *Oui* where it was drastically truncated when Robert refused to re-interview to discuss the Manson murderers. In addition, the Society was selling sets of "The Ensign's Prize Court's Recovered Pirate's Booty" discussed in the last issue of the newsletter, and copies of our free Educator's CD were also in evidence. A fairly high percentage of this convention's audience were already members of the Society, but a goodly number of new members also signed up that weekend.

"The Future of NASA": That session title gets bold print, and this is the reason why. The speaker was Dr. Michael Griffin, the 11th Administrator in the history of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The word around the con was this is the first time in the history of NASA that an Administrator had addressed a science fiction convention. The general consensus on this rather astonishing piece of intelligence was to wonder whether they really understand where the political base for their funding lies. Maybe the lobbyists get paychecks from the big aerospace firms, but the phone calls and letters to congressional offices come from our people. Deb arrived back from Kinko's with her flyers mid way through, having nearly melted from the heat and humidity in making the trip on foot. I found Griffin to have a very comforting style. He came across as the engineer he is, rather than as a politician heading an engineering outfit like so many of his predecessors have appeared. He'd clearly read and enjoyed Heinlein, though he insisted that he began reading Heinlein because he was interested in space, rather than becoming interested in space because of reading Heinlein. For a guy who is absolutely in a position to know, he gave what is for me the signature line of the entire event. I'll probably slaughter it, but this is the way I remember it:

Robert Heinlein and that generation of science fiction writers

laid the societal groundwork to make it politically possible for a president to tell the nation in 1961 that it was our goal to send a man to the moon and return him safely to earth by the end of the decade.

His point was that presidents don't get an infinite envelope of possibility within which to act. Presidents, at least if they are responsible, do not commit the nation to serious expensive long-term efforts until and unless the groundwork has been done to make it possible to succeed and provide at least a fighting chance the public will be ready to accept and sign-up for the effort as necessary, desirable, and possible. It was the works of Robert Heinlein, amongst others, that prepared the public to react to Kennedy's pledge positively instead of with confusion or derision.

Griffin wound down his talk, and volunteered for some Q & A. One of the early questions was "Hey, I thought this was 'The Future of NASA', how about some of that?" It turned out no one told Dr. Griffin what he was supposed to be talking about, so we got his take on Heinlein instead. He answered several other questions regarding why NASA doesn't do this or that, by noting NASA doesn't pick its battles. It is an implementing rather than a policy-making agency and complaints should be addressed to Congress and the Administration. While discussing those who snipe at NASA's detailed decisions, he made the interesting point that there is, and will always be, competition for limited resources, and that every decision NASA makes produces winners and losers in that regard and it's the losers who will walk around bemoaning the short-sighted bureaucrats at NASA who have no vision, etc. Another question was "Isn't it true that NASA has a 'NIH' (Not Invented Here) mentality?" Griffin denied it hotly, and proceeded to name several recent initiatives from outside NASA adopted and championed by the agency. I don't know how Griffin felt the presentation went, or whether he felt it worthwhile; but I hope NASA will continue to outreach to science fiction convention audiences. If it really is true that this is the first time in the fifty-year history of NASA that its Administrator has addressed an sf convention, then I hope as much time won't pass before the second!

Friday Wandering III: Lunch time! After lunch, fortified by food, Deb was ready to do her duty to God, Country, and the Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive. Deb is not fond of needles. I checked near the end, and could tell that the good folk at the blood drive were quite familiar with her kind of donor and had swung into action. She was surrounded by people, including Mike Sheffield himself, making sure everything was all right and that she was distracted enough to let the techs do their job. She informed me she wasn't sure what all the hubbub was about but then admitted it took three readings to get her pulse below the 100 beats per minute that is the maximum allowed for blood donors. I attended two more panels that afternoon. **"Take Back Your Government!"** was the panel for which I was "volunteered" by Doc James, though I was glad to do it. It is a bit of a puzzle why this panel was necessary when a panel earlier in the day had been named "From Socialist to Libertarian"; but, here it was with Robert assigned as the only panelist. He needed some rest for his voice with a long weekend ahead, and from conversations over the years, knew that I'd followed the story fairly closely myself, including corresponding with Thomas J. Perry, author of "Ham and Eggs and Heinlein" in Damon Knight's *Monad* in 1993 (Volume 3). We spent an hour talking about RAH's involvement

with Upton Sinclair's End Poverty in California (EPIC) in the late 1930's, the 1938 Democratic Primary in the 59th Assembly District against cross-filing Republican Charles Lyon, and the resulting "How to be a Politician" manuscript that Robert Heinlein wrote during his self-described "world saving period" after WW II. I will take author's privilege here to include my best line of the weekend: "So far as I can tell, Robert Heinlein's real 'world saving period' was from 1907 to 1988." The second panel I attended was The Campbell Letters. Bill Patterson and Robert James ran the panel, while Fred Pohl, who was also listed on the program, was AWOL. Fred Pohl can be AWOL whenever he feels like it at this point in his career; we're all just happy he's here to be on however many panels he did make. The main thrust of the panel was that Ginny's *Grumbles from the Grave* had given the strong impression that the Heinlein-Campbell relationship and correspondence had mostly gone south during WW II over Campbell's well-known penchant for offering his advice and criticism of the US Navy, items the medically-retired former naval officer felt strongly to be uninformed and unfair, and damned rude at the very least. The reality is more complex, and a full reading of the Heinlein-Campbell correspondence shows that their warm and close relationship lasted well into the early 1950s, with Campbell's fascination and enthusiasm for Dianetics, and most particularly his loud attacks on anyone who did not share them, rang a real death knell to their friendship. Bill mentioned that during his term as "Heinlein Scholar" at the UCSC archives he located the entire correspondence in an unlikely spot, and it's now been separated into its own file. Robert first proposed *Grumbles* to his agent in the late 60's or early 70's; it's clear a certain amount of axe-grinding was entirely its point; and he intended it to be Ginny's "insurance policy" after he was gone, and wanted it to sell well.

Day Two - 7/7/7 Saturday: Wandering I: "The Heinlein Prize Trust": Saturday morning, the centennial date exactly, as Heinlein was born July 7th, 1907, had a bit of a late start. Our first "must" of the morning wasn't until 11 AM. Heinlein Prize Trustee Buckner Hightower gave the presentation. There were various pasteboard blowups of "Flight Into the Future" design contests run by the Trust in Europe and China around the room. Dr. Peter Diamandis, first winner of the Heinlein Prize, was in the audience. Buckner talked about the three main areas in which the Trust was accomplishing its mission. The obvious one was the Heinlein Prize, which is modeled after the Nobel prize and is meant to be a significant prize, both in prestige and funds, to act as an incentive to those entrepreneurs who might someday be in the running. The second was "education," mentioned generically in the Trust document, and which the Trustees have turned into the "Flight into the Future" contests. These are aimed at young space scientists (under age 30), to promote their research and thinking about commercial space technology and to allow them to meet and begin the networking and cross-pollination that is so important for building a viable long-term infrastructure of support for a commercial space industry. Buckner mentioned that the Trust would very much like to do a "Flight Into the Future" for the Americas, but "ITAR" (International Traffic in Arms Regulations) rules have been interpreted by the State Department in ways that make it impossible for American space scientists to share their research with scientists from, say, Argentina, at the same Flight Into the Future conference. The Trust continues to try to work through this issue; either it will be resolved in favor of a

contest for all the Americas, or by separate Flight Into the Future contests for the US and the rest of the Americas. A third track of Trust activities includes increasing, both directly and in cooperation with others, Robert Heinlein's reputation as a literary figure of the first rank. In this area, there is support for organizations such as The Heinlein Society, appearances at conventions such as this one, producing the definitive Virginia Edition of collected works, and digitizing and making publicly available the Heinlein Archives — which until today was only available to the occasional academic who was able to make the trip to Santa Cruz, California, to visit it in person. This was now only hours away from changing. Also in this area would be the Trust's support for Bill Patterson, Robert Heinlein's biographer, during the years of his researching and writing the massive two-volume biography he has produced.

Buckner took questions from the audience. One questioner advocated changing the Heinlein Prize from one offered for accomplishments to one aimed at seeding next-generation commercial space companies. Buckner responded in two ways. First, the Trust document, as drawn up at Ginny's direction, is quite specific regarding the "Heinlein Prize." It is to be for "Accomplishments in Commercial Space Activities," and therefore the Trustees cannot change the Prize to one that is meant to be a speculative seed money award. Secondly, Buckner offered, in his experience as a long-time member of the commercial space activities community, the capital markets are open and sufficiently interested in this area as to not make seed money a serious problem. A good business plan will generate capital. Buckner invited Peter Diamandis to give his view on the question. Diamandis talked about being a "serial entrepreneur," and the usefulness of awarding the Heinlein Prize to an individual of that nature rather than a company.

After the HPT panel was over, we chatted for awhile. It turned out there was another "virtual friend" in the room that we were now meeting for the first time. James R. Cunningham, a friend of Ginny's, and a board member of the Heinlein Foundation (an entirely separate entity from the Heinlein Prize Trust) which Ginny set up to support the Butler, Missouri public library shortly after Robert's death, introduced himself and his wife. We'd emailed Jim off and on over the last several years as well, so it was very nice to once again have the opportunity to put a face and voice to an "old friend."

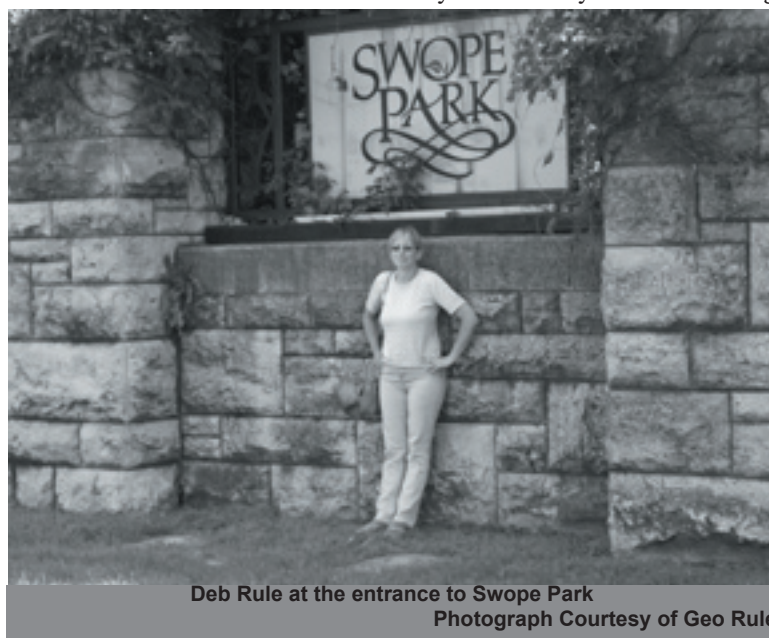
Saturday Wandering II: I'm going to describe only one of the after lunch panels because of space considerations. **Peter Diamandis:** Diamandis is nearly a force of nature. Without seeming to rush or hurry, Diamandis gets three times as much done in a given time increment than anyone else. I wonder if he might not be a "Gulf" superman. He not only recognized the D. D. Harri-man comparison, he embraced it, by pointing to "The Man Who Sold the Moon" as an actual business plan that he is carrying out. His goal is to personally provide the welcome wagon for NASA's re-arrival at the moon, having beaten them back by a few years. That line produced a roar of approval from the audience. Peter spent his hour relating the history of the X Prize, the X Prize Cup, plans for a "Rocket Racing League," and Zero Gravity company. This latter is a much better name from a marketing perspective than the informal name used for NASA's earlier version — the "Vomit Comet." Indeed, NASA has retired their aircraft and is now renting flights from Zero Gravity. He had lots of slides and demos to show us, including a clearly thrilled Stephen Hawking

doing spins in zero G recently. Said Peter, “After the sixth go round I started negotiating with him for when we could stop.”

The Gala Dinner: There were actually three things going on with the moniker “Gala” attached to them. From 5 PM to 7 PM there were two simultaneous events – “The Gala Dinner” and “The Gala Reception”. With the former came, if you paid for it, dinner. I wasn’t at the latter, but I think it was a typical no-host bar for those folks who didn’t feel like doing the Gala Dinner. At 7 PM, all members of the con were free to attend the Gala Ceremony itself.

Among all the tuxedos, Chuck Coffin (Lt. Col, USA-Ret) was one of several who wore his dress uniform showing a career of service to his country spread across his chest. In the unanticipated absence of Colonel Aldrin, Chuck received a last-minute request to serve as toastmaster for the event. This gave him a chance to prove his ability to improvise under pressure, and he wrote notes at a furious pace while muttering to himself a bit about being surprised at the last minute with the task. It was a long program, as well it should have been. As “Toastmaster” in

addition to heartfelt toasts to Robert and Ginny individually, what I remember best was Chuck introducing one effort as “I always get the shakes before a . . . toast,” thus paying tribute to his own favorite Heinlein work, *Starship Troopers*, by reference to its first sentence. Additionally, Chuck offered one of Mr. Heinlein’s own toasts as given at a dinner Chuck attended – “Gentlemen! To the ladies!” The libertarian wing of the Heinlein tapestry was heard from with a video showing the brass cannon that was the symbol of the Luna Free State (“The Brass Cannon” being a working title for what eventually became *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*) being fired several times at a gun range, after some discussion of how it came to be in the possession of Brad Linaweaver and the process for restoring it into firing condition. Peter Diamandis and Buckner Hightower of the Heinlein Prize Trust gave shorter versions of their presentations from earlier in the day. Buckner also announced that the Online Heinlein Archives were now open for business making sure Deb and I took a bow for that, which we were glad to do. Robert James read a letter from Jack Williamson, written in 2005, chiefly about his remembrances of the Manana Literary Society days in Los Angeles before WW II. Spider and Jeanne Robinson spoke, and then sang a song from *Variable Star* that Spider co-wrote with David Crosby. Spider accompanied them on his guitar, which will be important shortly. Jeanne talked about her “Star-dance Project” and showed a presentation to illustrate what might be possible in Zero G dance, with the intent to use advances in CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) to produce a film of such a dance choreographed by her. James Gunn introduced the Campbell Award honorees for this year, Ben Bova and James Morrow.



The Centennial committee had their own writing contest, with three prizes in each of two classes, amateur and professional. Shame on me for not remembering more of the names, but I do remember Fran Van Cleave as one of the awardees on the professional side, as Fran is also a longtime member of the Heinlein community and The Heinlein Society. I also recall the first prize amateur’s award winning entry, Christopher J. Howard’s story “Hammers and Snails” being described as “Like finding John Varley in the slush pile.” Dr. Jordin Kare and Margaret Middleton, well known in the filking community, then took the stage to lead the crowd in singing “The Green Hills of Earth,” accompanied by Spider on guitar.

Arthur C. Clarke next addressed the convention by way of pre-recorded video. He was able to do live interchanges with his American friends from his Sri Lankan home when he received the Heinlein Award at the Heinlein Society’s Award Banquet in Boston, at Noreascon in 2004. He talked about his long friendship with the Heinleins, both ups and downs, and then said goodbye. It had very much the feeling of finality to it, as though Sir

Arthur believed it to be the last such opportunity he would have. Yoji Kondo announced presentation of the 2007 Heinlein Award to Elizabeth Moon. Now we’re up to what was for me (and, if post-event conversations are indicative, for pretty much everyone), the emotional highlight of the evening. Many of you have seen, at one time or another, the video of Virginia Heinlein reading her husband’s “This I Believe” on his behalf, as the acceptance speech when he was awarded, posthumously, NASA’s Distinguished Public Service Medal in 1988. The Centennial committee had acquired an audio copy of

Robert’s original reading of the same text from Edward Murrow’s show in 1952 which The Heinlein Society had cleaned up and put on a CD for its archives. As Ginny began to read, up came Robert’s voice over top of hers, and they read it nearly together in sync, with both voices recognizable but Robert’s dominating. Then, at the end, the two voices gave the final line, “This I believe with all my heart” one after the other. If there was a dry eye in the house, then I want to find that person and wake them up because they just missed a heckuva show.

Day Three The Heinlein Archives: It was Deb’s turn on the stage. We arrived to discover there was a projector and screen and, even better, hotel wireless networking had given us live access to the Online Archives. Bill Patterson joined us to talk about the history and contents of the physical archives at UCSC. Marie Guthrie, who wrote her dissertation on Heinlein’s works, stopped at the table to say ‘hi,’ and we promptly drafted her onto the panel for an academic’s perspective of what making the Archives available online meant. Bill described his two-year stint as “Heinlein Scholar” in residence at UCSC helping to organize the Archives. Marie noted what a huge plus the online archives will

be for Heinlein scholarship by significantly easing the ability to peer review academic pieces. Yes, it was possible for an academic to visit Santa Cruz and the Archives. But now you can download the entire contents of the Archives and review and analyze them at leisure. Additionally, academics with an immediate need can apply for a research grant from the Prize Trust and, if approved, get free access. Deb talked about how, as the part-time webmaster for the Heinlein Prize Trust, in early 2006 she was more or less handed 17 DVDs containing 200,000+ images with virtually no indexing information, and a nearly tabula rasa directive to make it happen. Now, 18 months later, the Online Archives have launched with phase one consisting of the Opus Manuscripts and a selection of materials from across the other areas of the collection. Then she took the crowd on a tour using her laptop and the projector. The audience response was gratifying.

The Heinlein Interview: J. Neil Schulman brought digitized recordings from his original 1973 interviews with Robert A. Heinlein that are the basis of the major portion of *The Robert Heinlein Interview and Other Heinleiniana*. He played some of the juicier bits for the audience. It was nice to hear Robert Heinlein's voice again, and to hear the inflections and nuances he gave to answers I'd previously only read.

Closing Ceremonies: "2107 in Luna City!" was one of the recurring battle-cries of the weekend, in part because some there might reasonably actually make the Sesquicentennial, but no one wanted to volunteer for that committee just yet! Mike Farr announced the Society's Robert A. Heinlein Centennial Writing Contest, with the exciting news that there will be \$8,000 in guaranteed prize money for the top three entries. Given that "professional rates", as defined by the SFWA, are \$.05/word, that's pretty good money. Mike Sheffield reported 76 people volunteered to give blood, with 61 resulting in successful donations. On one hand, Mike had been hoping for 100 rather than 76 to honor the Centennial...on the other he admitted that at the last con where he ran a blood drive there were many thousands of attendees and they produced about this same number of donations. This convention reported, variously, it had substantially less than one thousand people in attendance, so as a percentage we did very well. Lastly, all the volunteers were called up and thanked individually, including a modest token of

esteem from the convention's collectibles. Tina Black and KaCS-FFS deserve a particular shout-out here for providing the bulk of the ground troops.

Day Last + 1: The convention was over, but while we were in the neighborhood, we decided to swing past some of the Heinlein sights of the area. We'd already done Union Station, so we headed for Swope Park, featured in *Time Enough for Love*. It's a very big and lovely park, and Deb and I made sure to take a few pictures of us standing next to the entrance sign. Then it was about another hour south to Butler, Robert Heinlein's birthplace. There are three or four signs in town leading to the street on which the house where Robert was born still sits. It is his Grandfather Lyle's house on Fulton Avenue. If you go, follow the signs,

and when the signs run out, look for the only house on the block that looks remotely old enough to have been around in 1907 but don't knock on the door, as there's nothing in particular to see inside other than home-owners. Then it was off to the Butler Public Library. In 1980, Butler invited the prodigal son back for a "Robert Heinlein Day." On that trip Robert and Ginny decided the town library could use a little help. Shortly after Robert passed away, Ginny formed the Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Foundation to "enable the renovation of the library, construction of a new wing, and further provisions for ongoing maintenance and other continuing assistance." On the new wing, below "Butler Public Library," is also "Robert A. & Virginia Heinlein Addition." A plaque in the entryway also credits the Foundation's role in the 1991 unveiling of the renovated and expanded library. To my eye, the building was handsome and well-cared for. The Addition is most of the library stacks proper, with



the older section now being a nice community activities room. In the middle, across from the entry, is the "Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Reading Room." Among its contents are the library's collection of Heinlein books available for patrons to read, various collectibles secured in glass cases, plaques on the walls from the government of Missouri recognizing the Heinleins, and a lovely Frank Kelly Freas portrait of Robert and Ginny that belongs to Jim Cunningham is on loan to the library. Linda Hunter, the library's director, gave us a tour of the library, including playing a radio interview of RAH from the 1980 "Robert A. Heinlein Day" in Butler. In it, Robert mentions that he never talks about an Earth city in his works unless he's been there himself. This is why

Kansas City makes multiple appearances, for example. While we were there, we also all joined the Butler Public Library, paying our \$5 for a lifetime library card, and we took our leave of Butler. It had been a great long weekend, and for those of you who were not lucky enough to be there, I hope you've had at least a portion of the fun reading about it.

What I Saw and Did, by Pam Somers

The conversation began innocently enough. I said to my husband, "The Heinlein Centennial, Kansas City." A few days later, he made a decision: "We'll drive." Drive???? From Maryland??? Reasonably, he pointed out that Kansas City is actually a little closer than our annual pilgrimage to southern Florida. And besides, if we drove, we could pack a few extra things and reduce the amount of shopping to be done on location to organize the Society's hospitality suite. The fool. By the time I got done asking, "Can you fit just one more thing?" there was barely enough room in the car for the two of us. It was a long drive.

We arrived in Kansas City on Wednesday, the night of the Fourth of July, in plenty of time to try a dinner of highly-recommended Kansas City steak (it lived up to its reputation) and to watch a series of truly spectacular fireworks displays. Jane rolled in early afternoon on Thursday, so we had lots of time to scope out the layout. What can I say? The hotels were lovely and the host hotel boasted an exceptional three story atrium graced with an eye-catching tropical garden complete with waterfall right outside the Dealers' Room which the organizers dubbed The Marketplace and which also included the Art Show at the back. Jane and I checked out the Society's assigned space and we were pleased. Spacious and well-placed, right next to the Art Show entrance. Thursday passed for us in a whirlwind of organization, culminating in the official check-in that evening, with a brief stop for a drink at the Early Arrivals Reception.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday days spent in our booth. I had to readjust my mental processes my normal conversation opener at conventions ("Do you read Heinlein?") was a non-starter here! Many of the visitors wanted to look at and chat about the Pirates' Booty. Ginny's loot was prominently displayed. Members of the Society (who had already had the chance read about the books in our Newsletter), and non-members alike, were fascinated by the story. Some listened to me repeat it again and again. There are only a very limited number of sets available, and we've sold several. Don't miss this opportunity. And members! I'm gratified by the number of new members who signed up, and especially happy to have had the chance to meet so many members who've been with us for a long time. I have faces to put with names now! Small glitches delayed our display of Ginny's paperback collection until Sunday — we have a small stock of books she purchased to give as gifts which came to the Society after her death, and we made them available for purchase for the

first time at the Centennial. A letter of provenance is included. If you missed them, watch for us at other conventions throughout the Centennial Year.

Evenings: Of course, the highlight of any evening was the very well-attended Gala Dinner on Saturday night, with all our men spiffed out in black tie. I stuck with beef at the buffet and enjoyed the dinner immensely. I wasn't able to remain for the whole after-dinner program, but stayed long enough to see our own Fran VanCleve pick up a Special Recognition award from the Centennial Writing Contest. (Way to go, Fran!) Also, a former member, Sandy Sandfort, took a Special Recognition in the amateur division. (Sandy, if you're out there, we want you back!)

Duty called me back to the Heinlein Society suite to assist with our traditional evening receptions. Not room parties in any traditional sense, our receptions are usually fairly small and intimate. Good conversation, drinks, munchies, engrossing guests patterned after Robert's own post-convention gatherings. If you've never attended one, you've missed a treat. With all due modesty, I have noticed that our receptions seem to have become a must stop for most of the name attendees at conventions but the best part is YOU. Our largest was Saturday post-Gala, with over 100



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

people passing through. I was struck by the eclectic nature of the group, folks from every walk of life and every conceivable world view, all sharing the common bond of Heinlein and every single one sharp, witty, stimulating and provocative. Again and again, I noticed that a gathering of Heinleinians is a cut above the average!

I can't close this column without a few thanks. To J.J. Brannon, a Society member from Delaware, thank you for yeomans service at our booth; Jane and I wouldn't have made it without you. To Rusty Solberg, thank you for truly outstanding hospitality and fabulous ribs (and great beer). To Mike Farr, thank you for everything you want to do on behalf of young readers and to encourage young readers; I am at your disposal and will bring bitters the next time. To the "other Mike," thank you for the succinct and entertaining summaries of all the panels I missed and for your incomparable guitar playing. To Andrea Silver, thank you for keeping everything going and all of us sane.

And to my long-suffering husband, Bob, whose taste in reading runs to high-performance automotive and who hardly saw me the whole weekend, thank you for being Andi's designated go-fer and for everything you did and do for me.

Board Member Somers directs your attention to <<http://virginiaedition.blogspot.com/2007/06/first-steps-excitement-abounds.html>>. Read it for the latest update regarding The Virginia Edition.



Keith and 97-year-old Dorothy Heinlein outside the door to the Westin's large ballroom. Dorothy is the widow of Robert Heinlein's younger brother, Jesse ("Jay") who was a college professor. Dorothy attended with younger members of her family.

Photograph provided by
Keith Kato

Not Having Much Fun by Keith G. Kato

"Not having much fun" is the honest answer—I was too busy working. In 35 years of attending science fiction conventions I had never seen the operational side of things, and it was a revelation. It was sort of like that line in *Shakespeare In Love* when Geoffrey Rush is asked how does a production come together?: "It's a mystery."

Mystery or not, at least 600, and by some accounts over 700 when walk-ins and daily memberships were factored in, converged in Kansas City, Missouri on July 6-7-8, 2007, to celebrate the 100th birthday of Robert A. Heinlein. The attendees were a mixture of SF writers, fans, academics, and space advocates in both the public and private space sectors. Two academic conferences related to SF, the Campbell Conference (named after former *Analog/Astounding Science Fiction* editor John W. Campbell) and the Science Fiction Research Association were held with the Centennial, with meetings and papers of their own, but with reciprocal attending privileges to the Centennial.

Within the Centennial's general programming there were over 100 panels (not that I saw many), sometimes six running in parallel, video and audio replays of Heinlein's speeches and Heinlein-related movies, a Blood Drive that netted 76 donors, autograph signings, conversations among new fast friends enabled by Heinlein's writings, sales, and displays. The keystone event, The Gala—was held on Saturday night, July 7, 2007, with awards, speeches, and entertainment. The Gala was preceded by a buffet dinner that drew compliments that the food was actually good. For those who could not purchase a dinner ticket (they sold out quickly, and the number of diners had to be locked down with the hotel before most of us even checked into the hotels), there was a free pre-Gala reception with drinks and munchies.

Some time around New Year's 2006 I was asked by Bill Patterson, the first President of The Heinlein Society, if I wished to help out with the Heinlein Centennial effort. I agreed, informed THS Board of Directors (and even offered to resign or suspend my committee chairmanship to avoid conflict of interest), and began attending the Centennial's meetings on Monday, March 20, 2006. The Centennial committee met twice a week, first on AIM, then on Skype. The Executive Committee of the Centennial was

Chairman Tim Kyger, former chairman of the 1978 Worldcon in Phoenix ("Iguanacon"), Secretary/Treasurer James Gifford, author of Robert A. Heinlein: A Reader's Companion, and Programming major-domo Peter Scott. Consider them "Cell B" of the effort, à la *The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress*. Functionally, Cell C types were consiglieri Bill Patterson (health and work schedule permitting), our representative to local Kansas City SF fandom, Tina Brown, and me.

My first job was "Speaker To Fandom" (from Larry Niven's "Known Space" Kzinti species), to coordinate outreach and publicity to the SF world. At some point, I was also asked to coordinate a space website "crawl" to contact over 800 sites of that constituency. I was eventually asked to be the "Static Displays Manager" for the Centennial. This job was to coordinate anything at the Centennial other than Programming, i.e., the Marketplace/Dealers Room, the Art Show, the Media Display, the Information Booths, the Space Exhibits, the Heinlein Life Exhibit, the Heinlein Theater/Video Room, and the Blood Drive were all my responsibility. Fortunately for me, a novice in this type of job, a lot of the on-site work was assumed by specific points of contact: Lynn Stranathan handled Marketplace and Information Booths; Paula Helm Murray handled the Art Show; Casey Bernay handled the Media Exhibit; Bill Higgins, Tim Kyger, Peter Scott, and I worked the Space Exhibits; David Sooby handled the Heinlein Theater; and Jeff Orth was the overall Volunteer Coordinator for the entire Centennial, including not only Static Displays, but Registration, Security, Programming. I had the good sense to leave Mike Sheffield alone for the Blood Drive, other than double-checking what rooms he was assigned, when, and things like chairs, tables, water stations, and the like. Pre-mailings were directed to our KC storage cubicle, i.e. the living room of John Taylor. John deserves special mention, as his wife Patti entered the hospital about a week before the Centennial, and she passed away on July 5. John continued his work at the Centennial nonetheless.

With basically six of us doing the pre-Centennial planning, some decisions were made rather quickly, some with debate (and often the favored position of a Cell B member was over-ridden by vote), but some—which were considered minor or secondary at the time—fell into the proverbial cracks. In my view, the

inexperience in running a function like this, not exactly an SF convention, not exactly an academic conference, not exactly a space conference, but an amalgam of all three, showed in some ways during the actual execution of the Centennial. However, thank Ghu for the functional and staff support of the local Kansas City Science Fiction and Fantasy Society, KaCSFFS (“cax-fuss”). KaCSFFS had, just about one month prior, run their local convention, ConQuest, with about 450 in attendance. Their members, some of whom I already mentioned, simply dug in and worked like champions to help the Centennial succeed in a way that only experience and willingness to do hard work could. KaCSFFS is bidding for the 2009 Worldcon this year, and I’m voting for them out of sheer gratitude.

My work for the Centennial did not diminish once I got to KC, even though the pre-planning was intense. I traveled on 4th of July, and on Thursday, July 5, began setup work. I was in the Westin Hotel’s room Century A from 9 AM to past 9 PM to coordinate the placement of the vendors’ booths, the traffic on the loading dock, the trucking and receiving of a lot of hardware on loan to us from KaCSFFS (the Video Room equipment and the Art Show panels in particular), and actual physical setup of the tables, chairs, and Art Show panels.

I also spent time on the 5th to nearly midnight and the morning of July 6 preparing the final version of the Heinlein Life Exhibit. Originally, there was to be essentially a museum exhibit of 3-D items, such as Heinlein’s desk, typewriter, and other paraphernalia. Plans for those items fell through, and instead I decided to create a PowerPoint briefing, printed on 11 x 17 paper, for something that has become known as the Heinlein Life Exhibit Walk-Thru Briefing. It contained material liberally and gleefully cribbed from Michael Cassutt, Jim Gifford, Dr. Robert James, Bill Patterson, and David Silver’s obituary article for Ginny Heinlein in THS Newsletter. I fact-checked the briefing with Bill Patterson and Robert James, and Bill and I spent a lot of time finding and pasting photographs. I am especially proud of our work on the “Ginny Collage,” with photos of this special lady from 6 months to 71 years. Members of the Heinlein family and the Heinlein’s adopted “granddaughter,” Dr. Amy Baxter, were highly complimentary of this exhibit.

The goings-on in Century A, the Marketplace, Art Show, Media Exhibit, Space Exhibit, and Life Exhibit were scheduled to open on noon, July 6. Paula Murray had hung the art pieces by Carl Lundgren, prints of 12 Heinlein book covers, and the original oil painting cover to *Podkayne Of Mars*, and the Media Exhibit sent by Casey Bernay. I was actually still putting up the Life Exhibit well past noon, as well as coordinating the setup of the Space Exhibit, and getting the play schedule and actual source DVDs to David Sooby for the Heinlein Theater.

One final exhibit was put into place. Despite not having the 3-D museum pieces available, a number of people including Amy Baxter, Jim Gifford, Brad Lineweaver, members of KaCSFFS, and I, provided letters, photographs, autographs, and other material of Heinlein “realia.” Amy provided embroidered pillows by Ginny, a table place setting with utensils designed by Robert, jewelry, vase, and other personal items. Jim provided the 1929 Naval Academy yearbook with the page opened to Robert’s photo. Brad provided, via courier J. Neil Schulman, with The Brass Cannon, a 1/5th scale Revolutionary War model cannon fired off by Robert and Ginny every 4th of July, and the source of the original title for *The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress*. KaCSFFS

provided an autographed copy of the manuscript to Moon to the club. I had several letters, postcards, and photos dealing with the first Blood Drive in 1976, my PhD dissertation dedication to Heinlein and his response, and a final letter after Robert’s death from Ginny, that discussed his final days with some candor and poignancy. Because of the value of these items, I had hoped to get a locked display case, but surprisingly, we could not find an appropriate lock in several tries. I remained paranoid about theft for the rest of the Centennial.

All this took place on Friday, and Saturday was hardly any less work. I checked into Century A to see how the vendors were doing, if the night time private security guard had made it through OK (he looked to be in his 80s), and how the volunteer schedule was shaping up. I was committed to be on one panel, “Remembering Heinlein,” where I planned to use some of the stories I had written up for THS Newsletter a couple of years ago. But the panel was overly crowded (David Gerrold, who told what happened to Pixel when he assumed custody; agent Elinor Wood; Dr. Alan Koslow; J. Neil Schulman; Dr. Yoji Kondo; me; and recruited from the audience, 93-year-old Dorothy Heinlein, widow of Robert’s younger brother Jesse/“Jay”), so my time was limited to the story of Heinlein at Caltech in 1974. I spent the remainder of Saturday afternoon working problems in the Video Room, and finally went back to my hotel to change for the pre-Gala dinner.

I arrived late to the dinner, but managed to find one seat open to share with THS members Mike Sheffield and Tim Morgan and their wives. The policy was open seating for the dinner, but with one chair to remain open for a randomly placed “celebrity.” Unfortunately for our table, I took the “celebrity” chair. One good piece of fortune was that our table was first to be asked to approach the buffet.

At the Gala itself, I remember a rather cheesy movie trailer for Neil Schulman’s *Lady Magdalene’s* which was snuck in, unapproved by anyone in Cell B. There were several awards, such as the Campbell (best novel) and Sturgeon (best short fiction) by the Campbell Conference, the Heinlein Award to Elizabeth Moon by Dr. Yoji Kondo, some writing awards, all short and to the point. There was a scintillating talk by Dr. Peter Diamandis, Chairman of the X-Prize Foundation and winner of the first \$500,000 Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize for Accomplishments in Commercial Space Activities given by the Heinlein Prize Trust. Spider and Jeanne Robinson gave a status talk on their Stardance Project (basically choreography in zero gee), and Amy Baxter came on stage with a \$1,000 check in support. Peter Diamandis then offered Jeanne a spot on an upcoming flight, similar to the offer made to Dr. Stephen Hawking recently. Dr. Jordin Kare led a rendition of the song “The Green Hills Of Earth,” and the Gala ended with a video of Ginny Heinlein at the 1988 National Air and Space Museum tribute to Robert Heinlein. Instead of her own speech, she read Robert’s essay for Edward R. Murrow’s TV show “This I Believe.” In a dramatic editing transition, Ginny’s voice was soon replaced by Robert’s. At the end of this video, the lights came up, and the crowd exited the room in silence.

Immediately after the Gala, I met with Amy Baxter and her husband Dr. Louis Calderon, to retrieve her items from the display case, since their departure flight was scheduled for 9 AM the next morning. We also had an impromptu auction for the original oil painting of Podkayne with Amy facing off against Jim Gifford—there were no other bidders. Amy’s chat room handle

is “Dr. Poddy,” and she managed to twist Jim’s arm (literally but gently) into submission; besides, Jim’s wife Audrey wouldn’t let him bid. So there was some justice in this painting being owned by Heinlein’s “granddaughter.”

After Amy left, I still had to stay to deal with an electrical outage in Century A, and didn’t get back to my room until 2 AM.

I slept in a little on Sunday, and managed to see one panel that was not my own. Deb and Geo Rule were on a panel about access to the Heinlein Archives. I came up to the dais before the panel started, and mock-gruffly told Geo “This is the only panel I’m going to see, so it better be good!”

Now comes the part I dread—teardown of the exhibits. We closed the Art Show bids at noon, and by noon-plus-five I saw several happy and excited owners of Carl Lundgren’s Heinlein book cover prints leave the room with their new treasures. We closed the Art Show at 1 PM to take down the remaining Media Exhibit and Life Exhibit. The Marketplace itself closed at 3 PM, and the vendors began packing up their remaining inventory. Once packed, they drove their vehicles, one-by-one, to the loading dock. Jeff Orth and the KaCSFFS moving gang helped disassemble the Art Show panels and Video Room equipment, and all of us, Jim Gifford and Peter Scott included, helped load up the truck to return all this hardware. Amazingly, by 7 PM the room is cleared and I hand over the keys to end my bondage.

After I take a shower (“You need it” jokes Jim), a number of us meet in Jim’s room and prepare to go to dinner at Fiorella’s Jack Stack barbeque. It is the first meal outside the hotel that I have taken during my entire stay in KC.

So, was it worth it personally to help organize and execute the Centennial? Yes. It was a lot of work, and I really didn’t get to participate as I would in a normal SF convention. But this wasn’t a normal convention. There were people I met or heard who never attend SF conventions—Dr. William Bacchus and Dorothy Heinlein from the Heinlein family; Dr. Michael Griffin, the head administrator of NASA; Dr. Peter Diamandis; Brian Binnie, pilot of SpaceShipOne; Dr. Martine Rothblatt, founder of Sirius Satellite Radio; Jim Cunningham, a trustee of the Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Foundation that Ginny established and endowed to help support and maintain the Butler Public Library. Academics one would not normally see such as M.G. Lord. It was good to see some authors again, Ben Bova, Fred and Betty Pohl come to mind, and meet some new ones such as Selina Rosen and Robin Wayne Bailey. I met attendees from Israel, the Netherlands, Japan, Brazil, and several European countries. All to honor Robert Heinlein. Dorothy told me all of Robert’s siblings thought they were smarter than he; imagine that, he was “the dumb one” of the family.

I have a photo I would like to share from the Centennial. It is me with Dorothy Heinlein, presently the only living relative of Robert from his generation. She is his younger brother Jesse’s wife.

So, if you could have attended but did not, shame on you. But all is not lost. July 7, 2057, is also a Saturday. Heinlein Sesquicentennial, 2057, in Luna City anyone? I’m planning on it.

I Came, I Saw, I Ate, by David Silver

Some things are implicit to understanding. You don’t visit Kansas City without thinking about and planning to enjoy the food. There’s a little known secret: an airline known as Midwest. All the seats are Business Class in size. They don’t pack you in as anchovies in a tin. And their tickets don’t cost more than an economy price. But, because of holiday demand, we had to fly a day early, which turned out to be the Fourth of July. How better to enjoy Independence Day’s fireworks displays than from a circular rotating restaurant atop a prominent hotel while eating a nicely cut and seasoned Kansas City steak?

So we did. The flight from Los Angeles arrived in time to make a 7 PM reservation; and we were joined by Pam and Bob, and Mike Osborn — a nice party of only six because Jane couldn’t get free in time to arrive on the Fourth. It was a popular place for those who could arrive early. Buckner and Linda Hightower were dining at a table on the other side of the rotating room, and had we known we’d have invited them to join us. Texans know



One beautifully dry rubbed and barbequed beef rib rack
Photograph Courtesy of Hugh Staples

steak. They go to Kansas City for it. As a matter of fact they used to drive most of their steak to Kansas City. Kansas City cuts are justly famous, and the restaurant on the top of the Hyatt lived up to that reputation, even if other aspects of the Hyatt didn’t.

And then, there’s barbeque. Who visits Kansas City without tasting their barbeque? No one I hope. There are probably commercial joints all over town selling barbeque; but we were lucky: Heinlein fans have for years gathered and talked on an usenet newsgroup known as “alt.fan.heinlein.” It may not be the oldest; but it’s been around quite a long time; and, even if detractors of “alt” newsgroups claim “alt” stands for Anarchists, Lunatics and Terrorists, you can usually get a very good discussion of anything Heinlein going if you’re patient. When this convention was announced in May 2005, there was a lot people who clamored about their plans to attend. A few did attend, many didn’t. But one made an offer that you couldn’t refuse. Rusty Solberg, who lives near Kansas City, literally dotes on barbeque and does it himself

whenever possible. His offer: “Drive on out to my place. I’ll feed you all barbeque if you come.”

And so we did. Friday afternoon, we wrapped up the display in the Dealers’ Room and packed ourselves into the available cars and vans and headed for Dorothy’s Kansas, the traditional place where those from Missouri went to rustle a little cattle. We were looking for beef too; and we found it! A few miles south of Fort Leavenworth we pulled into to a parklike setting, found Rusty’s home, and enjoyed some of the most delicious, moist, flavorful, rubbed beef barbeque I’ve ever had. Soda pop or beer helped keep it from sticking in our throats; and there were a variety of grilled vegetables including fresh unshucked corn.

We also were quite blessed and fortunate to enjoy the hospitality of Rusty’s family. They participate in alt.fan.heinlein just as he does; and, just as he does, they use “nyms” or “playnames” to participate. Rusty’s wife calls herself “Motherthing,” and his daughter, a lovely thirteen-year-old, has asked questions about Heinlein’s stories these past two years using the name “PeeWee.”

There were thirteen of us, including Stephanie Vickers who like PeeWee started out on alt.fan.heinlein years ago at the urging of her parents. Stephanie and her family drove over all the way from North Carolina just to be at the barbeque. All of us enjoyed the hospitality of the Solbergs, after which the Solberg adults accepted our invitation to join us at the reception we were having in our hotel suite that evening and, the following day, Rusty attended the Gala banquet.

The following evening, the food at the Gala banquet was a bit anti-climatic after the repasts we’d enjoyed the two previous days; but it was passable if unusual. But we had refreshments we served at our reception later that evening to also look forward to enjoying.

All in all, we returned home very well satisfied with the dining we enjoyed in Kansas City.

What I Hoped I Wouldn’t See by Andrea Silver

Ed. Note: Sometimes an event creates a good lesson for those who might follow and create a like event in the future. Banquets are a common occurrence for any organization and so this critique appears.

Let’s start from the beginning. First, I’m not a dyed-in-the-wool Heinlein fan. I attended the Gala Banquet to accompany my husband and to see what all the fuss of Heinlein’s Centennial was about. I could hardly miss, in forty years of marriage to my hus-

band, that he liked to read the works of Robert Heinlein; but what made Heinlein worth celebrating in a Centennial really wasn’t my concern until recently. I’d hoped I’d find out a little more about the man in a Program designed to celebrate his 100th Birthday.

Since I didn’t and was quite disappointed not to, I’ve decided to offer a little advice and criticism to learn from for further banquets that honor Robert Heinlein. So let us begin:

A NIGHT AT THE GALA (apologies to the Marx Brothers)

The first thing I noticed at the Gala was it was “no host seating.” There’s a reason why well-organized dinners use place cards and well-experienced hosts or hostesses give some thought to seating arrangements. It’s to avoid what we had on July 7th: 300 people wandering about for long minutes wondering where to sit and celebrities ignoring any request made to scatter themselves among the various tables and, instead, clustering all in one area so as to be with their friends, other celebrities. No host seating is always an interesting exercise, and something, if you have a full week to arrange otherwise, quite unfair to inflict on 300 guests.

Also, I thought dress was formal, but formal may have a different meaning to others. Perhaps large numbers of volunteers rewarded with dinner tickets — it looked like half the room — failed to bring formal dress.

The eclectic choice of food, mainly appetizers served as entrees, was interesting; but no lettuce salad in the beginning was a little off-putting. Also, the raw oysters tasted a bit off and I saw many people who had partly filled their plates with them put them aside after tasting one. So much for the dinner, and now let us turn to the entertainment.

I supposed the writing awards were inspired by Heinlein. It might have

added to the program to explain exactly how the winners showed that inspiration in their stories; but that wasn’t to be. The Heinlein Award is self explanatory. But, judging from comments I heard from the audience, I guess the Heinlein judges only read each other because they mainly only give the award to each other.

And if the recipient is unable to attend we could have read it in the program — oh, sorry, there wasn’t one.

It was nice to see Sir Arthur Clarke again and to finally hear some personal memories of Robert Heinlein.

The letter reading was interesting, but Mr. Williamson is one-year deceased, and I knew of at least five people in the room still living who would have personal memories or anecdotes or have shaken the hand of Robert Heinlein. Would they not have shared a thought or two?

The home video of the cannon firing was cute once; all angles of it firing was tiring and, did I hear right, someone claimed it was done by a professional film maker? Ha-ha!



Rusty Solberg and Mike Osborn prepare to grill the vegetables
Photograph Courtesy of Hugh Staples

The musical interludes were a break from the awards, but I am still wondering what the songs had to do with Heinlein. The best and most poignant part of the program was to see Virginia read the speech with Robert's voice-over. Very moving and technically well done—finally.

I also thought the sing-along at the end was cute, but they probably should have had the words running on the screen at the same time. Or a request not to sing, but it probably wouldn't have made any difference.

I was sad to see the Heinlein relatives leave early; but it really was a long program to ask a lady in her nineties to sit through. I left the gala knowing very little more about Mr. Heinlein and more than I wanted to know about other things. My final thoughts are: if you want to pay it forward or dare to dream about visiting another galaxy one should go to a panel, give blood or read the books and not expect it to come from a 4 hour gala.

I am glad I attended to honor his memory, but I wonder how Robert or Virginia would have felt had they attended (maybe they did!). Would they have known it was the Robert Heinlein Centennial Celebration? Just wondering.



A Letter to the Society

Our friend and member, author G. David Nordley wrote, expressing his regrets to all of you at not being able to attend the Heinlein Centennial in Kansas City. He was, by previous arrangement, obliged to attend a regular 4th of July Weekend convention in Minnesota, which is growing bigger every year, named CONvergence, and held in Bloomington. Gerry nevertheless celebrated Robert's birthday and drew CONvergence fans to notice it with the display and cake shown above.

ComicCon: A Glorious 40-years

A weekend before the Centennial, June 26-29, I attended Comic-Con 2007 in San Diego, California, to help present a panel on the Centennial. Why a convention devoted to comic books? Robert Heinlein was never a comic book writer or artist.

Well, actually, we know he was: one time.

The Heinleins attended fewer conventions than other popular SF writers, particularly in years following the early 1960s. Some world cons, mainly those where he had been advised he would receive a Hugo Award, seem to have been the main exception. Fans, particularly those involved with organizing conventions, complain more and more today that Heinlein seemed unapproachable. If you ignore his health and age issues, whenever the Heinleins did attend a convention, they were surrounded with such a large coterie of escorts and hangers-on that they were indeed unapproachable to most of those who attended.

Then in the early 1970s Heinlein had a life-threatening illness and needed many pints of a rare blood type to survive. Feeling he owed his life to donors, when asked to be the guest of honor at the 1976 World Con in Kansas City, he agreed—but with the stipulation that he would only sign autographs for people who donated or tried to donate blood. We know about all that.

What most do not know is in 1977 Jackie Estrada, a committee member organizing one of the early Comic-Cons in San Diego, approached Robert and Ginny at the Kansas City World Con and asked them to consent to being a guest at the San Diego Comic-Con the next year if Comic-Con held a Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive. They agreed, and in 1977 came to San Diego. The drive was a success; and the Heinleins greatly enjoyed the convention, due in no little part to the fact that organizers made their trip one that was escort-less and allowed no coterie of hangers-on to dodge their every step. Robert and Ginny wandered the halls, displays, rooms at their convenience and leisure.

And in 1977 Heinlein acquired another profession; he became a comic illustrator. He drew an autographed comic for the convention's use in its traditional charity, the Sunday Morning Art Auction. I wonder who has the original today?

That last June weekend was the 30th Year of the Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive at Comic-Con. It ran all four days. It is the second largest blood drive held annually in San Diego County, California. In 2006 it collected a record of over 600 units of blood. I don't doubt this year it set another record. Comic-Con was sold out by Friday, with an estimated over 16,000 attendees.

Hell yes, we were happy and delighted to be asked to put on a panel at Comic-Con in San Diego! Panelists included authors Greg Bear and Mike Cassutt, Jackie Estrada, the long-time committee organizer who asked the Heinleins originally to attend and who has seen that the tradition of having a Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive at Comic-Con has continued uninterrupted these past thirty years, Heinlein Society Blood Drive Chairman and director Mike Sheffield, teacher Robert James, and myself, David Silver. We discussed Heinlein's social and literary contributions over the past one hundred years and what we felt they will continue to be in the next hundred years. We had a full room of 200 people present throughout the one hour panel.

Comic-Con has continued to hold its blood drive these past two years, setting records for increased donations every year.

Blood Drives Report by Mike Sheffield

It's been a long time since my last report, and big things are happening with our blood drive efforts. Since that time we have sponsored a total of 19 blood drives at conventions around the country. I won't bore you with a complete accounting of all of the totals for each convention here, but I do want to give you some highlights.

First and foremost, our grand total for all THS sponsored blood drives is now over 4,000 units; 4,493 to be precise. I am pleased and proud more than I can say of the wonderful work that all of our volunteers have done to make this possible. I wish that I could thank each and every one of you in person, but I will have to settle for recognizing you here. You'll find your names listed at the end of this article. Please forgive me if I miss anyone, and let me know so that I can mention you the next time around.

As I'm sure you could all guess, the Heinlein Centennial drive as an unqualified success. We had 76 registered donors from an attendance of approximately 600, which means that over 12% of the convention membership came to donate. It was, after all, the perfect audience to pay it forward. The Community Blood Center in Kansas City collected 61 units of blood.

This year's Gen Con blood drive in Indianapolis was expanded to 2 days, and we more than doubled our results there, with nearly 100 donors processed and 78 units of blood collected by the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center. Gen Con has about 30,000 attendees. We plan to expand to more days in the future.

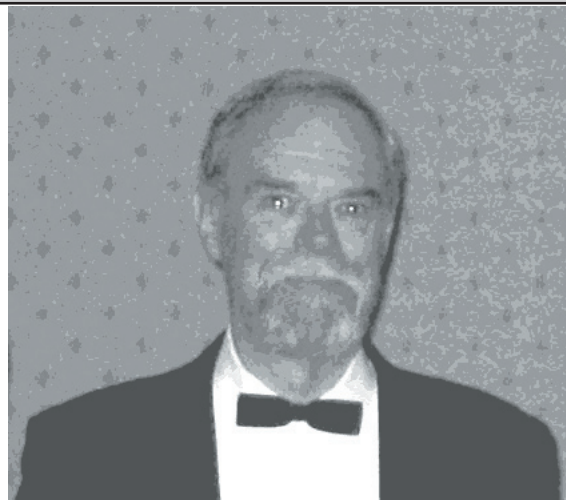
And then there is Dragon Con, which had an attendance this year of somewhere between 30 and 40 thousand (I haven't yet seen an official head count). This year's drive more than tripled from last year, with over 1,000 units of blood collected. Perhaps in the next newsletter, we'll print an article on Dragon Con by Dr. Alan Koslow.

As our blood drives continue to grow in number and size, our totals will climb even faster. And we will need that many more volunteers to keep things running. I will be contacting many of you in the coming months to ask for your help. I trust that I can count on you to step up to the challenge and make time in your busy schedules to assist us in paying it forward. In addition, I would ask you to please contact me if you have ideas to expand our scope, or know of conventions where we should be trying to establish drives. Some of you have already done this, and I am working with the information you've given me. I thank you very much, and I will certainly inform you if I'm successful in getting something set up there.

So now I want to acknowledge all of our hard working volunteers. My thanks to: Alex Ackley, Kate Anson, Barry Berman, Jennifer Bernstein, Michael Booker, J.J. Brannon, Dan Branstrom, Wendell Broadwell, Sandy Bumgarner, Ray Clutts, Kate Cook, Simone DiMatteo, Charlie Fee, Sandy Fee, Kate Gladstone, Hugh Gregory, Robert Grieve, Scott Hann, Sheril Harper, John Hodges, Vernon Ickes, DeWayne Jelks, Ogden Johnson, Tawn Johnson, Keith Kato, Greg Ketter, Alan Koslow, LeRoy Lauer, James Leonard, Richard Madden, Mike Mahoney, Dennis McDonnell, John McNeilly, Scot Mealy, Alan Milner, Tim Morgan, Jerry Munger, Ben Neace, Brittany Neace, Gerald Nordley, Kullervo Nurmi, The Naughty Nurses, Jackie Painter, Mike Painter, Dan Poore, Bob Preisinger, Teresa Redmond, Deb Rule,

Geo Rule, Natalie Seals, Sharon Sheffield, Pam Somers, Vaughan Spencer, Lindalee Stuckey, Otto Tennant, Jason Thomson, John Tilden, Barbara Trumpinski-Roberts, Stephanie Umstot, Mike Urbanski, Fran Van Cleave, Justin Waits, David Wright, Elizabeth Youmans.

New Heinlein English Literature Course



Professor C. Herbert Gilliland

The following course description appears on Annapolis' English Department webpage: <<http://www.usna.edu/EnglishDept/Special.htm>> Spring Semester HE360A: Heinlein's Universe: The Heritage of "Hard" Science Fiction; Professor C. Herbert Gilliland. The year 2007 is the centenary of the birth of Robert A. Heinlein, USNA '29. Recognized worldwide as one of the most important science fiction writers ever, Heinlein not only left a substantial body of work, but influenced many other major writers in the genre. The course will explore the tradition of "hard" (technology centered) science fiction in which he was a key figure, as well as works in which the fictive technology serves more as a tool for social hypothesis. Reading will include works by such writers as Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, Joe Haldeman, Sir Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, Michael Flynn, Jerry Pournelle, Larry Niven and Connie Willis, as well as such novels by Heinlein as *Starship Troopers*, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, and *Have Space Suit—Will Travel*. Class discussion and assigned papers will explore such issues as science fiction as social comment; the tension between science and fiction; obsolescence of fiction; science fiction tropes; and style in science fiction.

More good news: Captain Gilliland, a Heinlein Society member, writes to inform us that the class was such a success in 2007 that he will annually repeat it in Annapolis' course offerings.

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

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

June 10, 2009

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 2009 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 eighth annual general meeting. It will be held at the 67th annual World Science–Fiction convention (Anticipation 2009) at Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on **Saturday, August 8, 2009, at 12:00 PM**, in Conference Suite 2331, the Delta Centre–Ville Hotel, 777 Rue University Street, Montreal, QC. 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 Delta Centre–Ville Hotel for The Heinlein Society's suite, and telephone for further information. You need not be a purchaser of Anticipation 2009 membership to attend the meeting if it is held at the hotel. The hotel is a public venue, open to non–Anticipation 2009 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 Charles N. Brown, David Wright, Sr., and David M. Silver. Mr. Brown and Mr. Silver have each served as a director of this Society since his appointment in 2000 at the time of this Society's incorporation, and have been reelected to successive three–year terms in 2003 and 2006. Mr. Wright was appointed in June 2006, to fill a position on the newly–expanded board, and reelected to a regular three–year term in August 2006. 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 3, 2009, before he departs to Montreal; 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

*Next Newsletter:
The Heinlein Society Goes to Japan*



Also in next issue:

- The "Ghost of Honor" at Rocky Mountain High
- The Other House in Colorado Springs
- And maybe a bit on upcoming Montreal

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

This is the Newsletter that would have been mailed out in about September or October 2007, after we returned from the Kansas City celebration and returned from Japan, those of us who attended it, at Nippon 2007, only a month later.

We'll cover that event and a few other things next month when the next catch-up Newsletter issues. I regret the doctors started scheduling and rescheduling me for heart surgery nearly as soon as we returned from Japan. It simply wasn't possible to attend to the Newsletter along with all other things for nearly a year, and convalescence took up additional time as well.

Still, despite my inability, the Society has continued to roll along, achieving about the same membership gains and losses, and actually surpassing itself in blood drives. We owe a debt of gratitude to all the board members, other officers, and volunteers who have stepped into tasks during the past couple of

years, but especially to Mike Sheffield who just keeps rolling along. Mike has some very good assistants with blood drives and takes good advantage of their help to continue to pay it forward.

Mike also stepped into my shoes at my request during periods when I had to reside in the hospital these past two years. Thank you, Mike.

Mike tells me he's beginning to get a little burned out as Blood Drives Chair. He's been nine years in the job. I'd like to keep him on the Board but vary his duties to something else. He'll need very shortly to have the help of perhaps two or three volunteers to whom he may parcel out his duties before he can take a rest from it. Let him, and me, know if you think you can help in this most worthwhile charitable endeavor favored by Robert Heinlein.

A very gratifying result occurred after we sent out the last general notices. My request for help editing this Newsletter was answered by a large flock of folk happily willing to help. Perhaps we may actually form a committee that shares the work of preparing and getting the Newsletters out.

We had another gratifying response that took us quite by surprise. Thanks to donations and matching funds, we offered a substantial prize to the winner and runners up in a writing contest. We expected a good return, perhaps nearly one hundred entries, and maybe eight or ten truly worthy of being considered as finalists.

We received well over three hundred entries, and the number of stories worthy of considering as finalists are substantially more than three times what we expected.

Next month we should be in a position, at long last, to announce the contest winners.

There's an announcement for our next general membership meeting on page seventeen. Please acquaint yourself with the details; and, if you possibly can, try to attend in Montreal. Remember, some of us may need to acquire or renew passports

to attend.

As usual, three board members' positions are up for election. I haven't yet heard from the other two incumbents, but I expect that if nominated and elected I'll be willing to go one more term; but that term will be it. I'll be seventy when it ends and, while I still may be able to recall my name, I don't expect to be able physically to be as active as the job requires after three more years. WE need, we always need in a voluntary organization, to develop new persons willing to serve as officers. Think about it, if you expect to have a little time.

Herding cats ain't really that bad. They do it on TV all the time.

I'd like to thank all the other officers and members these past two years who have devoted so much time, and effort, to keeping Ginny's little charity going.



David Silver hosting a Heinlein Society reception for writers and artists.

We continue to need and appreciate the same kinds of help we always have. Your time, your efforts, your money, and your continued good will.

But we have another imminent need. A webmaster. Someone to maintain the site, not redesign it, especially not to rearrange the deck chairs, and be able to expand it quickly as needed. The site is designed in Frontpage, which is no longer supported by the manufacturer; but there are other programs which can do the same thing as well or better. If you're interested, please drop me a note at agplusone@heinleinsociety.org or a telephone call at 310-346-5669.

We've gone to a second printing or "burning" is the correct term I suppose of the CD-ROM for Educators we put together in association with Cascadia-Con and RFF/DYR, an organization started by the "Three Bs" (Brin, Benford and Bear) of science fiction. Perhaps we'll produce a second edition with additional matter this next year.

We're also still selling Ginny's Recovered Pirate's Booty and the price has held up remarkably well. We'll probably raise the price this year; but we'll still have a few sets available by the time of the convention in Montreal at the current price. To refresh your memory see the beginning pages of our June 2007 Newsletter. If you're a collector you may wish to seriously consider this collection.

I look forward to seeing you in Montreal if not before then.

Meanwhile, please let me know how you think you might help The Heinlein Society.

Respectfully yours,

*David M. Silver, President and
Chairman of the Board
The Heinlein Society*

"The Lieutenant Expects Your Names to Shine!"



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

Board Of Directors
VIRGINIA HEINLEIN
[1916-2003]

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JANE SILVER, SECRETARY-TREASURER
DAVID M. SILVER, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

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, 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: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
DATE _____	
OF BIRTH: _____	TITLE: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> 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):

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerospace Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign language outreach
<input type="checkbox"/> Blood Drives	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Support	
<input type="checkbox"/> Education (K-12th grade)	<input type="checkbox"/> Literary	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (see below)	Language: _____

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

Other Comments: