

# The Heinlein Society

## July 2004

The Heinlein Society, a non-profit corporation, is an educational charity.  
<http://www.heinleinsociety.org>  
PO Box 1254  
Venice, California, USA 90291-1254

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# newsletter

## "Paying It Forward!" This Is What We All Are About



by Michael Sheffield  
Blood Drives Committee Chair

That **radiantly** smiling beautiful young woman above donating the gift of life at Con Kopelli more than

likely had Robert and Ginny smiling to themselves!

Wonderful, willing donors have never been the problem. Getting opportunities to her and those like

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# From the Secretary's Table: New Memberships, Library Donations, and Dues Galore!

## Notice of Annual General Meeting and Proxy Rules

Our by-laws, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2002, require that we 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. This year, the World Science-Fiction convention is being held in Boston, Massachusetts, from Thursday, September 2, to Monday, September 6, 2004, and known as "Noreascon4." See, <http://www.noreascon.com>.

This is 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. A copy of those by-laws may be requested from the Secretary, by return e-mail requesting one. It will be sent you in PDF format which may be read by using a copy of freeware Adobe Acrobat Reader. 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 2004 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. Special 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 third annual general meeting. It will be held at Boston, Massachusetts, USA, on Friday, SEPTEMBER 3, 2004, at 3:00 pm, EDT, in a conference room of the SHERATON BOSTON HOTEL, either "Liberty A" or "Liberty C," as yet to be assigned by Noreascon4 SIG programming, 39 Dalton Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The Sheraton is directly connected to the Hynes Center, which is where the annual World SF convention is being held. It is your responsibility to determine the room location which will be published in the program distributed by Noreascon. You need not be a purchaser of Noreascon membership to attend the meeting. The Sheraton is a public venue, open to non-Noreascon members. Visitors who are not members of the Society 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 two of the seven directors of The Society for the two junior non-exempt positions on the Board for a term of three years, as specified in the by-laws.

The two senior incumbents are Dr. Yoji Kondo and Joe Haldeman, both of whom are filling the remainder of terms caused by resignation of prior incumbents. Either, or both, or neither, may stand for reelection, as he each may announce at or before the time of the meeting. Dr. Kondo has served as a director of this Society for two years since his appointment in August 2002. Mr. Haldeman has served as a director since his appointment in August 2003. Other nominations may be made as provided in the By-Laws 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 signed and 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 31, 2003, before he departs to Boston; 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 E. Silver

Jane E. Silver

Secretary-Treasurer Pro Tempore

## Secretary Treasurer, Membership Services, and Library Committee Report

by Jane Silver

Worldcon (Noreascon4) in Boston

Labor Day Weekend is just a month and a half away. I won't say going to Worldcon just seems like yesterday because so much has happened between the last Worldcon

in Toronto and today.

In our last issue I reported that our membership had surged into the 300s. Well, hold on and stand back, we are now over 420.

We expect to increase that number substantially, over the next few months, with our participation at Noreascon4 and our Annual Awards Banquet and Dinner Dance. This is truly an event you don't want to miss. We expect there will be considerable interest and excitement around the awards portion of this gala evening and there just might be a very nice bonus for everyone who is there.

With the expansion of our membership there has been a great deal of activity in all of our committees. Our web page has been honed; links are sprouting up all over; we are a force to reckon with in 'guerilla programming'; we've attended numerous conventions this year and one major academic meeting; blood drives are growing through the roof; and our membership growth, welllllll (picture Jack Benny, arms crossed, rolling his eyes).

The books we sent to Dave Jennings in China arrived in excellent condition and complete, as did the reinforced bindings we sent along to give some strength and durability to those gems that I know have been read many times already and will continue to be. It feels good. Congratulations to everyone for the donations you sent earmarked for this event. We've also had a few donations directed to hometown public and school libraries. That is one definite way to get Heinlein back on the shelves! Please consider this route of donation this year when you make your usual charitable deductions.

Our Library committee chats have not been drawing a sufficient number of people on a regular basis, either Monday or Saturday, to warrant them continuing. This does not mean that the Library committee is defunct, only in sus-

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# On the Academic Front: New Participations, Valued Associations, and New Members!

## Recent Events

### in Heinlein Scholarship by Geo Rule

In our last Newsletter we reported the then-upcoming PCA/ACA conference in San Antonio would feature several THS-affiliated scholars presenting papers on Robert A. Heinlein. We offered the hope that it would be "A candle in the dark ... the first of many we hope to light in the future."

Today we report it was indeed a cheery glow lighted in San Antonio, and there is every reason to believe that it will grow in brightness with the continuing cooperation and encouragement of our Society. Heinlein scholars from around the country met in a dialogue that they universally agreed will direct and reverberate in Heinlein scholarship for many years to come. With the cooperation of a dedicated young academic, Lisa N. Edmonds, who organized this year's Heinlein presentations on behalf of the PCA, there is now a permanent "Heinlein Studies Area" of the Popular Culture Association, and thus will now be a yearly academic forum for new academic-grade Heinlein scholarship to be presented to the world.

The International Review of Science Fiction, an organ of The Science Fiction Foundation (the UK version of the US Science Fiction Research Association) has adjudged the Heinlein papers presented at San Antonio to be of such quality that an upcoming issue of Foundation will feature most if not all of them. Keep an eye on <http://www.sffoundation.org/> for more details as they become available, or, as always, the Society's website will keep you abreast of new doings in Heinlein scholarship.

We encourage those of you with an academic bent to visit the PCA Heinlein Studies Area website at <http://www.geocities.com/rahstudies/> and enjoy the content housed there, including an-

notated summaries of the papers presented in San Antonio, and Ms. Edmonds' recent Heinlein Journal article talking about "... a universe of possibilities and the relatively virgin academic territory" that Heinlein Studies will be mining for years to come. Also please note that next year's "Call for Papers" for the March 23-25, 2005 conference in San Diego has already issued. The deadline for submission of extracts is October 15, 2004. Those of us who have the background and inclination for such work are invited to participate in this exciting new development in Heinlein scholarship.

As gratifying as developments with PCA/ACA have been, there have been other signs of late that academia is awakening to a proper appreciation for the contributions of Robert A. Heinlein. Along with this, there is a growing recognition that THS can and will play an important part as a resource, partner, encourager, and organizer of Heinlein-related scholarly activity. We are providing the stable center around which a critical mass of Heinlein scholars is coalescing that other RAH scholars can rely upon to anchor and expand the field.

One recent example is the quite marvelous Heinlein entry by Bill Patterson and Robert Gorsch at the internet's "Literary Encyclopedia," [www.litency.com](http://www.litency.com), a fast-growing and respected literary website owned and run by a large group of academics. This new entry has garnered universal praise by those who are familiar with it, and for its size is the most insightful Heinlein entry that I personally have run across. We heartily encourage all of you to check it out — both [www.litency.com](http://www.litency.com), and the specific Heinlein entry page are linked from the links page of the Society's website. It was through the efforts of our Society that this opportunity was identified, and Dr. Gorsch and Mr. Patterson graciously volunteered to partner with Literary En-

cyclopedia for this project.

Through the encouragement of our Society, there are now Heinlein entries or links to the Society's website at such respected literary bastions as Professor Paul Reuben's **Perspectives in American Literature** and Professor Jack Lynch's **Literary Resources on the Web**. Space prevents me from listing several more recent additions, but please visit the Society's website links page and explore some of them to see that THS is increasingly viewed as a legitimate partner by a growing number of academic organizations.

Other indicators of growing respect in the academic world for THS have been forthcoming in recent months as well. We now have in inventory for the website four scholarly journal Heinlein-related reprints that will be appearing in coming months. Three are from "Extrapolation," the journal of the Science Fiction Research Association. The fourth is a reprint from the "Children's Literature Association Quarterly." This furthers our ability to be a resource for new Heinlein scholars and scholarship. Most scholarly journals are not nearly as universally available to aspiring scholars as would be the case in a perfect world. By making these scholarly reprints easily available, we make it that much easier for new scholars to find enough "cite-worthy" material to produce their own new Heinlein scholarship. Because of the way academic credit is calculated, these further citations will also redound to the credit of the original author of the Heinlein scholarly work we are reprinting, rewarding them for having spent their scholarly efforts tilling in the fields of Heinlein scholarship (and, one hopes, encouraging them to continue to do so). It is a "virtuous circle" that your Society will continue to encourage. You can help with this process. We would

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L to R: Dr. Keith Kato, of Raytheon, and Dr. David Williams, of Arizona State University, enjoy a sip of Sherry, Port or whatever is in that bottle in the middle, during our July 4th showing of Robert Heinlein in "This Is the Most Important Day Since the Human Race Learned to Talk," the July 20, 1969, landing of Apollo 11. Keith is a charter member of the Society; and David newly joined us on July 4th, at Con Kopelli held at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, near Phoenix, Arizona, this year. No, we didn't serve Keith's chili. None left.

Photo by David Silver

### "Academic Front," from Page 3

very much appreciate, if you wish, those of you with copies of old scholarly journals or reviews of Heinlein works from old issues of F&SF, newspapers, etc., providing copies of these to the Society for our Archives. We will then contact the rights-holder (and if you can help in that process, please do so) and obtain permission to present them at the Society's website along with the already-impressive and steadily growing collection that is currently there.

As important as it is that the Society provide an easily available scholarly resource of reprint material to ease the creation of new Heinlein scholarship, we continue to be committed to being direct sponsors of the creation of new Heinlein scholarship as well. In addition to our cooperation with PCA/ACA and the Literary Encyclopedia discussed above, THS recently sponsored the creation of an

interesting and important piece of original scholarship now available at the Society's website. Professor Robert Gorsch of St. Mary's College of California created "CAMPBELL ON HEINLEIN: Selections from THE JOHN W. CAMPBELL LETTERS" at our request, using the permissions we acquired from the custodians of Campbell's letters and in one case the Heinlein Prize Trust. Professor Gorsch's introduction and the accompanying letters he selected to present are a lovely new addition to Heinlein scholarship. Your Society will continue to engage in sponsoring new works of Heinlein scholarship going forward.

Society member Solomon Davidoff, PhD is leading the "academic track" at Noreascon 4 this year (see the S/A page of our website for his "Call for Papers"). Dr. Davidoff also chaired the "Future of Heinlein Scholarship" panel at PCA/ACA, which did yeoman work by all reports. There is expected to be a

significant presence of first-rank Heinlein scholars in the Noreascon panels and of course the opportunity to engage in convivial fellowship with them at the Heinlein Award dinner. So don't miss your chance to strike up a conversation with these worthies who know Heinlein from "All You Zombies" to "Year of the Jackpot".

So, all in all, it would be fair to say that recent months have been very exciting in Heinlein scholarship. From a hope that "A candle in the dark" might be lit, there is a growing conviction that Heinlein scholarship is heading in directions that all of us at THS have advocated for years, and that your Society will continue to be a vital component of that process.

News Update: Our Secretary recently received a membership application from Lisa Edmonds, the PCA/ACA Heinlein Studies Area Chair. If you're reading a courtesy copy of this Newsletter, why haven't you joined?

# Extraordinary Meetings

by Keith G. Kato

## Social Activities Committee Chair

About the author: Keith G. Kato holds a PhD in plasma physics and a 4th degree black belt in Shotokan karate. He is an Engineering Fellow for Raytheon Missile Systems Company, and a member of an advanced research and development group investigating directed energy weapons. He is a Charter Member of The Heinlein Society.

I would guess that most members of The Heinlein Society know and admire Robert (and by extension, Ginny) Heinlein only through his short stories, novels, and essays. Through those works we can extract some appreciation for his intellectual rigor, his physical and mental toughness, his optimism for the future of homo sapiens, his fierce defense of freedom, his ethics, and his love for the United States. I wish to recount, however, the handful of times I met or corresponded with these two wonderful people, to add a few small brush strokes to our overall portrait of the Heinleins. If one word could characterize both during those meetings, it would be "gracious."

I should explain that there is nothing noteworthy about my personal status to suggest I was treated by the Heinleins any differently from any other ordinary SF fan. Although I have attended major SF conventions since 1972, mostly I am a below-the-radar presence at them. I do not write SF, attend SF clubs, produce a fanzine, filk, costume, or run conventions. My major claim to fame in the SF world is that I have hosted the "Keith Kato Chili Party" since 1974, thereby proving I am fundamentally deranged. Despite my longevity in the field, only a relatively small niche of SF pros and fans know me.

So how did this Nobody ever get to meet with the most famous and influential SF writer of his time? It happened like this:

July 20th, 1969:

## Apollo 11 Moon Landing

My first encounter with his writing was the novel **Stranger in a Strange Land** in the mid-1960s. This may not sound unusual until you realize most readers my age began with the so-called Juveniles and not his most controversial books. As an independent, contrarian, cat-loving kid on the trajectory to be a scientist, I had an affinity for Mr. Heinlein's works and subsequently began reading all of them I could find. In gathering and reading all these paperbacks, I would see the author's photograph and short biography on the back cover.

It was the interview by CBS television's Walter Cronkite of Mr. Heinlein and (now Sir) Arthur C. Clarke, after the Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin had first walked the lunar surface, that I finally saw a living, breathing image of my favorite author. This interview has been replayed at several Heinlein Society functions and will be again played at this year's Worldcon in Boston. I recall distinctly Mr. Heinlein's comments that women must also go into space and his citing the beautiful American ice skater Peggy Fleming as someone with physical ability to be a spacecraft pilot.

## Early 1970s: Caltech SF Symposium

Sometime in the early 1970s (1973 or 1974 seems about right), a symposium on science fiction was held at the California Institute of Technology's Pasadena campus. The panelists included: Robert Heinlein, Poul Anderson, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Frank Herbert, Theodore Sturgeon, David Gerrold, Robert Silverberg, and Caltech Professor of Electrical Engineering John R. Pierce (famous for the "Pierce cathode" and seminal textbooks on the design of

electron guns), who wrote SF under the nom de plume of "J.J. Coupling" (physicists will get the joke, pertaining to quantum mechanics). In the audience was Professor of Physics and Nobel Laureate Richard Feynman, as well as future SF star Greg Bear (who at the time was still a San Diego schoolteacher). The panel was predominantly of the "hard" SF oeuvre. Bob Silverberg joked he felt like the only Marxist at a Young Republicans meeting. I remember three things from that afternoon:

This was my first opportunity to see and hear Mr. Heinlein live and in the flesh, albeit from a distance. He seemed to be physically more vigorous than the man I saw during the Cronkite interview.

Next, Mr. Heinlein displayed an absolutely wicked sense of humor. In telling this story, I must recount that Jerry Pournelle was the target of Mr. Heinlein's barb. I hold Jerry, his intellect, his reasoned opinions, and his varied professional achievements in the highest regard; he is the prototypical Heinlein Competent Man, holding post graduate degrees in five different subjects. SF writer and computer columnist, he was the director of the Human Performance lab where tests to select the original Mercury 7 astronauts were performed. Later, Jerry was campaign manager for a mayor of Los Angeles, Sam Yorty, and City Manager during that administration.

During the symposium, a question came from the audience about the scientific justification for the SF device of using black hole wormholes as transport devices. Jerry gave an answer which I didn't understand, and solicited a comment from Richard Feynman on the matter, who also gave an answer I didn't understand except that there was disagreement. Now, Jerry is super smart, but I have to say in any argument

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about the finer points of theoretical physics I'd have to vote for Feynman. Jerry defended himself, and made a comment along the lines of "We know this fact as well as we know the surface of the sun is hot." At this point, Mr. Heinlein, who was sitting next to Jerry, lightly touched Jerry's arm and said with a certain gleam in his eye, "Jerry, how do you know the surface of the sun is hot? Have you been there?" Of course, the room erupted in laughter, and you couldn't quite see steam coming out of Jerry's ears. But this dutiful Son of Heinlein kept his peace and deferred to the man he so obviously respected.

During this seminar, Mr. Heinlein said he considered his greatest achievement to be this: Over the course of his writing career, three full generations of readers had come to adulthood. Drawer after drawer after drawer of his office filing cabinets contained letters from readers around the world who said they had been inspired by Mr. Heinlein's writings to become a scientist or engineer. Mr. Heinlein had no children, but because he felt so deeply that the future of the species would rise or fall because of science and technology, he said he felt immense gratification that he personally contributed to enlarging the number of practitioners of this knowledge.

### July 17, 1976: Reception at the LASFS Clubhouse

The Heinlein Blood Drives now administered at various SF conventions by The Heinlein Society began in 1976. As Mr. Heinlein tells it in **Expanded Universe**, he clipped and filed away a news article about the Rare Blood Club, whose members have pledged to donate a unit of their own rare blood type which would likely expire if drawn and stored as a normal blood donation, any time of day, no questions asked. The Rare Blood Club became a plot device in his novel **I Will Fear No Evil**. Shortly after the novel was com-

pleted came a near-fatal episode of peritonitis, which Mr. Heinlein survived with the anonymous donation of five units of blood by Rare Blood Club members.

Since his own specific donors were anonymous, in typical fashion Mr. and Mrs. Heinlein began to Pay It Forward. Mr. Heinlein was to be Guest of Honor for the 1976 World SF Convention in Kansas City over Labor Day weekend. In a pre-convention Progress Report ad, the Heinleins announced a special reception, paid for by them, would be held at the Worldcon where they would personally meet with any person who donated or attempted to donate, but was turned away for good reason, a unit of blood in the preceding year. The local Los Angeles SF fan club, LASFS (Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society) was running the regional West Coast SF Convention (Westercon) during 4th of July weekend that year. The first Heinlein Blood Drive was held at the 1976 Westercon to enable several of us to qualify.

For the first time in my life, I plopped onto a gurney and allowed what looked like a horse needle to be placed into my arm. It wasn't too bad, except at the end when they were disconnecting me. I felt the pouch of my own body temperature blood on my stomach, after which I began feeling light-headed. But I had qualified, and per instructions eagerly sent in my blood donation receipt to the Heinlein's Bonny Doon Road address in Santa Cruz, California.

After Westercon, it became known that Mr. Heinlein would be in Los Angeles to attend a commemoration of the first moon landing. The Saturday before July 20th was July 17th, 1976, and LASFS arranged a reception for Mr. Heinlein to meet with qualified blood donors at its clubhouse. I brought with me all of the hard-bound versions of my Heinlein collection in the hope of getting them autographed. It was quite a formidable stack, and several others had piles of books at least as high.

Mr. Heinlein was escorted into the LASFS clubhouse by Larry

Niven and Jerry Pournelle. As he entered the clubhouse, the room erupted with a thunderous standing ovation. This was the first time I saw him at close range, and it seemed to me he was slightly frail and walked gingerly. The aspect of his appearance I remember most was that his skin was very pale and seemed almost translucent.

After opening remarks, Mr. Heinlein agreed to stay until every book presented to him was signed. He asked only that you bring them up three at a time, then go back to the end of the line. His initial greeting to each person was with a handshake, which given my earlier impression of his physical frailty was startling for its power and strength. The former champion swordsman still had his grip.

After the books were signed, Mr. Heinlein asked each of us to print our name on a 3x5 piece of paper in the manner we wished for another, individually personalized autograph. He gave each of us one of the first production run of the blood donor pins now given out by The Heinlein Society, and also what he called "the rarest Heinlein collectible of all," an autographed reprint copy of his **Encyclopedia Americana** article on blood. I still have these cherished articles in a safe at my home.

### September 1976: MidAmeriCon 1976 World SF Convention

For the fourth and last time in his career, Robert Heinlein was Guest of Honor at a World SF Convention, this time in his home state of Missouri. The Kansas City Muehlenbach Hotel was the site of Worldcon. Three weeks earlier, Kansas City hosted the Republican National Convention where Gerald Ford was nominated for president. Interestingly, the local liquor stores reported the SF fans out-purchased, and apparently out-drunk, the Republican by a 3:1 ratio; draw your own conclusions.

After the LASFS reception a postcard came to me from the Heinleins, acknowledging receipt of my donor's receipt. Mr. Heinlein had

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also printed by hand a message at the bottom of the card: "Last Saturday's event was quite something!" I eagerly anticipated the Donors' Reception at the Worldcon.

Unfortunately, for some reason my name never made it onto the list for the Donors' Reception. Mrs. Heinlein was quite apologetic, but nothing could be done since the Reception was completely full. I did get to an autograph session for late donors and, as I came up to his desk, Mr. Heinlein surprised me by immediately recognizing me.

Later, in his Guest of Honor speech he told us he had a life-long stuttering problem, so we shouldn't be surprised or alarmed if, in mid-sentence, he stopped and whistled once to get back on track.

He brought an egg timer on stage with him and said at the beginning he would set it for a length of time, just stop when his time was up, and he ended his speech, essentially in mid-sentence.

During the speech he asked an old friend, Arthur Wilson "Bob" Tucker to come on stage. In puckish role reversal, Mr. Heinlein handed a stack of Tucker's books to him, asking that they be autographed, and then "confessed" to the audience that Bob Tucker was in reality his long-lost son. If Bob Tucker's name seems vaguely familiar, look at the main character's name in Heinlein's seminal time travel story "By His Bootstraps."

Mr. Heinlein was booed at one point in his speech. He made the comment, certainly well-known from his fiction, that Peace and Freedom were incompatible qualities, that the only Peace was the grave, and that humans must and would inevitably fight for Freedom. He seemed to expect the booing, and accepted it with aplomb.

There was also a tribute to Mr. Heinlein by several friends. I remember Fred Pohl ending his speech with "Bob, you've enriched my life." Jerry Pournelle told a story "about this woman he lives with" which he later repeated for the **Los Angeles Times'** obitu-

ary for Mrs. Heinlein. Apparently while Jerry was visiting their home in Colorado Springs, the car was needed for some errand. Jerry and Mr. Heinlein went into the garage to find the car's tires frozen solid onto the floor. While "these two engineers" stared at the problem at hand, in comes Mrs. Heinlein with a kettle of boiling water, which she quickly pours at the base of each tire, freeing them up.

Then there was the story of Robert Heinlein and the stripper. Really. The convention committee booked a professional strip tease dancer (who was also an SF fan) to fill the time at the Masquerade between the end of the first run-through of costume entries and the announcement of prizes. While the 1970s masquerades at various conventions were far more liberal with respect to nudity in the costumes, even then some parents with children in tow objected. Mr. and Mrs. Heinlein were seated in the front row. Next to them was a man of comparable age resplendent in U.S. Army dress uniform wearing general's epaulets. It was Mr. Heinlein's brother. The dancer, Patia von Sternberg, did her dance all the way to what is termed "floor work." Mid-performance, she threw her brassiere toward the Heinleins, who both were laughing and enjoying themselves. Mrs. Heinlein took the bra and arranged it across Mr. Heinlein's shoulders, arms through the straps, so that he too could have epaulets to match his brother's. A day or two later at Closing Ceremony, Mr. Heinlein said he had walked the hotel hallways "until my feet hurt," trying to return his souvenir. He then called from the stage for Patia von Sternberg, if she were in the audience, to come and retrieve her article of clothing. She did come up on the stage, but refused custody and instead re-positioned her bra back onto Mr. Heinlein's shoulders, after which he stood and faced the audience, grandly standing at attention to considerable laughter and applause.

## 1977 World SF Convention

It was very much a surprise to me that the Heinleins attended the 1977 Worldcon in Miami Beach, at the Fontainebleau Hotel. Perhaps it was because their old friend was Guest of Honor, Dr. Jack Williamson, whom I believe had his first story, "The Metal Man," published in 1918.

There was a blood drive which the Heinleins themselves oversaw, and an autograph session. I also recall at the Hugo Awards Banquet (as it was then held) that Toastmaster Robert Silverberg was introducing the luminaries at the dinner, and in Bob's own urbane, throwaway witty fashion he pointed out Mr. Heinlein, who stood up in his white tuxedo jacket, as "the gentleman with the little red stain at the elbow."

My Chili Party had been the previous night, and again the Heinleins could not attend. However, during the last night of the convention, I was passing through the hotel lobby from one tower to the other to party-hop when I encountered Jerry Pournelle at the top of the escalator. He pulled me aside and in the softest voice I had ever heard him use (Jerry's hearing was damaged during the Korean War, which is why he tends to speak loudly) said to me "Mr. Heinlein would like to invite you to a party in his suite."

I hurried directly to the room number given to me, and after a door dragon checked my name badge, was met by the Great Man himself who again shook my hand with surprising force. The man who just hours before had been in a white dinner jacket was now dressed in Bermuda shorts and the loudest hula shirt you could imagine; it looked like cans of red fruit punch, yellow mango juice, and green paint had simultaneously exploded onto his shirt. He asked if I preferred hard liquor or soft drink, fetched a cola for me himself, then led me into the living room where Mrs. Heinlein and Poul and Karen Anderson sat on the couch, while about a half dozen of

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September 1977: SunCon, the

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us stood or sat in a semicircle in front of them. The only one of the fans I knew was a New York fan, Elliot K. Shorter.

Mr. Heinlein told us his stories behind the first two moon landings. The first involved the July 20th, 1969, interview with Walter Cronkite and Arthur C. Clarke. Mr. Heinlein related that before he went on camera he decided to visit the men's room, and became locked in. He and reporter Bill Stout, and presumably a minimal technical crew, were the only ones in a huge hanger facility in Downey, California. Cronkite and Clarke were in a New York studio. So no one apparently heard him banging on the door. Finally, minutes after he was supposed to appear on camera, a crew member finally ended a frantic search for him by banging on the door and yelling, "Mr. Heinlein, you're supposed to be on camera right now!" Mr. Heinlein's response was "OK, I've gone and now I'm ready to go!"

For the second moon landing, Apollo 12, the Heinleins were home in Santa Cruz, waiting in front of the television for the astronauts to descend the ladder and begin their moonwalks. It was at this moment that both their pregnant cats went into labor. Harlan Ellison often uses the phrase "the ethical structure of the universe" for momentous (or, sarcastically, for less than momentous) occasions. In the ethical structure of the Heinlein universe, the birthing of kittens was of equal importance to humankind walking on the moon. Mr. Heinlein dragged the two boxes containing both mother cats in front of the television, so the births could be monitored while men danced on the moon. When the kittens were old enough, Mrs. Heinlein said he drove all over Santa Cruz county to place them in their new homes.

The party broke up soon thereafter, and both Heinleins stood at the doorway to thank us for coming. As I shook his hand, Mr. Heinlein looked directly at me and

said "I hope we can eat some chili together, someday."

The next evening, as I waited for my flight home at the Miami airport, I saw both Heinleins enter the jetway for a flight to San Francisco. It was the last time I ever saw Robert Heinlein.

## September 1978: IguanaCon, the 1978 World SF Convention

The 1978 Worldcon was held in Phoenix, Arizona. This convention was known for Anvil of God, a football-field-length square of concrete over which fans walked, and some collapsed, in the 100+ degree Phoenix summer.

However, Iguanacon was mostly a non-event for me, since I spent most of the convention in my room studying for my PhD qualifying exams imminent in the Fall term. I held my party, but otherwise did not attend many panels or other functions. The day after my party I happened upon Jerry Pournelle talking with Mrs. Heinlein at the hotel pool. She was there alone to sponsor another blood drive and to sign books on Mr. Heinlein's behalf. He was home, apparently not well enough to travel. Mrs. Heinlein expressed her regrets at again missing my party; but I told her I had leftovers, so we three went to my room where I did some reheating. I recall Mrs. Heinlein chose not to top her chili with onions, but did take grated cheese and crackers. We gabbed a bit, then I presented her with two souvenir buttons with "Kato's Natural Gas Company" on them. A couple of years earlier, during the gasoline shortage of the Carter administration, Jerry joked that he wasn't worried about energy shortages, forget petroleum, coal, liquid natural gas, or nuclear power, the solution was to just feed everybody Keith's chili. After this, I had a couple hundred buttons made up, handed them out, and finally the Heinleins had them too.

## May 1988: The End

At a Sunday reception in Monterey, California before the start

of a physics conference, Dr. Jim Benford, twin brother of my PhD dissertation advisor, SF author Dr. Gregory Benford, told me that Robert Heinlein had died. When I got back home, I immediately wrote Mrs. Heinlein a letter of condolence.

The last time I had written was twelve years earlier. I wrote about how I was one of those he mentioned at the Caltech symposium, who chose a technical career because of his writings; how I had named a beloved cat "Pixel" in honor of **The Cat Who Walks Through Walls**. I did not expect a response. Yet in this moment of severe distress, I received a return note. "I am probably at fault for not communicating these past years ..." this gracious lady began. She wrote with some poignancy how, near the end, she prepared many of his favorite foods that the doctors would not permit, how he consumed and enjoyed the meals, and how he slipped quietly away into the last Long Sleep.

I hope these stories are of value and Mr. Heinlein's peers and remaining contemporaries can be coaxed into similar stories. Regrettably, some are already gone. Among the many projects The Heinlein Society has assumed to Pay It Forward, I hope we can eventually fund research grants to scholars who will assemble memories of Heinlein for authoritative future reference.

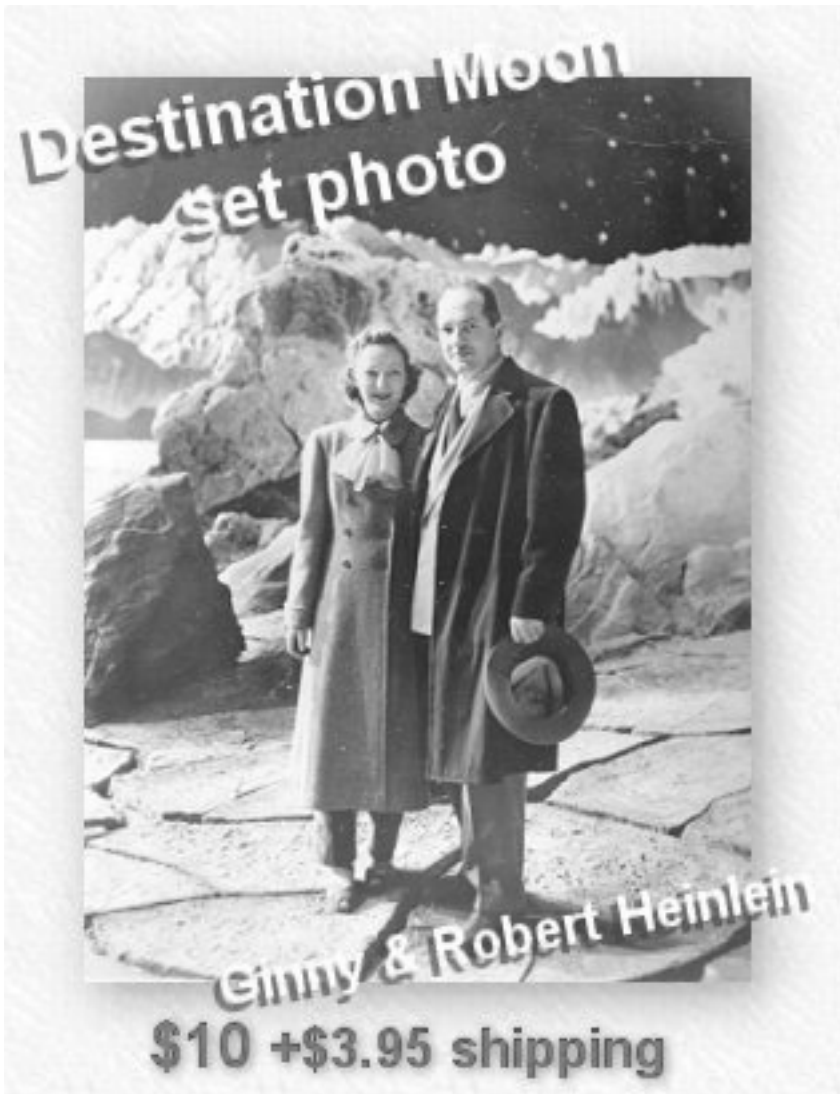
Editor's Note: This was a very long article by Dr. Kato, but well worth reading. Do you have similar memories of the Heinleins? I suspect many of us do. It likely took Keith more than a couple hours to string together his memories over several years. Unless memories such as these are recorded, chances are many will be lost forever. Beginning in September at Noreason4, The Heinlein Society will be available to help you record your worthwhile memories. See the article on page twelve, "The Heinlein Oral History Project." Plan to attend this year's SF Worldcon and help us record them. And while you're at it, **please make your dinner reservation as soon as possible.**



## OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY

— art print —

Just published November 22, 2003, by Café Margo, Santa Cruz, California, the marvelous photograph of Robert and Virginia Heinlein on the set of Destination Moon, Hollywood, 1948.



Offset printed in an edition of 3,000 from a Duotone negative on sturdy chrome coat paper by Dave Parker at Harbor Press, the small poster measures 8" x 10" and offers detail and nuance never before seen in any other reproduction (including the digital image at left).

This art print is available from The Heinlein Society for \$10 (plus \$3.95 shipping and handling).

Shipping and handling costs may vary to locations outside the United States. E-mail [secretary@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:secretary@heinleinsociety.org) for additional information.

### The Heinlein Society

Copies may be ordered at  
<http://www.heinleinsociety.org> or by mail to:

P.O. Box 1254  
Venice, CA, USA 90294-1254

# Sir Arthur Clarke Named Recipient of 2004 Heinlein Award

May 22, 2004

The Heinlein Society announced today that the panel of judges for the Robert A. Heinlein Award for outstanding published work in hard science fiction or technical writings inspiring the human exploration of space has chosen Sir Arthur C. Clarke as the 2004 recipient. The Award will be presented at the Society's annual dinner, held immediately following the Retro Hugos presentation on Friday night at this year's Worldcon, Noreascon4, Sep 2-6, in Boston, Massachusetts. Sir Arthur, who in recent years has rarely left Sri Lanka, where he makes his home, is expected to attend if possible via real-time video.

This is the second year that The Heinlein Society has presented the award, with last year's inaugural recipients being Virginia Heinlein and SF author Michael Flynn. Some months later, Flynn replaced the late Charles Sheffield on the panel of judges. The other judges are Greg Bear, Joe Haldeman, Yoji Kondo, Elizabeth Moon, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Spider Robinson, Stanley Schmidt, Herb Gililand, and John Hill. For more information on the Heinlein Award and the society's annual dinner, contact THS at [secretary@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:secretary@heinleinsociety.org).

Clarke, who along with the late Robert A. Heinlein and Isaac Asimov were known as "The Big Three" during the Golden Age of science fiction, is considered an avatar of the "hard" school of science fiction exemplified in the works of Heinlein. "We could not be more pleased with the selection of Sir Arthur to receive this year's Robert A. Heinlein Award," said Society president David M. Silver, "as he has consistently written the kind of visionary and readable speculative fiction that Robert Heinlein introduced to the field in 1939." Silver continued, "Showing the CBS coverage of Robert Heinlein and Sir Arthur with Walter Cronkite during the Apollo 11 landings has become a fixture of the Society's annual dinner, and we are very pleased that Sir Arthur will be joining us by videoconference at this year's dinner as well."

Arthur C. Clarke was born in Minehead, Somerset, England on Dec. 16, 1917. He was an early member of the British Interplanetary Society and served in the Royal Air Force during WWII. His October, 1945 article in *Wireless World*, "Extra-Terrestrial Relays," is widely credited with introducing the concept of world-wide communication through the use of satellites in geostationary orbits. The International Astronomical Union would later name this "The Clarke Orbit" in his honor.

His first professional sale was "Rescue Party," appearing in the May 1946 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*, the same magazine that had launched Heinlein's career seven years before. A prolific and award-winning career would follow, including such classics of the field as *Childhood's End* (1953), "The Nine Billion Names of God" (1953), *Rendezvous with Rama* (1973), and *The Fountains of Paradise* (1979). His 1950 short story, "The Sentinel," would serve as the basis for the 1968 movie, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, a widely praised and universally known movie directed by the late Stanley Kubrick that would become part of the popular culture. A novel by the same name, and several sequels, would follow. Sir Arthur's most recent title, *Time's Eye: Book One of a Time Odyssey*, was co-written with Stephen Baxter and released earlier this year by Del Rey.

## FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David M. Silver  
President and Chairman of the Board  
The Heinlein Society  
<http://www.heinleinsociety.org>  
PO Box 1254  
Venice, California 90294-1254

"The Lieutenant expects your names to shine!"

—Robert Anson Heinlein, USNA '29 (1907-88) Lt. (jg) USN, Ret'd

# The Heinlein Society



## ***The Last Theorem***

*A novel by Arthur C Clarke*

Based on the recent sensational proof of Fermat's Theorem 350 years later by a young British mathematician, Andrew Wiles, *THE LAST THEOREM* charts the story of Ranjit Subramanian, a man fascinated by Fermat's Last Theorem - so simple that anyone can understand it, yet not proved for more than three centuries. Ranjit learns about the Indian mathematical genius Ramanujan (1887-1920) and discovers a three-page proof of the Last Theorem: this might even be Fermat's own proof. The discovery of the Theorem wins Ranjit the Fields Medal - and the attention of the NSA cryptography branch. However, Ranjit soon finds himself drawn by physics rather than cryptography, as there have been some spectacular advances in fusion technology. And these in turn lead to a plasma drive that can open up the Solar System ...

*You are cordially invited to join the members of The Heinlein Society at Noreascon4, the 62nd World Science Fiction Convention, for this year's presentation of the Heinlein Award for outstanding published works of science fiction that inspire humanity's expansion into space.*

*Sir Arthur C. Clarke has been chosen as the 2004 recipient for his outstanding career achievements in the field of Science Fiction. The Award will be presented at the Society's annual dinner, held immediately following the Retro Hugos presentation on Friday September 3. Sir Arthur, who in recent years has rarely left Sri Lanka, where he makes his home, is expected to attend if possible via real-time video.*

*Join the members of the Heinlein Award board of judges. Greg Bear, Michael Flynn, Joe Haldeman, Yoji Kondo, Elizabeth Moon, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Spider Robinson, Stanley Schmidt, Herb Gilliland, and John Hill in this event honoring a great man's vision and a great lady's dedication to that cause.*

***Reception begins at 6 pm sharp!***

***Friday, September 3, 2004***

***Dance after dinner***

*(Dress is formal-optional)*

***The Belvidere Ballroom Second Floor***

***Hilton Boston Back Bay Hotel***

***40 Dalton Street, Boston, MA 02115-3123***

*(across Dalton Street from the Hynes Convention Center)*

***Tickets are \$75 (US) until August 28, 2004***

***Late Reservations \$100 (US) at the door***

*(15% discount for orders of six or more)*

***R.S.V.P. with payment in advance payable to:***

***The Heinlein Society***

***Attn.: The Heinlein Awards Dinner***

***PO Box 1254***

***Venice, California 90294-1254***

$x^n + y^n = z^n$



## "Secretary's Report"

from Page 2

pension until I figure out the next step. I cannot do it without your help. I need that help. Be ready for another E-mail to those of you who expressed interest in this committee. I know that the odds are getting better and better with each new member there will be someone out there who has been waiting for this opportunity to take over leadership of this committee and run with it.

Thanks to all of you who have responded to our annual dues billing. There is still a good percentage of you whom we are waiting to hear from. If you haven't been to our web site recently you will be surprised to see that right on the first page, six buttons down on the left is a 'Pay Annual Dues' to assist you in doing so. As always, if you have any questions regarding what you owe you may E-mail me directly, at [secretary@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:secretary@heinleinsociety.org). I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have or direct you to the right person for that answer.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible face to face at Noreascon4.



**Two of the Usual Suspects at SF Cons.** A Klingon hands a Heinlein Society flyer to a Hero at Norwescon in April.

Photo by David Silver



**Fan Table at BayCon:** Bill Patterson discusses Heinlein Journal with interested fans.

Photo by James Gafford



**Who Said You Can't Work a Fan Table With Children?** Mrs. John Tilden, two handsome Tilden urchins, and Jake Keaton demonstrate how to work a fan table at Balticon, Memorial Day weekend.

Photo by John Tilden



**Luncheon at Balticon. L to R:** Heinlein Society Board Member, Dr. Yoji Kondo (Eric Kotani), new member Andrew Morrison, and Mrs. Ursula Kondo enjoy some quiet at Don Shula's restaurant in Baltimore.

## The Heinlein Oral History Project

**by Alan Milner  
Board Member and  
Financial Committee Chair**

Have you ever wanted to sit down with your favorite author to discuss some passage or other that you have never understood, or to thank him for an insight that changed your life? An astounding number of people were fortunate enough to have that experience with Robert Heinlein, and we are now trying to capture their recollections of those events to share with other Heinlein readers who were not so fortunate.

Robert Heinlein passed away in 1988 and, since then, his legend has continued to grow. An entire generation of science fiction authors were encouraged in their ambitions through his support and criticism. Several generations of science fiction fans have grown up on the nourishment of Heinlein's philosophy, many of them building their own personal philosophies on the foundation that Heinlein created. It is not by accident that his classic **Starship Troopers** has been required reading at American military academies for a genera-

tion. It was not an accident that his masterpiece, **Stranger in a Strange Land**, was required reading in communes and collectives across America in the Sixties and Seventies, much to his chagrin.

Today, thousand of people of all ages and all walks of life, from the military to the monastery, cherish the brief notes that Heinlein dashed off in response to his fan mail, which he answered religiously in his own hand until the very end of his life. Award-winning science fiction authors cherish the detailed, and sometimes unsolicited, criticisms they received on their early work.

In sum, Heinlein was a man who enjoyed his celebrity the way a celebrity should, by using his celebrity to help others on their way, but all too often, his good works were carried out sub rosa because, for such a famous man, Heinlein was never comfortable in the spotlight, although he made efforts to seem that he was.

Now, as we approach Heinlein's centennial year, and the legions of his admirers are themselves growing older.... Wouldn't it be a good

idea to capture their recollections of the man himself, before all those who knew him personally have themselves moved on to other planes of existence?

The Heinlein Oral History Project is an attempt to capture on video as many of these recollections as we can. For the next three years, culminating with the Heinlein Centennial Celebration, we will be visiting Science Fiction conventions across America collecting videotaped recollections about Heinlein from the people who knew him, and from those who never met him in the flesh, but only between the pages of his books and correspondence.

The HOHP will begin at the World Science Fiction Conference in Boston over the Labor Day Weekend. Interviews will be held at The Heinlein Society Fan Table, at the annual Heinlein Dinner, and at random during the conference.

If you would like to help us with this project, please contact Alan Milner at [sagemerlin@aol.com](mailto:sagemerlin@aol.com). Donations of time and money will both be appreciated.



## Latest Refinements in Guerilla Programming THS Prepares for Noreascon 2004



**For Us, the Living panel at Norwescon, L to R:** David Silver, and noted authors Joe Haldeman, and Greg Bear joined researcher Michael Hunter and Heinlein Society member Raymond McCauley (both off-camera) before over 250 enthralled and pleased attendees.

Photograph by Norwescon Photographer Mark Chamberlain

### by Alec Iorio, Convention Programming Coordinator

In the first century BCE., the native inhabitants of what the Senate and the People of Rome called 'Farther Gaul' harassed the legionaries of G. Julius Caesar by popping out from heavily forested hiding places and picking off available stragglers. The same techniques were employed by the followers of Hugh O'Neill against the second Earl of Essex's campaign to conquer the Irish for Queen Elizabeth I of England. Of course, the American colonial militias successfully used similar strategies against the British 'lobsterbacks' in and around Boston during the early stages of the American Revolution. Taking this 'cue' from history, THS members are preparing varied 'guerilla programming events' for the Labor

Day weekend.

The Heinlein Society Dinner is to be held on Friday evening, September 3d at the Hilton Boston Back Bay Hotel. During this gala event, Sir Arthur C. Clarke will be presented the Heinlein Society Award for 2004. If at all possible, please plan to attend. The Heinlein Society website has all the necessary information for making your reservations. See, <http://www.heinleinsociety.org/specialoffers/dinnerreservations.html> or telephone 310-399-0310.

THS President, David Silver, is in possession of a rare video of the interview of Sir Arthur C. Clarke and Robert A. Heinlein conducted by Walter Cronkite of CBS News filmed on the occasion of the First Landing of Man on the Moon. It's the copy left us by

Virginia Heinlein. This video will be screened in the THS suite during the convention weekend for any and all interested friends of Ginny and the Society attending Noreascon. Of course, there will be 'wine and cheese' provided to the attendees; since Heinlein always goes better with calories.

Heinlein Scholar and former Society president, Bill Patterson, is in the final stages of the pre-publication efforts for his long-awaited two-volume biography of RAH. The first volume, **The Man Who Learned Better: Robert A. Heinlein in Dialog With His Century**, likely will be freshly published by the opening of Noreascon. Bill will likely be presenting readings of selections from this new important work with opportunity for discussion following. This will also be a 'Heinlein and



## Convention Snapshots

Food' event with, at the very least, a pot of chili prepared by Society member Keith Kato and the necessary liquids to refresh the palate. Bill's second volume: **Future Ink: A Dual Biography of Robert and Virginia Heinlein**, will appear later this year. Look out for readings from this volume at LosCon 2004 in Los Angeles during the Thanksgiving weekend!

Despite the reservations of some of the Noreascon programming staff, THS is planning to conduct a Blood Drive during the weekend of the convention. This will not be held on the grounds of the convention itself but nearby and easily accessible by all the attendees who wish to contribute and PAY IT FORWARD FOR RAH. If past response is any indicator of probable results, this should be one of the most productive THS blood drives held this year.

In addition to these 'rogue' events, THS is submitting detailed suggestions for various RAH-themed panels for inclusion in the Noreascon programming schedule. There have been volunteers solicited from the Society membership at large as well as those members who live and work in the Boston vicinity. If you haven't been seconded personally yet, don't sit back and wait — Step forward and send an E-mail to David Silver at [agplusone@heinleininsociety.org](mailto:agplusone@heinleininsociety.org) or to me, Alec Iorio, [baybus@mindspring.com](mailto:baybus@mindspring.com) — Tell us what your interests are and how YOU would like to participate in the Society's efforts in Boston this year.

SEE YOU AT NOREASCON4!

### Recap of Events of Recent Months

#### Norwescon

Allison Grieve, Programming Director for the Seattle area regional convention held annually over the Easter weekend, agreed to schedule one truly great Heinlein



**Above: Michael Hunter at Norwescon.** Michael was the fifth-year architecture student hired to write a precis by Professor Leon Stover, who preserved a copy of **For Us, the Living**



panel topic which segued out from "Heinlein 101" to include a special segment on **For Us, the Living**, the recently rediscovered first Heinlein novel. Greg Bear and Joe Haldeman, who was Special Guest of Honor, both graciously accepted our invitation to join the panel, along with THS members Raymond McCauley and David Silver, and special guest Michael Hunter, the research assistant employed by Dr. Leon Stover, years earlier, to write a precis of the novel, who had retained his working copy. Thanks to the panelists a SRO audience enjoyed a delightful presentation.

The following evening a reception was hosted by THS at which port, grapes and cheese were served and during which the July 1969 Apollo 11 interview of Arthur C. Clarke and Robert Heinlein was replayed. About forty guests, including Joe and Gay Haldeman joined us for the reception. Seven new members joined.

We also allowed organizers for

**Below: Guests at Con Kopelli THS reception.** L to R: Paul (knee and hand only) and Terry Brussel-Gibbons, Stephen Jordan, Marcia Muggleberg and Bill Jones, watch the July 1969 interview of Clarke and Heinlein, enraptured.



**At left: More guests at Con Kopelli reception.** L to R: Joseph Minne (foreground), (seated) Steve and Mary Dorton, Richard Madden, and three more prospective members who came and stayed for a third showing, and July 4th fireworks.

Cascadia Con, the NASFIC to be held in Seattle, in 2005, to host a reception, the previous evening, sharing our suite and the cost of receptions with them.

Later during the Con, David Silver joined as a participant a panel on "Young Adult" SF with two members of the Cascadia Con committee, Bobbie DuFault and David-Glenn Anderson, both of whom are very active in Reading For the Future, the program started by Greg Bear, David Brin and Greg Benford, to encourage the use of SF in grammar and secondary school classroom work. A good discussion during that panel of **Farmer in the Sky** and several other Heinlein "juveniles" took place.

#### Baycon

The San Jose, California, area regional convention, held annually over the Memorial Day weekend, did not schedule any Heinlein pan-

Cont'd on Page 18

# Heinlein Awards Dinner Dance Set For Friday, September 3, 2004

by **Simone DiMatteo**  
**Social Activities Committee**

The Awards Dinner Dance is for Friday, September 3 (we apologize for the error in dates our last Newsletter), beginning with cocktails at 6 pm., dinner at 7 pm. (the usual variety of entrées are available), and the presentation of the 2004 Heinlein Award to Sir Arthur C. Clarke during coffee and dessert. Dancing will begin thereafter. Dress is formal optional, which means for these purposes, wear a tuxedo, if you have one, or dinner dress; or wear a coat and tie, if you cannot fit into the old tuxedo.

**Please make your reservations for the dinner as soon as possible.**

The webpage at <http://www.heinleinsociety.org/>

specialoffers/dinnerreservations.html is now set up to accept dinner reservations and credit card payments. You may also send your dinner reservation and check to our Post Office address: The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, California 90294-1254; but please make sure it arrives before August 28, 2004.

We will have a limited number of dinner reservation tickets available at our fan table in Boston, as we did at Torcon3, and Con José, but we cannot promise unlimited seats will be available at the last moment. We expect a good number more than one hundred to attend.

**Oh, did I remember to say: please make your reservations as soon as possible?**

Our hotel block booking for the

Back Bay Hilton has been successful in number; but we can take further reservations for the guaranteed blocked area up to August 1, 2004, for the Hilton. \$145 for guest rooms, \$219 for a mini-suite (one remains available in the block booking area). The Hilton is located across the street, less than 100 yards, from the entrance to the convention center.

I will appreciate any volunteers available in the Boston area to stuff the dinner dance advertisements into the bags registrants will be given the first day, and of course anyone may contact me by E-mail to make reservations even after the 1st of August. Use: [simonedimatteo@aol.com](mailto:simonedimatteo@aol.com).

Don't forget: **please make your reservations as soon as possible!**

## Leprecon Blood Drive

by **Tim Morgan**  
**Southwest US Membership Coordinator**

LepreCon 30, Arizona's Annual Art-Oriented Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention, was held this year May 7-9 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix. Richard Madden, from Palmdale, and Tim and daughter Jennifer Morgan, from Mission Viejo, flew in from California to man a THS table and coordinate a Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive, which was operated by United Blood Services, on Saturday the 8th. This was the first time any of the three of us had been to LepreCon or had worked on a blood drive.

The con organizers were extremely supportive of the blood drive. It was featured prominently on the front page of the Con's web site, with links to UBS (for pre-registering over the Internet to give blood) and to the information on Society's web site about the memorial blood drives. We were also given table space to set up to recruit additional blood donors.

Richard brought copies of the latest THS Newsletter to hand out to interested parties, and posters were put up all around the hotel promoting the blood drive.

We had brought the "SF/Heart" replica pin, as designed by Mr. Heinlein for his original con blood drive, to give to each donor. In addition, we were given a box full of Heinlein books in honor of a long-time member of LepreCon, Diane Elliot, who had passed away at the age of 32, so we offered each donor the choice of up to two Heinlein books. Lee Whiteside, a LepreCon 30 organizer, also got several items volunteered to be given to donors, including a stack of Spider-Man movie posters. So there was no lacking of incentives!

Probably the single biggest thing that got people to donate blood was its promotion on the web site. Many people came up to the Society's table and simply asked, "Where do I go to make my donation?" The drive itself was held in a room directly up the stairs from our table, so it was easy to direct

people.

The con organizers estimated that attendance was about 350 people. Of these, we had 22 people register to give blood, with 14 successful donations. Because six of the donors gave red cells, this resulted in a total of 20 units of blood collected. This exceeded the goal set by United Blood Services for the event, so it lays the groundwork for doing future Heinlein Memorial Blood Drives with that organization. Although we would have liked to have had more donations made, the donation room was busy from when it opened until almost the end of the day.

Besides helping to operate a blood drive at a con, you can also help out by donating blood yourself in your local community. If you are interested in Heinlein Society-related blood drive efforts, please contact the Blood Committee Chairman, Mike Sheffield, at [BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org). "Pay it forward!"

## Please Help Us Make Our Heinlein Memorial Blood Drives A Success



**Leprecon Drive:** Two donating, with one being interviewed.

Photo by Tim Morgan

### From Page 1

her for her to donate are a problem, and ever will continue to be. I have been struggling with what to say in this column about our blood drive work. Lately I've been alternately elated and depressed with how things are going.

We've sponsored blood drives that have collected about 200 pints of blood this year, and have several more scheduled. We've also supplied donor pins and assistance to conventions with established blood drives that have collected even more, including Comic-Con International, whose 28th Annual Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive brought in more than 300 pints. Most drives have been successful enough that we are likely to repeat them again next year. Philcon already has us listed on their website.

Yet, we have not been as successful as I had hoped. I set out very ambitious plans for our blood drive efforts this year, fully expected we'd sponsor at least 20 drives, but that seems highly unlikely at this point.

This is my own fault. My job and my personal life have both gotten very busy this year. It's difficult to find time. It often takes a number of E-mails and phone calls to both the convention and the blood collection agencies to just to get started. It takes even more to make sure the ball doesn't get

dropped.

We've found a number of conventions that never respond to attempts to contact them, or decline to host a drive for various reasons, sometimes after quite a lot had been done. Only one of the national political party conventions, the Libertarians, have ended up hosting a blood drive, though as I'm writing this, John Hodges and Massachusetts General Hospital are still attempting last minute negotiations to try to set up a drive near the Democratic Party convention in Boston. And in one case we had a convention, ConDor, which was extremely enthusiastic and supportive, but due to a SNAFU with the San Diego Blood Bank we were dropped from their rolls not finding it out until the day the drive was scheduled.

Finding THS members to work at a drive frequently requires many contacts before one is found able to work. To be sure, I have had good, hard working people helping me this year: John Hodges, John Tilden, Pam Somers, Richard Madden, Tim Morgan, Barry Berman, Mike Mahoney, Kullervo Nurmi, Alan Milner and Simone DiMatteo (I'm sure I've forgotten someone, please forgive me). I've had additional volunteers, Joanne Gaddy, April Koenig, Roger Christenson, Robert Buettner and Josh Pallay among others, who haven't yet had a chance to help.

I need more help, enough volunteers to staff every convention that we can possibly manage. More importantly, I need people who can take the lead in organizing a single convention blood drive, with some advice and assistance from me or people who have experience. I need people who will keep working until they get a response and, then, will continue to follow through with personal contacts to the convention and blood agency to keep things moving forward.

Moreover, I would really like to find some folks who are willing to be regional coordinators for different parts of the country (and other countries), people who will identify, locate and work with the local blood drive organizers for their regions. This would take a lot of pressure off and allow me more time to contact other organizations to work out various cross promotional deals, including more blood donor premiums, discount coupons for book stores, or a pint of ice cream for a pint of blood.

I hope that each of you will seriously consider playing a larger role in our efforts. We are an organization that is dedicated to paying it forward, and blood drives emphatically do that. Blood supplies are in critically short supply the year round, and this will make the difference between life and death.

I am painfully aware of how difficult it can be to make time for yet one more thing in an already overfull schedule, but I truly believe that this is important enough to make the effort. Thank you all for your support of an organization that is making a real difference.

Please drop me a note, letter, E-mail, or walk up to me at any function where you see me. Mike Sheffield: areopagan@earthlink.net, or use the Society's Post Office address: The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, CA 90294-1254.

Thank you. Give Blood.



## Convention Programming cont'd from page 16

eling on its regular program this year. Local area members including James Gafford from San Rafael, Fred Moulton from Santa Clara, and Bill Patterson from Santa Cruz represented the Heinlein Society at the Society's fan table; and, on Saturday night, hosted a room-party-cum-guerilla-programming event in a suite graciously loaned for that purpose by author Gerald David Nordley. Over the course of the evening, several dozen people visited to enjoy the buffet-style selection of drinks and nibbles and to see an discuss a Heinlein artifact, James Gafford's personal copy of the 1929 **The Lucky Bag**, Heinlein's graduating yearbook from the U.S. Naval Academy. Heinlein's unsigned character sketch of his roommate, Seraphin Bach Perreault, is his first published writing of any kind.

This book is fairly rare, usually selling on eBay, where it occasionally shows up, for more than \$100, since it has the additional curiosity value, on top of the Heinlein graduating picture and writing sample, of four full-color plates of N.C. Wyeth murals not otherwise available in print. Wyeth, the father of painter Andrew Wyeth, was one of the most famous illustrators in America in the 1920s. Bill Patterson had also brought with him an advance copy of issue no. 14 of **The Heinlein Journal**, which had just gone to press.

The evening's "guerilla programming" was a reading by Bill Patterson of a portion of his full biography of Heinlein now in progress — the chapter dealing with how **For Us, the Living** came to be written. A similar reading had been given as part of the regular programming at LosCon in Burbank the previous November, of a somewhat shorter portion of the same chapter. But in these more intimate circumstances, he restored a section never before presented that dealt with Heinlein's relationship with his then-wife Leslyn and some of the circum-



**Blood Drive at Balticon: L to R: John Tilden, Pam Somers and Jake Keaton assist with signing in of donors Memorial Day weekend.**

Photograph by David Silver

stances that led, ten years later, to their divorce.

After the reading, the question-and-answer session evolved into a lively discussions. The guerilla programming thus duplicated our experience with Heinlein programming at SF conventions in general — a well-received program event followed by a lively "hallway discussion" afterwards.

### Balticon

This year Balticon, also conducted over the Memorial Day weekend, was delightful to attend. Dale Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer of The Baltimore SF Society, had asked us after last year to submit paneling ideas. We submitted two, and both were accepted. The first on Sunday, May 30th: "Trip to the Moon in 1969 – Return to the Moon in the 21st Century" was a two-hour panel with Dr. Yoji Kondo, John Tilden, and David Silver, consisting of a replaying of the 1969 interview sandwiched around the Apollo 11 landing, of Arthur C. Clarke and Robert Heinlein. Dr. Kondo was as ever thoroughly knowledgeable concerning NASA's efforts and prospects, as well as the possibilities of space exploration coming from other sources. The second, later the same evening, "Robert A.

Heinlein's For Us, the Living," was equally well received. Panelists included John Tilden, Dr. Kondo, Mr. Silver, and moderator Steve Wilson.

Jake Keaton and John manned the fan table throughout the convention and, with the sterling help of Pam Somers, handled the blood drive sign-in table as well. An excellent result was achieved by the blood drive; and we also received five new members who signed up during the convention.

A personal delight for one of our visiting board members was dinner with Dr. and Mrs. Kondo and their lovely daughter Cynthia, who had just returned from active duty with the Army in Afghanistan. And then, to make it all the more delightful on the way back to the convention hotel, she walked his elderly infantryman's legs off. Thank Heavens she and his daughter haven't yet gotten together.

### Con Kopelli

This year Westercon was held in Arizona over the July 4th weekend at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, near Phoenix. It was a very informally run convention; but offered ample opportunities to Pay It Forward. Two of our members attended as program participants, Dr. Keith Kato and Mr. Silver. Al-

though no Heinlein programming was scheduled, the programming offered some opportunities to discuss Heinlein among other topics. For example, one panel with the topic of “Myths of the Southwest in SF” found itself discussing Kokopelli and Coyote who turn up in one of Poul Anderson’s novels,

**Operation Luna**, which not so coincidentally involves a red-haired witch named Virginia and happens to occur in the universe created by Robert Heinlein in **Magic Inc.**

A little imagination can go a long way. We used those panels, and the fan table, at which our local volunteers, Stephen Jordan, Scott

Glener, Terry and John Brussel-Gibbons helped to man, to invite a good number of interested SF fans to another showing of the 1969 televised interview, on July 4th, which we ran four times, gaining a very successful result of five new members.

## McHenry Library Heinlein Archive Display



by Bill Patterson, Heinlein Scholar, UCSC Special Collections Library

The Robert A. Heinlein Archive of the U.C. Santa Cruz University Library’s Special Collections was the subject of the McHenry Library’s Spring 2004 ground-floor display — six flat and one vertical display cases located near the library’s main entrance. McHenry Library is the university’s main library, housing periodicals and all the university’s arts and humanities collections (other collections, such as science and technology, are housed in satellite facilities).

Beginning in March 2004, the library’s Exhibits Coordinators, Liz Sandoval and Wendy Lees-McMul-

len worked with Head of Special Collections Christine Bunting, assistant Gretchen Dempewolf, and Heinlein Scholar Bill Patterson, to select from the many books, magazines, and artifacts (called “realia” in the archival “biz”) in the Heinlein Archive items that would illustrate Heinlein’s life and writing career and create an arresting display. For this exhibit, the Exhibits Coordinators created a number of durable prints of archival photos and full-color, poster-sized prints of interesting book covers. Several of these were used for a long, wall-mounted display vase in the foyer of the library’s main entrance. Bill Patterson also created a new “short biography” which was printed as a handout, together with a

complete list of Heinlein’s major books. Provocative or interesting quotations from *The Notebooks of Lazarus Long* were placed on top of the display cases and changed frequently.

The Heinlein Archive exhibit remained up from April 5 to June 12, 2004, and was visited by hundreds of faculty and students (over 100 copies of the biography handout were made and taken). The display will be memorialized in the University Library’s Exhibits webpage (<http://library.ucsc.edu/exhibits/index.html>), and were documented with dozens of color photographs. A guided tour of the Exhibit, created from these photographs, will appear soon on the Heinlein Society’s website.



# Sitting In the Sun, “Or what’s a heaven for? ...”

Every year we all aim our reach to exceed our grasp. “Otherwise, what’s a heaven for?”

We’re coming to the end of our fourth year as The Heinlein Society. Membership has doubled the past year, just as it did the year before. This is the fourth year of an annual dinner, the second year of our Heinlein Awards, each year attendance at our dinner has come close to doubling as well; and, I hope, before the end of the year we will formally announce publication of The Virginia Edition, of the collected works of Robert A. Heinlein. Last year we approached, in only four months, fifteen thousand dollars in fundraising.

I hope you each plan to attend the World SF Con in Boston. Much work is being done to make it a “hellish good time” for all of us, in the words of Jerry Farnsworth; and while I cannot promise one of Marga’s sandwiches or sundaes it is the only time all of us are likely to be able to meet together as a Society, lacking a Burroughs Irrelevancy Bus every July 7th. Speaking of that, I once belonged to an fraternity in which it was traditional to take a boy or young man to dinner on the birth date of the man in whose name the organization was founded. May I suggest next July 7th, we all try to do the same, taking a young reader, boy, girl, man, or woman to dinner and then do the obvious thing, tell them why we’ve done it?

I thank our other board members, especially Charles, Yoji, and Joe for the advice they’ve given us this year, and Alan and Bill for their efforts and especially my sister, Jane, who has been acting as Secretary-Treasurer a full year without being a member of the board; especially I thank the trustees of the Heinlein Prize Trust, Messrs. Hightower, Vaughn, and more especially Art Dula for their heartfelt support; but most especially I give my heartfelt thanks to our com-

mittee chairs and volunteer members who do all the work: Mike Sheffield, Dave Wright, Geo and Deb Rule, Keith Kato, Sam Kramer, Joe McGrew, Randy Jost, Alec Iorio and Art McNutt, and to Bill Dennis, for the time he could give us as editor of the newsletter this year. And my thanks to you, everyone of you, far too long a list to name, who have helped everyone of them, and me, whenever we’ve asked. Without the work and good



wishes of all of you, nothing would be accomplished.

We need volunteers to pay it forward; we have them -- you, for this year and next year and years to come. Thank you. Ginny would be proud. Robert would be pleased.

A few details: consider making a hotel room reservation at the Back Bay Hilton in our block booking. It’s less than a hundred yards for the Hynes Center; and everything’s convenient. It’s not that I’m planning for all of us to “room together next semester”: only my wife and daughter are inured enough to me to be in the same room that long; but we will be having informal, quiet receptions every evening and, at convenient times, I’ll be able to play Ginny’s tapes and perhaps a few other things of interest on the Heinlein Society’s suite’s

television; and we’ll have a chance to chat and make our Society’s plans for years to come. We’re still working on CBS for rights to reproduce that tape.

Waiting is.

Are you a blood donor? John Hodges and Massachusetts General will have a bloodmobile on station close to the Hynes Center on Saturday, September 4, to conduct our Robert and Virginia Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive. Look for details in flyers we’ll post and distribute on and before Saturday in the Center and from our fan table and suite. Turned down for blood of late? John and the nurses can always use some help; and you’ll learn the mechanics of a blood drive and be able to respond to Mike Sheffield’s need for help at the next blood drive in your community.

Do you like to attend good convention programming; better, do you know the likely head of any convention programming? Drop Alec Iorio a note, please? “Guerilla” programming is all very nice if that’s all that’s left, of course, but regularly scheduled programs are better. Any ideas, let him know.

Both Sam Kramer and Randy Jost could use all the help they can get with membership recruitment, in local areas and with aerospace industries; and Joe McGrew is going to be worn out by the end of this summer without alternative chat hosts and ideas. Drop them a note and show them why Ginny is proud of you and Robert pleased.

Don’t forget the libraries, either in your charitable contributions this year, or if you’ve got ideas and the time to help take charge of a committee. Let the secretary know, please. She’s really wearing too many hats and could use the help.

See you at Noreascon4!

David M. Silver

President and Chairman

“The Lieutenant expects **your** names to shine!”