

The Heinlein Society

March 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

Heinlein Invades China! *"Getting Our Message Out"*



No, that's not Robert Heinlein, with six college law students in mainland China. It's Heinlein Society member David Jennings, who has been fluent in Far Eastern languages for thirty years, and is teaching English this year and some computer courses to business and law students, at Zhoyue College, University of Beijing, China. The photo above shows him and some of his students on picnic in October at "Fragrant Mountain," a parksite. Sending it, Dave mentioned he uses English language novels to teach and, two days earlier, a student had asked if they might read SF, which is very popular among students in China. Dave then wrote, "Wish I'd brought a couple Heinlein juveniles. . . ."

-- see page fifteen for continuation.

Our Preparations for Labor Day Weekend's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner Start Early -- and You Can Help Now!

How may you help?

Closely read our article on World Con plans, at pp. 16 and 17 and comments that appear related to it on pg. 20. Then, if at all possible, please make plans to attend

the World Con in Boston this summer; make your reservations as we have suggested; and let us know. We can use more help than just your attendance. Everyone's help is needed, as ever, to succeed.

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

by Jane E. Silver, *Secretary-Treasurer pro tem.*

MEMBERSHIPS and SERVICES

Here we are, March 2004. I cannot believe the growth in our membership over the last four months. We have exceeded 300 as of the first of the year! *[Editor's Note: as of printing in early March our membership exceeds 375]* When I joined in August of 2002 I was member number 132. When we participated at Torcon3 in August of 2003 our membership was at 191. What a banner year this has been!

Our members and a lot of our friends, all Heinlein's Children, have come through with their pledges and contributions. Way to go and congratulations!

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

We had a very productive meeting for the Library committee on December 15, 2003, on-line as many of our meetings are held, in the Heinlein Readers Group chat room on AIM.

Holding a committee planning meeting during the pre-holiday season, not surprisingly, netted a small number of participants. We can use more help, including yours. The meeting lasted only one hour. We five, Kate Gladstone; Geo Rule; Todd Rodenborn, and Richard

Madden, had some very lively and productive dialogue. It was also great to have a virtual meeting with everyone, putting names and some already met faces to on-line signatures. We were able to develop two very pertinent action items. We decided to first attempt to reach a funding goal by fund-raising, starting out small with a clear understanding that we were flying by the seat of our pants.

We have a lot to learn.

We heard a report that there is a book distributor, RenLearn, who needs our help to place at least ten more selections of Robert A. Heinlein's books (they currently show only three of his juveniles) on their inventory list that is used by a LARGE percentage of schools across this Nation. We intend to help.

A Society member, David Jennings, is teaching English and other subjects in the Peoples' Republic of China this year at a University where he would like to introduce his students to Robert A. Heinlein. Discussions on the usenet newsgroup frequented by many of our members, alt.fan.heinlein, had suggested sending him a shipment of paperbacks. I freely admit that we leapt at that idea. We decided to ask for specific donations ear-

marked for The Heinlein Society Library Program, as part of the overall matching funds drive that Art Dula, one of the trustees of The Heinlein Prize, offered the Society at the Awards Dinners in September at Torcon3.

We posted a request for funds and our reason on the newsgroups, alt.fan.heinlein and sff.discuss.heinlein-forum, I drafted, with committee member Ayn Shipley's good help, a plea for funds. Ayn was one of our first Canadian recruits this summer, joining just before Torcon3, the day she reserved her dinner tickets. Deb Rule, our Web "Master" put it together with a PayPal link on our Society's website; and I also emailed a few separate pleas to those I felt might respond. We had to get these donations in before the first of January 2004 to qualify for the matching funds part. I am delighted to report we are now successfully funded and will be sending selections of RAH juveniles and other wish list titles to China! We also have enough funds for another small pilot program or two.

To look at the webpage Deb created for us to make library donations, point your web browser at <http://www.heinleinsociety.org/libraries/index.html> and, perhaps, if you've a few extra bills in your jeans this

month, you might care to click a few buttons, and fill in an amount. It will be greatly appreciated, by us, but especially by the new readers who will find Robert Heinlein through your efforts.

That wasn't bad for an initial meeting billed as an information and organizational gathering, let's see what pops up, sort of thing. The response of everyone was very gratifying and I want to thank everyone who was there and all of you who sent your contributions to help us reach our first goal. We'll have many more. One, to earmark donations for specific schools -- perhaps your hometown school -- is already set up.

If I've piqued your interest, we still need you, your ideas, your help. The Library committee meets on-line via free Internet chat software the first Monday of the month in the Heinlein Readers Group chat room at 10 PM ET. Please see the Library page on <http://www.heinleinsociety.org/> for more details.

Please, always feel free to contact David Wright <dwrightsr@alltel.net> or if you have a Macintosh, David Silver <agplusone@heinleinsociety.org> for help with the chatroom software to attend our chatroom meetings.

An Important Final Note
Do we have your correct e-mail and postal address? Use aggirlj@mac.com to update either of them.

Guerrilla Programming, aka What to Do When the Programming Director Doesn't Call You Back!



Staying Flexible and Imaginative "... this late in my career."

Burbank, CA, November 28, 2003.

In a darkened hotel "suite," under its one bright ceiling spotlight, the first reading of Heinlein's first novel, the first "new" Heinlein" fiction published in fifteen years, begins. Fifty-five people are crowded into a miniscule "executive suite" at LosCon, for a reading of the just-shipped *For Us, the Living -- A Comedy of Customs*. Seated at the small round table against the wall, about to begin are Heinlein Society members Alec Iorio, theatre actor and teacher (as the Narrator's voice), Aleta Jackson, X-Cor executive and former officer of the L-5 Society (as "Diane"), and Michael Cassutt, author and screenwriter (as "Perry Nelson"). Seated in left foreground of this frame taken from a digital video is Dr. Michael Engleberg, a noted Southern California oncologist who was Executive Producer of *Robert A. Heinlein's Puppet Masters* released in 1994, starring Donald Sutherland. Seated elsewhere in the two small rooms for the reading and the panel conducted after the reading, "Heinlein: Bringing it to Stage and Screen," were Mrs. Karen Anderson, author Larry Niven, and other members and visitors. Wine, cheese, and other refreshments, including Social Activities Committee Chair Ketih Kato's "famous" chili, were served a delighted crowd of Heinlein Society guests. **Cont'd on page eleven.**

DUES NOTICE

Dues are accrued and are payable for all members on the first day of January, every year. This is our March Newsletter. Unless you've already sent them in, your annual dues are payable NOW. ANNUAL dues remain at \$35 US for regular members and \$15 US for supporting members (enrolled students and retired on a fixed income). Please pay them now, to save us invoicing and postage costs.

If you're in arrears for any past years' dues, please expect to receive a SECOND NOTICE invoicing your arrearages within the *next* month, if you have not already received it. Our By-Laws provide that if we must, we shall send a third notice thereafter which will be a 30-day notice of suspension from membership. I hope to avoid seeing any of those notices this year. We all have better uses for our time than sending those. If you're not receiving notices, invoices, or receipts, please check by sending an e-mail to secretary@heinleinsociety.org to ensure I have your correct address information; or you may mail me: Jane Silver, Secretary-Treasurer, pro tem, The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, CA, USA 90294-1254; AND you may mail your dues to that address as well.

"A candle in the dark ..."

The first of many we hope to light in the future.

Heinlein Society Scholars to Present at PCA/ACA

By Geo Rule, Scholastic/
Academic Committee Chair

This year's Popular Culture Association/American Cultural Association conference in San Antonio, Texas, will feature the presentation of five papers on Robert A. Heinlein given by scholars associated with THS. Society members Arthur M. Dula, J.D., Robert Gorsch, PhD, Robert James, PhD, Brad Linaweaver, MA, and William Patterson, UC Santa Cruz Heinlein Scholar, will present papers featuring their latest Heinlein research.

The five THS-affiliated presenters will constitute one half of all Heinlein papers presented at the conference.

In addition, PCA has agreed to sponsor a roundtable discussion on "Whither Heinlein Scholarship?" to discuss current trends and future goals of Heinlein scholarship in academia.

The conference will be held in San Antonio from April 7-10.

If you know other forums for Society Academic participation contact Mr. Rule at georule@civilwarstlouis.com

PCA/ACA Conference Robert Heinlein-related schedule

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2:30 - 4:00
PM. Salon F

490 *Science Fiction/ Fantasy XVIII: Heinlein I: Infinite Possibilities: Defining the First Grand Master of SF*

Chair: Robert Gorsch, Saint Mary's College of California

Robert A. Heinlein's Role in American Cultural History
Arthur Dula, Esq., University of Houston

The Last Utopian Novel? Robert A. Heinlein's For Us, the Living
Robert James, University of California, Los Angeles

Robert Heinlein's Challenge to the Bureaucratic State
Christopher Leslie, City University of New York Graduate Center

The Golden Age of Heinlein
Robert Gorsch

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 6:30 - 8:00
PM, Salon A

547 *Science Fiction/ Fantasy XX: Heinlein II: This He Believed: Teaching Under the Radar I*

Chair: Oscar De Los Santos, Western Connecticut State University

Have Monomyth, Will Travel: The Hero's Journey in Heinlein's Juvenile Novels
Peter McCluskey, Middle Tennessee State University

Conspiracy, Paranoia, and the Alien Takeover Plot: Before and After Heinlein's The Puppet Masters
Oscar De Los Santos

Heinlein's Rejection of Bourgeois Gods: Incest and Archetype in Heinlein's World as Myth Books
William Patterson, UC-Santa Cruz
Heinlein Scholar 2003-04

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 8 - 9:30 AM, Salon F

600 Science Fiction/Fantasy XXII: Heinlein III: This He Believed: Teaching Under the Radar II

Chair: Lisa Edmonds, Wichita State University

Heinlein's 'F' Words: Farnham's Freehold, Friday, and Bigotry
Brad Linaweaver, Author; Co-editor, New Libertarian's Special Heinlein Tribute Issue

Heinlein's Eternal Feminine: Redefining the Myth and Mythos of Woman
Lisa Edmonds

The Heinlein Juveniles: A Feminist Perspective
Kyle Bozeman, Troy State University

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 10 - 11:30 AM, Salon F

631 Science Fiction/Fantasy XXIII: Heinlein IV: The Future of Heinlein Scholarship (Roundtable)

Moderator: Solomon Davidoff, New England Institute of Art and Communications

Heinlein Society Offers The Heinlein Journal by Website Subscription

By Geo Rule
Since its inception in 1997, The Heinlein Journal has been the leading source of new scholarship on Robert A. Heinlein. Consistent with our mission "to promote the creation and widespread dissemination of quality new scholarship on the life and career of Robert A. Heinlein", your Society will now offer members the opportunity to partake of this wonderful resource. Members who visit our website will be able to subscribe to THJ, purchase back issues, or -if they choose—pay for an optional THJ subscription at the same time they pay their annual THS dues.

From its beginning, this independent journal has been home to the work of the best known names in Heinlein scholarship. William H. Patterson, Leon Stover, Ph.D, James Gifford, Robert James, Ph.D, Robert Gorsch, Ph.D, Edward Wysocki, Ph.D, and a host of others have published their latest research in The Heinlein Journal. Visitors to the website will find an index of back issues to help them pick items which might interest them the most.

The current issue, #13, is dedicated to "Remembering Virginia Heinlein", and

will feature Bill Patterson's biographical sketch of Ginny -a keepsake that all of Heinlein's Children will want to have.

Subscriptions to THJ are \$20/year for two semi-annual issues. Back issues are available at \$10 each, including s&h. THS members who are interested in supporting the creation of high-quality scholarship on Heinlein's life and career are encouraged to take this opportunity to do so.

OTHER WEBSITE UPDATES

Recently, we've made a plethora of website improvements and additions:

See: [http://](http://www.heinleinsociety.org)

www.heinleinsociety.org

1. A tour of the Heinleins' self-designed and custom-built circular home in Santa Cruz, California ("Bonny Doon").
 2. M.E. Cowan's extensive Heinlein Concordance, to the many the people, places, and things in Robert Heinlein's novels and "Future History" stories.
 3. New links, essays and articles on Heinlein and related works.
 4. New Heinlein Works and Society discussion forums.
 5. Articles in languages other than English (Russian and others) for our international membership.
 6. Many news reports of Heinlein Society activities of interest.
- Check the website at your convenience, but regularly.

THREE FOR THE PRICE OF ONE:

Three Lives Can Be Saved by Every Blood Donation. Pay It Forward!



To all my fellow THS members,

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you all well and in good circumstances.

I'm requesting your help with our blood drive efforts this year. On the right facing page is a partial list of upcoming conventions for the year. I'm looking for people to assist with organizing and running blood drives at as many of these conventions as possible. Some of these conventions already have regular blood drives in place. Some of them had their first blood drives last year thanks to THS. For some this will be the first. Some may not happen at all if I can't find people to work them.

I would like each of you to seriously consider helping with at least one blood drive during 2004, either before or during the convention. Some of you already are doing this. Thank you. Some of you will simply not be able to do so. But we need as many as we can get. Please don't assume that someone else will take

care of it.

It actually requires far less time than you might imagine, and you may find that you enjoy meeting and working with other fans of Robert Heinlein and/or Science Fiction in general. You will not have to make the initial contacts to set things up unless you wish to. I can start the process and give you advice along the way, I'm sure some of our other experienced blood drive organizers will be glad to do the same. But I don't want to offer to set things up somewhere until I know that we have someone local- or at least planning to attend- to take care of on-site details and promotion.

Remember that this is only a partial list; I will be adding more conventions soon. The dates shown are the start date of the convention, not necessarily the day the drive will happen. I'm especially eager to be able to run more international drives. Last year we had drives in Canada and Finland. We intend to continue there, but would also like to try for the National

At left, about double size, is a photograph of the pin, designed in the mid-1970s by Robert Heinlein, himself, that we award donors at SF and all other blood drives.

-- The Blood Drive
Committee

SF conventions in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, as well as the Eurocon in the Bulgaria.

I'm also hoping to have drives at various national conventions of the major political parties. The Libertarian Party has already said yes. The Greens have responded but haven't yet given us the green light. I'm still waiting to hear back from the Republicans and Democrats. This will get us out in front of a larger audience. We don't want to restrict ourselves exclusively to SF conventions. If there are any other conventions or events that you know of that you think are large enough to support a blood drive that aren't listed here, please let me know.

I'm really looking forward to working with many of you this year. I think that 2004 will be a great year for the Society.

Mike Sheffield
Blood Drive Committee Chair
areopagan@earthlink.net

2004 Heinlein Society Blood Drives Schedule

Convention	Location	Date	Website
Arisia	Boston, MA	2004_01_16	http://www.arisia.org/
Gallifrey	Los Angeles, CA	2004_02_13	http://www.gallifreyone.com/gallifrey.htm
ConDor	San Diego, CA	2004_02_27	http://www.condorcon.org/
I-Con	Stony Brook, NY	2004_03_26	http://www.iconsf.org/
MidSouthCon	Memphis, TN	2004_03_26	http://www.midsouthcon.org/
Aggiecon	College Station, TX	2004_03_26	http://aggiecon.tamu.edu/
Norwescon	Seatac, WA	2004_04_08	http://www.norwescon.org/
World Horror	Phoenix, AZ	2004_04_08	http://www.whc2004.org/
Minicon	Minneapolis, MN	2004_04_09	http://www.mnssf.org/minicon
Eastercon	Blackpool, England	2004_04_09	http://www.eastercon.com/
ConTour	Auckland, NZ	2004_04_09	http://contour.sf.org.nz/
Starfest	Denver, CO	2004_04_16	http://www.starland.com/
Gen Con	London, UK	2004_04_17	http://www.gencon.com/
Conflux	Canberra, Australia	2004_04_23	http://www.conflux.org.au/
Demicon	Des Moines, IA	2004_04_30	http://www.demicon.org/
LepreCon	Phoenix, AZ	2004_05_07	http://www.leprecon.org/
Hamvention	Dayton, OH	2004_05_14	http://www.hamvention.org/
BayCon	San Jose, CA	2004_05_28	http://www.baycon.org
MisCon	Missoula, MT	2004_05_28	http://www.miscon.org/
Balticon	Baltimore, MD	2004_05_28	http://www.balticon.org/
Oasis	Orlando, FL	2004_05_28	http://www.oasfis.org/
Libertarian Natl Convention	Atlanta, GA	2004_05_28	http://www.lp.org/conv/2004/
Green Natl Convention	Milwaukee, WI	2004_06_23	http://www.gp.org/convention/
Convergence	Bloomington, MN	2004_07_02	http://www.convergence-con.org/
Westercon	Litchfield Park, AZ	2004_07_02	www.conkopelli.org
Toronto Trek	Toronto, Canada	2004_07_02	http://tcon.icomm.ca/tt18/
FinnCon + Anime + Arts Confluence	Jyvaskylan, Finland	2004_07_10	http://www.finncon.org/uutiset/index.php?lang=en
Democratic Natl Convention	Pittsburgh, PA	2004_07_23	http://trfn.clpgh.org/parsec/conflu/index.html
EuroCon/ Bulgacon	Boston, MA	2004_07_26	http://www.democrats.org/convention/
Con-Version	Plovdiv, Bulgaria	2004_08_05	http://www.bgcon.org/
Gen Con	Calgary, Canada	2004_08_06	http://www.con-version.org/
Bubonicon	Indianapolis, IN	2004_08_19	http://www.gencon.com/
Republican Natl Convention	Albuquerque, NM	2004_08_27	http://home.att.net/~bubonicon/
WorldCon	New York, NY	2004_08_30	http://www.rnc.org/
Dragon*Con	Boston, MA	2004_09_02	http://www.noreascon.org/
Silicon	Atlanta, GA	2004_09_03	http://www.dragoncon.org/
CopperCon	San Jose, CA	2004_09_03	http://www.siliconventions.com/
Archon	Phoenix, AZ	2004_09_10	http://www.casfs.org/cucon/
Albacon	Collinsville, IL	2004_09_30	http://www.archonstl.org/
ConStellation	Albany, NY	2004_10_08	http://www.albacon.org/
Capclave	Huntsville, AL	2004_10_08	http://www.con-stellation.org/constell/index.html
ConClave	Sliver Spring, MD	2004_10_15	http://www.wsfa.org
MileHiCon	Lansing, MI	2004_10_22	http://conclave.hamjudo.com/
ValleyCon	Denver, CO	2004_10_22	http://www.milehicon.org/
World Fantasy	Fargo, ND	2004_10_22	http://www.valleycon.com/home.php
WindyCon	Tempe, AZ	2004_10_28	http://www.worldfantasy2004.org/
Orycon	Chicago, IL	2004_11_05	http://www.windycon.org/
LosCon	Portland, OR	2004_11_05	http://www.orycon.org/orycon26/index.html
Gen Con	Los Angeles, CA	2004_11_26	http://www.loscon.org/
Philcon	Anaheim, CA	2004_12_09	http://www.gencon.com/
Chattacon	Philadelphia, PA	2004_12_10	http://www.philcon.org/
	Chattanooga, TN	2005_01_15	http://www.chattacon.org/

We're always looking for a few good people to help out!
PAY IT FORWARD

Bronski Returns ... to the scene of his last crime!

Philcon Blood Drive 2003

The Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive at Philcon 2003 was a qualified success. This was really my first con, and I was truly amazed at the variety of things to be seen, and for sale. No Klingons were sighted; however, several young ladies were quite interestingly attired; and where does it say one cannot have purple or green hair? Heck, I'd settle for ANY hair at all!

The discussion topics looked interesting, however I was only able to attend three of them between covering the table and the blood drive. The con organizers provided the Society with a table in the vendor room where J.J. Brannon, Bill Moyer and I handed out newsletters and directed folks to the blood drive, which was held in a hotel ballroom a short walk from the con rooms. In addition to THS newsletters, we had photos, and a copy of *For Us, the Living* and a "Destination Moon" DVD on display at the table.

On the positive side, the folks at Philcon could not have been more helpful. Specifically, Jeffrey Linder, the Con Chair himself, coordinated things with the Red Cross for us, saving me personally a lot of time and wasted effort. Jeff also suggested things we can do in



Photograph courtesy of J.J. Brannon

advance of next year's Philcon to increase our exposure and maximize our turnout, and I will be doing all I can next year to make our blood drive even better than this year's.

We had 23 registered donors and 19 units of blood collected. Donors received a "SF/heart" replica pin, the same as the one designed by RAH for his original con blood drive, and a certificate good for 20% off at Borders Book stores. I was originally disappointed with what I felt was a low turnout, but remembered that 19 units equals 57 lives saved, so as Adam Sandler says: "Not too shabby!"

After the blood drive, a drawing was held to determine the winner of a copy of RAH's "new" long-lost, first novel, *For Us, the Living*. The winner was Amy Fass of New York City. We also drew a name for the second prize, donated by Society member

William Moyer: the DVD of "Destination Moon." The DVD winner was Linda Bushyager of Las Vegas, Nevada

Thanks to Bill and J.J., all who donated blood at Philcon, and elsewhere throughout the year. Thanks for helping us "pay it forward".

If you are interested in Heinlein Society-related blood drive efforts, please contact the Blood Committee Chairman, Mike Sheffield at: bloodrivechair@heinleinsociety.org.

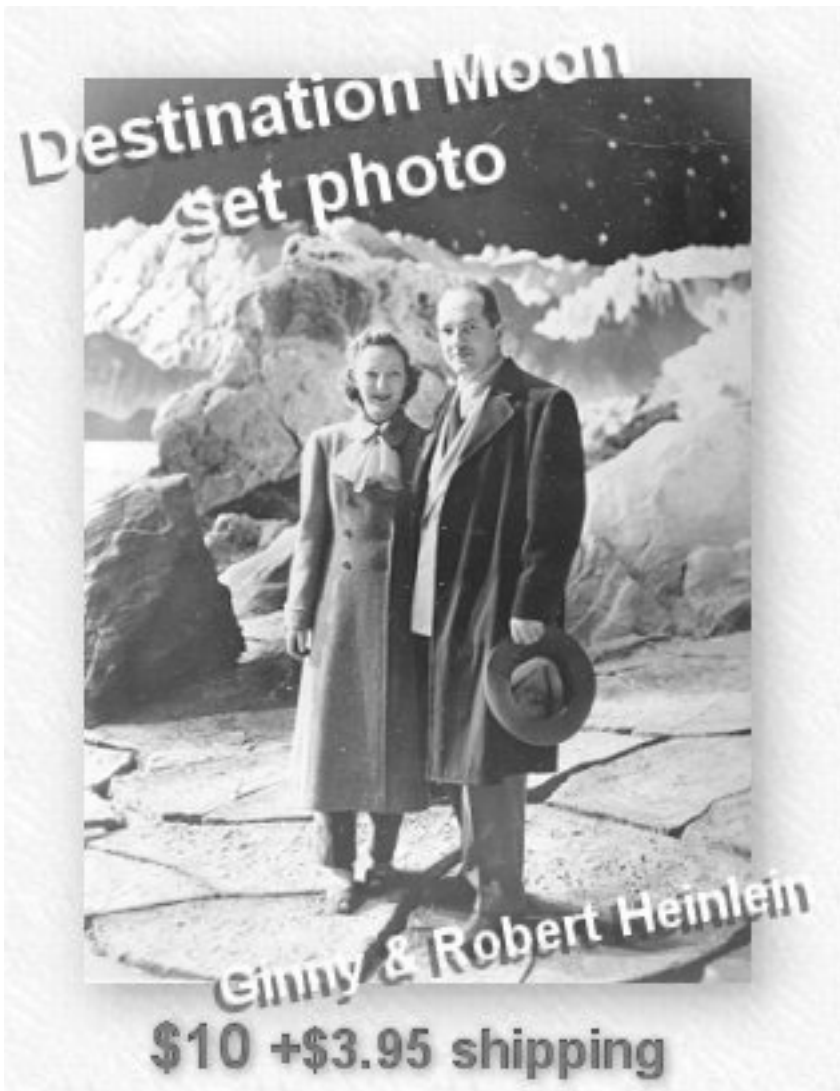
Barry Berman

Editor's Note: Dr. Berman, making his own donation above, served as our first Blood Drives Chair in 2001 and overcame substantial obstacles thrown in his way when he organized our first Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive at Millenium PhilCon. It's great to have him back actively working with the Committee.

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 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

You are cordially invited to join the members of The Heinlein Society

at Noreascon4, The 62d World Science Fiction Convention, for this year's presentation of the Heinlein Award for outstanding published works of science fact and fiction that inspire humanity's expansion into space.

The Heinlein Award was established at the request of the late Virginia Heinlein, the author's widow, shortly before her final illness. Robert Anson Heinlein's dream was to see humanity establish itself on the other planets of this solar system and eventually reach the stars, themselves.

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.



The
Heinlein
Society

Reception begins at 6 P.M., sharp!

Friday, September 3, 2004.

Dance after dinner.

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 (U.S.) until August 28, 2004 Late Reservations \$100 (U.S.) 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

Telephone: 310-399-0310

Please check our website at www.heinleinsociety.org for online reservations and payments.

ROBERT A. HEINLEIN MEMORIAL "PAY IT FORWARD" BLOOD DRIVE

Blood donations save lives!

Robert Heinlein knew this when he helped start SF-con blood drives in 1976. A tradition in its second quarter century, the Heinlein Memorial "Pay It Forward" Blood Drive is scheduled during World Con, wherever held, both in memory of Robert Heinlein and in accordance with his wishes. SF fans have "paid the debt forward" for almost three decades.

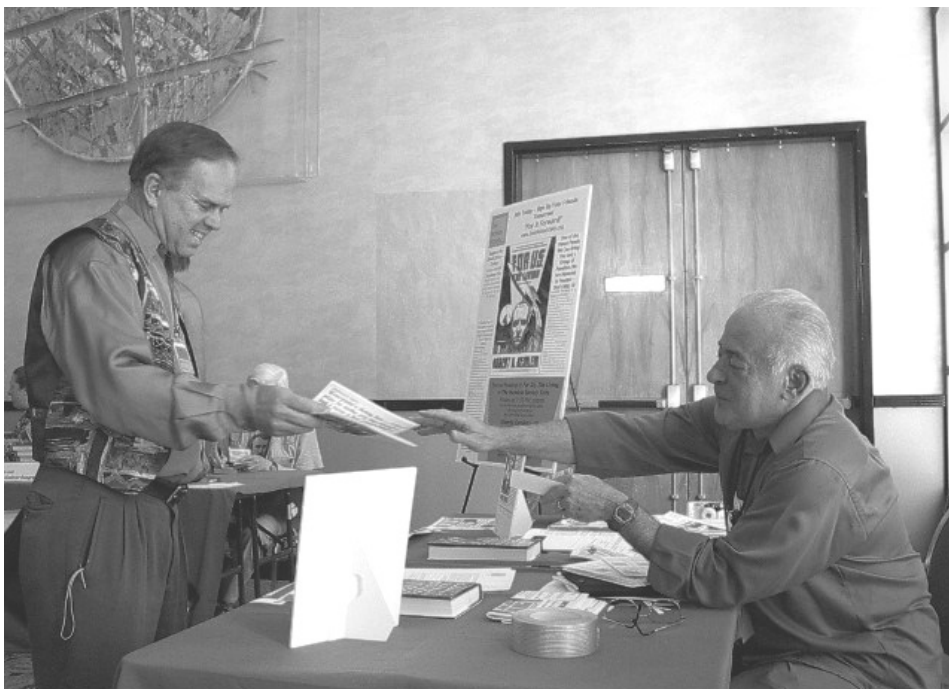
**The day and time will be
Saturday, September 2, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

This year, events require it be off-premises. Take a short walk to be a citizen of the galaxy — and take home a pin designed by Robert Heinlein, exclusively for the volunteers who choose to continue this salutary tradition. We cannot offer you signed copies as Robert and Ginny Heinlein once did — Ginny sailed beyond the sunset to join Robert a year ago this past January — but in their memory, perhaps, other authors may be present and, perhaps, offer you something of theirs, as many have done before.

A blood mobile will be available in very close proximity; but as we go to press deadline, a final decision cannot yet be made. Please check the Convention bulletin or programs, or flyers that will be distributed.

Sponsored and arranged by The Heinlein Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to Heinlein's works and paying the debt forward, with appreciation to the Blood Services of Massachusetts General Hospital for their splendid help and cooperation. We're at www.heinleinsociety.org. Now would be a good time to join us in our efforts.





Photograph courtesy of Karen Connell

"Here, why don't you read this Newsletter before you stop by the Reading in our suite tonight? It starts at 7:30 sharp!"

"Staying Flexible . . . " Cont'd from page 3

We have to face facts. Sometimes people who organize and staff SF cons, volunteers and such, aren't particularly interested in items "not invented here," or they're simply too busy to try or pay attention to the something new we may have to offer.

We attend conventions, SF and otherwise, to recruit membership to pay the debt forward in all the many ways we've decided to do it. If it happens that our offers to make the convention-going experience more delightful and worthwhile are ignored or overlooked, we make it delightful and worthwhile for those we seek to recruit anyway. And then we recruit them.

That was what happened in 2001 at Millen-

nium PhilCon, which was organized by some people who refused to allow a blood drive to take place on premises they controlled. So we rented a church two blocks away, advertised in the Con Program, solicited help from notable SF authors, and held the 25th Annual Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive anyway.

And a week later the 64 units of blood collected went to NYC to help save the lives of victims of the 9-11 World Trade Center bombing.

We made MilPhilCon more worthwhile for those who attended. We had a lot of help. For one substantial bit, Joe Haldeman, now one of our current directors, essentially took the day off from activities at the convention center, rolled up his own sleeves to donate, then afterwards sat in the church with his wife Gay, and conducted

readings from his or other works, chatted with the donors, signed autographs and so on for the rest of the day.

That was extraordinary, and Joe's efforts were mirrored to the extent they could do so by the other authors who helped that day and who we named and honored that evening at our first annual Heinlein Dinner.

Fred Pohl, Yoji Kondo, Greg Benford, Robert Silverberg, the late Charles Sheffield, all their wives who were present, and younger authors Sarah Hoyt and Jim Gifford all spent substantial time on efforts to make that drive a success for us, and for Ginny -- toujours Ginny. Because she and we asked them.

It wasn't an accident that two of the vacancies on the board of directors that subsequently arose were filled by Yoji and Joe.

So too we ask each other, ourselves, me, you, all of us, to attend these conventions and do what we can to build the Society. That's why we've ran reports the past several issues of this Newsletter, to show how each of us can do it. The so-called "membership kit" of experience we're working to build.

If I'd had the good sense God gave geese, with all those notable authors sitting in the church at the same time, I'd have organized an ad hoc panel then and there ... and when I left to attend the two "Heinlein" panels actually scheduled

that day (one by a group of teachers of adolescent literature and one sparsely attended one-person panel) I'd have brought the audiences of both back to the church to see a real Heinlein "Pay It Forward" panel in action.

This is classic "guerilla" programming -- a long-standing 'tradition' I'm told which has occurred in the past at conventions when organizers are a little out-of-touch or out-of-phase with the wishes of some "fen," as they call themselves, those consumers who attend those conventions.

Please remember it as a tool that you may never need to employ. Most SF conventions will be happy to accept your help if you offer it to participate in Heinlein programming. For example, Sarah Hoyt and I will be attending Norwescon in Seattle this Easter weekend and expect to help on regularly scheduled panels, as Sarah has done at MileHi in Denver and elsewhere, and I and others have done at Norwescon, BayCon and elsewhere, in the past.

Think of guerrilla programming as an adjunct. Don't be confrontational when you do it; simply smile as if your teeth don't hurt, and do it.

We've had wonderful cooperation in the past from many convention programming staffs; and we've reported on it.

What follows are suggestions how, specifically, to ensure it will continue. DMS.



Alec Iorio: actor-director, theatre arts teacher, Heinlein Society Membership Committee SubChairman -- SF Convention Recruitment & Programming

**Programming
-- How To --
You Know Why
The Subject is Heinlein
Programming — You've
Got it, Now Share It**

By Alec Iorio

One of the primary tenets of The Heinlein Society is to "pay forward" the perceived "debt" our members feel toward RAH as they recognize this from their readings of his many splendid stories. WE feel ourselves under an obligation to pay forward "to RAH" something for the ethical instruction we've received from reading his works.

To that end, the Board of Directors of THS have committed us to a policy of actively (read "aggressively") contacting SF Convention organizers ("from the rock-bound coast of Maine to the

sun-drenched beaches of Southern California") with the expressed purpose of increasing the amount of RAH-based and RAH-centered "events-programming" featured in the various convention schedules. Society members (and fellow travelers) nearest to the convention locations can be the living means by which this goal is accomplished. Here follows some suggestions in the basic *How To's* of the matter:

Once a convention location and timing have been decided upon, this can be determined by reviewing the appropriate portion of *Locus Magazine on-line* <http://www.locusmag.com/> "first contact" is needed. Your opening bid is to reserve a "Heinlein Society" "fan" table. Forward news of sending a request for this reservation to THS officers and you'll be

provided with some lovely geegaws and gimcracks to display and aid in the solicitation of new Society memberships. The current number is in excess of 350 and growing. To sweeten the offer of staffing a RAH table, the Convention planners should also be braced on the subject of including some RAH-based and RAH-centered panels for the convention activity schedule. This can be done in the same letter or a subsequent one, whatever you feel comfortable doing. (Flexibility!!) Look, there's no way that the core group responsible for the convention planning is going to be able to handle *everything*. Why should they turn down a friendly offer of help? Or, they might like to participate in the panel "leading" the discussion. This is not meant to be a "solo" effort so don't try to make it one. Go ahead, file off the serial numbers on one of more of the following panel titles and submit them as possible topics. They've worked well before — try it again. Remember: Stay flexible. They might like your offer better if they "re-name it and make it their own." The most important thing is to get any workable panel scheduled.

1. Heinlein's Women -- "Just Like the Girl Who Married Dear Old Dad"
2. Heinlein 101: "All you ever wanted to know about Heinlein, but were afraid to ask." [In 55 minutes, no less!]
3. Sex in Heinlein's Universe

4. Heinlein, Stranger than Stranger: "Four Decades After the Hugo"
5. Heinlein: Lost, Strayed, Misplaced, and Found Again -- *FOR US, THE LIVING* ...
6. Heinlein's Take on the Law and Lawyers: "The Year We Hanged All the Lawyers"
7. "Heinlein's Juveniles: Just Plain Kids, Superkids, or Sociopathic Monsters"

Or make up something of your own. "Not Invented Here" isn't in our vocabulary, anymore than it was in Robert's. Remember, these are supposed to be "panel discussions." You don't need to prepare an hour-long lecture just a ten-minute or so "introduction" to the topic. Then, the other members of the panel can chip in their contributions. AND let the audience participate. Sell a friendly, open and fair attitude to your audience. **IT'S ENTERTAINMENT!** It's designed to attract new memberships. The scholars will go to other conventions and persuade other scholars. We're recruiting members!

What do YOU find most appealing about this topic in RAH's works?

What do you find offensive about this topic in RAH's works?

What do YOU want to talk about?

Submit it! They might like it and there you go!!

Now remember, "good things

come in threes." The Society also and always solicits the establishment of *blood drives at each and every convention scheduled in 2004!* Staffing a Heinlein fan table is very nice and an excellent way to publicize THS, RAH and to ask for memberships — remember: Always Ask. You have nothing to lose and if you don't ask; they can't say "Yes, I'd like that idea." The panel discussions can further enhance and enrich the convention time of the participants as well as entice new readers to the works of RAH. But, the blood drives are another very immediate way to contribute to paying forward what you've received from Robert Heinlein and his work. The blood collected is immediately available and ready-to-go. It is truly a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Setting up blood drives is handled in the same way as the offer of a Heinlein Society table or a RAH panel discussion: Ask them! If they agree, contact the Society and the officers will gladly assist in setting up the particulars.

Setting up fan tables is even easier! Simply ask for one, as early as possible. If they agree to reserve one, contact the Society and our officers will gladly assist with signs, banners, and publications and forms you may find useful to sign up members.

Don't just sit there!

Do something!!

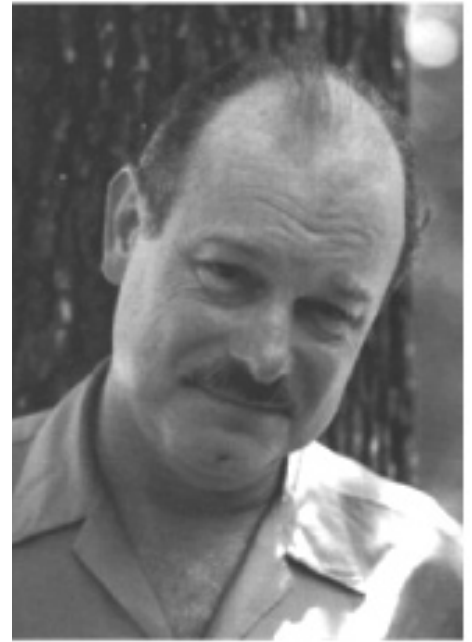
Pay it Forward!!!

A Really Long Weekend for a Warrior



Sergeant Cynthia Kondo (center), and comrades, 190th Military Police Company (Maryland Nat'l Guard), on duty in Afghanistan. The 190th MP Co, together with other MP units of the Maryland Guard, was federalized on September 12, 2001, placed on guard at the Pentagon and, with little respite, has been on near continuous active duty since. On July 6, 2003, it deployed to Kabul, where it is currently supporting missions in Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sgt. Kondo is a daughter of board member Yoji Kondo. The sergeant is a third degree black belt in aikido. The Society joins her family's best wishes and hopes for a speedy, safe return.

Photograph courtesy of Ms. Beatrice Kondo
and Dr. and Mrs. Yoji Kondo



***Orphanage*, Robert
Buettner's soon-to-be-
published SF war novel,
an ex-warrior's review**
by Joe Haldeman

"I'm sure Robert Heinlein would have enjoyed this exciting homage to *Starship Troopers*. Robert Buettner writes well about soldierly action and monsters, but he goes well beyond the accomplishments of the scores of other books that inhabit the subgenre of military science fiction. He well understands the more subtle aspects of living as a soldier -- the boredom punctuated by terror, the constant anxiety and self-doubt, the random chaos that battle always is, and the emotional glue that holds together people who may have nothing in common except absolute responsibility for one another's lives. The near future he paints is believable as it is terrible. I don't usually read manuscripts, but the first page of this one was interesting enough for me to take it to the tub. By page 115 I had to reluctantly put it down, or turn into a prune."

-- January 31, 2004



And A Warrior Of Another Sort: The Pen “Have Books -- Will Travel”

David Jennings, Heinlein Society member, once was another sort of warrior. It's a family tradition. He's from a small town in Georgia. His remoter ancestors wore Gray. His granddaddy went “over there” in a troopship; so too did his daddy to help “save the world for democracy,” both with rifles and bayonets; and when it came to be his turn, late in the Vietnam era, he enlisted as they had. The Army sent him to school at Monterey to be a Far

Eastern language specialist; and he did what you might expect one to do, until his enlistment ended. He came home, married, they had a daughter, and he went about being a civilian, husband and father, for the next twenty-five or so years.

David always loved the Orient, so when an opportunity came up to teach English and learn what varieties of Chinese he might, he accepted.

He's been in China now

several months. Starting this semester he'll be using 22 volumes of Heinlein works we sent him to teach his business and law students, whom he found delight in good SF stories.

YOU can help efforts such as this.

DONATE to help us stock schools, libraries, some in the most unexpected places that might find them useful with copies of Robert A. Heinlein's great works.

PAY IT FORWARD!

Heinlein Awards Dinner Dance Set For Friday, August 28, 2004



Banquet and Ball Room at Boston Back Bay Hilton

We've begun plans for this year's annual membership meeting, awards dinner, memorial blood drive, and participation in World Con (Noreascon4) earlier than we did the past three. We've learned it's necessary to do this to assure success in all the necessary things we do to end our Society's year.

We'll hold the awards presentation, dinner-dance and blood drive at the Boston Back Bay Hilton, located at the intersection of Dalton and Belvidere Streets, immediately across the street from the Hynes Convention Center, at which Noreascon4 will be held, and the Sheraton which Noreascon4 has chosen to be the "party hotel." We've found it impractical to

attempt to hold any function at party hotels booked by the convention organizers in the past for two reasons: first, the convention "powers that be" block and prevent reservations of all useful facilities on the chance that something they deem more important will later be planned and refuse to release their hold on those facilities until long after any effective publicity or advertising for an event can be made; and, second, the hotels selected, seem to believe they have a captive audience and their inflated prices and less than exemplary quality and variety of service reflect that notion.

We've decided upon hotel dining this year for two reasons: initially, we expect a

growing number in attendance; there were thirty-two our first year, sixty-eight our second, one hundred last year; and we're hoping for a proportionate increase at the dinner again this year. Restaurants around convention centers, we've found, generally and simply, are not up to providing timely, proper and quality service for a crowd of the size we bring. Secondly, we intend to vary the program this year, expanding the reception, moving presentations earlier for those who must leave early, and concluding our program with a dinner dance. That requires a ballroom; and the Back Bay Hilton has a first rate facility for it. The dinner price will be the same as last year, \$75.00 US; but we expect a much higher quality of food, service and accommodations, as well as the added attraction of a dinner dance. There will be more details as appropriate, in later announcements.

We also have decided to reserve two large suites at the Back Bay Hilton. We'll use them for other Society functions during the convention, including a reception of our own memberships and other Heinlein aficionados. The entrance of the Hilton is 75 feet from the entrance to the Hynes convention center and a corresponding close distance to the "party" hotel, so

Please Make Your Reservations As Soon As Possible

we'll enjoy proximity, but a little privacy as well.

Again, for suites it's simply a question of what priority do the convention powers that be assign to us? We're not campaigning to have a World Con in our town -- we have no town -- so we obviously don't need a "party suite" on the "party floor" to entertain the thronging herds of potential voters with little sips of cranberry juice and vodka, or slivers of cheese on plastic toothpicks.

But we have a more important reason for reserving the suites at the Back Bay Hilton: we've again run into a little problem with the "powers that be." Some are the same people who "ran" MilPhilCon in 2001, and gave us so much trouble that year. They've *refused* once again to allow a Robert Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive to be conducted on convention premises they control. Rather than use deception as in 2001 that wasted months, they've elected a refreshing up-front apparent forthrightness this time. Their reason, however, is the same old nonsense they finally fell back upon in Philadelphia:

"Our concern was and is that Worldcon is a time when attendees often do not regularly sleep, eat, rest, or take care of them-

selves -- the worst possible time to ask them to give blood. We want to encourage healthy, sensible blood donations on an ongoing basis."

--- Deb Geisler, Chair,
Noreascon4, to THS member
John Hodges,
February 14, 2004

That patronizing rationalization effectively keeps us out of the Convention Center, and the underground parking beneath it and the two convention-sponsored hotels.

The last time a World Con Chair did this, it cost about \$1,000 to rent a church two blocks away and reduced donations about fifty percent, i.e., fifty less pints sent to NYC to save victims of the 9/11 Trade Towers terrorism, potentially 150 lives lost that might have been saved.

But the Hilton is willing to make what facilities and use what influence it has to ensure availability of space for a blood drive; and we will have a blood drive; because contrary to some we don't believe that blood donors who choose to attend SF conventions are sophomoric fools who need a nanny. Robert Heinlein's advocacy of the charitable act of blood donation at SF World Cons began in 1976; and literally hundreds of thousands of donations have resulted.

We're not going to let an in loco parentis attitude, if that is what it truly is, stop that quarter of a century tradition.

How can you help us? The Back Bay Hilton is a three-star hotel, just as the Sheraton and others around the Hynes Center are. They've promised to meet or better any price those hotels are giving Noreascon attendees. If you've made your reservations into the Sheraton, or any of the other hotels Noreascon4 organizers have arranged, there's no penalty at this stage for canceling your reservation and moving it to the Hilton. Let them know why, if you wish. Perhaps it will get back to Ms. Geisler and those who think as she does. We had thirty dinner guests attend MilPhilCon; the sixty-eight at dinner attended ConJosé, and a great number more than one hundred members attended TorCon. I think they'll figure out what the point is soon.

Please e-mail Ms. Simone DiMatteo, our social events committee member in Boston, who has graciously agreed to arrange for reservations at the Back Bay Hilton. Her e-mail address is simonedimatteo@aol.com and she'll be happy to be helpful in any way. We'll have a page to prepay for the dinner on our website, soon.

Membership

-- capturing more 800-pound gorillas!

We've had three years now to work on goals adopted originally at the inception of The Society. In October 2003, returning fresh and invigorated from the successes at Torcon3, we made an assessment of progress and some new appointments.

There is one function, Membership, always paramount to the success of any membership based charitable organization. Without effective performance in recruitment and retention, no membership based charity can grow or function.

Membership's function has always been rather straightforward: ***To recruit members and, once recruited, retain membership interest long enough to channel their energies into useful Society activities.***

In October, four new membership committee members were appointed, each to address one major aspect of membership recruitment and retention, to capture, so to speak, more 800-pound gorillas. This is to introduce them to you.

Sam Kramer (tsp785@juno.com) is our new subcommittee chair

for organizing and developing local organizations and communication. Sam, a retired Army officer, now a lawyer in South Carolina, understands how vital communication and organization on a local basis can be. Expect to hear from Sam, or someone working with him, about a "telephone tree" to help pass up and down information and needs The Society must have. There are already two volunteers helping Sam: if you live in California or the Southwest US, expect to hear from Tim Morgan (morgan@taa.com) about events; if you live in the mid-Atlantic States, expect to hear from John Tilden, JT@sff.net. Sam will soon have more helpers -- maybe you if you're interested in this vital area. Let Sam know, please.

Joe McGrew (mcgrew@ev1.net) works as a supervisor for a security firm while studying for his college degree and has agreed to undertake leadership of the twice monthly Internet Chat group that discusses Robert Heinlein's works. The chat group has been a valuable tool - it recruited Ginny after all, and has helped our membership grow by offering an Interna-

tional forum for reasoned discussion of the works of a writer we've all enjoyed. You can help Joe by offering to attend his meetings on-line, by lending your assistance to discussions, and by telling your Heinlein-interested friends and acquaintances about the meetings. Joe schedules meetings by e-mail. Add yourself to his mailing list and volunteer by suggesting to him those topics of interest you think are worth scheduling to discuss.

Randy Jost (rjost3@comcast.net) a professor of engineering, has worked in the aerospace industry, as both military and civilian. Randy is undertaking development of a program to recruit to us those employed or teaching in the aerospace professions. He needs your help if you can contribute to develop a program to reach not only those employed, but students at all levels in the field most interested in mankind's progression into space. Send him an e-mail if you think you may be of any help or have useful ideas.

Alec Iorio, theatre actor-director (baybus@mindspring.com), has volunteered to undertake

Cont'd next page top left

New Heinlein Awards panel Judge appointed

Dr. Yoji Kondo, chair of the Heinlein Award Judges panel, has announced the appointment of author Michael Flynn to fill the vacant position on the panel occasioned by the untimely and unfortunate death of original panelist Dr. Charles Sheffield in late 2002. Mr. Flynn will join the present panel of judges to select this year's Heinlein Award winner who will be scheduled to receive the award, if chosen, at the annual Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Dinner at NoreasCon Four, the sixty-second annual world SF convention. "As Robert Heinlein did and all too few have done since, Michael Flynn writes about the near future as if he'd been there," said Harry Turtledove, noted author. Mr. Flynn was awarded the first Heinlein Award for the body of his writing at last year's Torcon3.

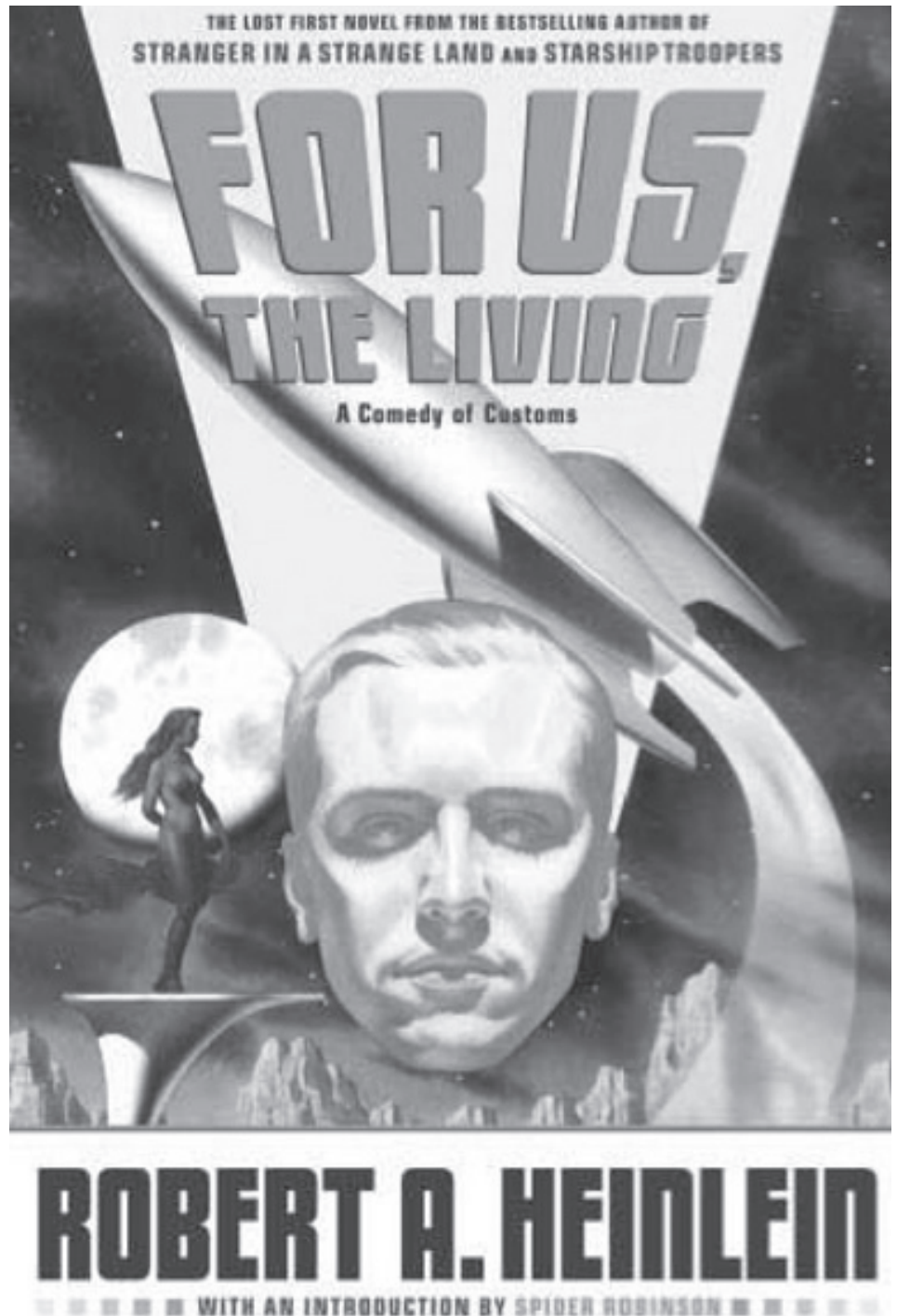
More 800-pounders

oversight of convention panel presentations we plan to attract those who regularly attend SF conventions to our membership. Alec is looking not only for a few good women and men to serve on Heinlein Society panels, but also needs contacts with as many convention programming directors who we think might be amenable to scheduling good programming as possible.

Give all of them as much of your help as you can spare, please, to help them bag many more 800-pounders.



Spider Robinson: author and Heinlein aficionado.



Another “new” Heinlein Novel

Writer Spider Robinson, by agreement with the Prize Trust, has started work on Robert A. Heinlein’s *Variable Star*, a new science fiction juvenile based on a detailed outline and notes completed by Mr. Heinlein in 1955, but never written. Since he be-

gan writing professionally in 1972, Spider Robinson has won 3 Hugo Awards, a Nebula Award, the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, the E.E. (“Doc”) Smith Memorial Award (Sky-lark), the Pat Terry Memorial Award for Humorous Science

Fiction, and Locus Awards for Best Novella and Best Critic. Robinson wrote the forward to the recently-issued *For Us, the Living*, Heinlein’s recently discovered first novel.

We’re all hopeful we’ll see *Variable Star* in the stores by the end of 2004.

“Sitting in the sun at the beach -- No meetings, no ties! But, still, a few small things ...”

There's good news this quarter: first, we've doubled our membership in only the six months since August. That's attributable to more than merely our direct efforts. The publication of *For Us, the Living: A Comedy of Customs*, and the kindness of many people who mentioned our role in its discovery, little though it may have been, was gratifying -- as gratifying and worthy of our grateful thanks as that we also give to all who have bought and read the lost first novel of Robert Heinlein.

Next, to some surprise, we found we can raise funds: we came within a few hundred dollars of matching the \$15,000 challenge grant from The Heinlein Prize Trust in only four months. Thank you very much, all of you who have helped. Ginny said the sort of people attracted to Robert's works would Pay It Forward, and she was right, wasn't she?

There are good prospects for the near future. Because of your favorable response to our showing at the past two annual Heinlein dinners of Ginny's copy of the broadcast by CBS's Walter Cronkite with Arthur Clarke and Robert Heinlein on the day mankind first set its step on the Moon, we've written Mr. Cronkite, asking for his help to secure rights to reproduce that wonderful program solely for educational purposes. Mr. Cronkite graciously has recommended to CBS that we be allowed those limited rights; and, if circumstances continue to augur well, we'll soon be able to offer it.

Next, we are discussing with

the Heinlein Prize Trust publication of what will become known as the "Virginia Edition" of Robert Heinlein's works.

This will be a limited-run, high-quality printing of all of Robert's works including, perhaps, works not previously available, offered by subscription only to our membership. Volumes will be carefully ed-



ited, printed as perfectly and authoritatively as possible, with newly-written introductions and useful articles included. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

All our efforts are progressing nicely. More blood drives are scheduled this year than ever before. The Library Committee is functioning again! Our educational efforts are bearing fruit! All of us working as a volunteer for the Society, board members, officers, committee chairs and members, are working diligently to satisfy our goal to "Pay It Forward!"

The only handful of grit in the gears we've encountered this year is from a small group of World Con volunteers who have taken it upon themselves

to decline their own compatriots in fandom the freedom to decide for themselves as adults whether they'd like to contribute blood on premises at the next World SF Cons. WE, acting together, must and will overcome that short-sightedness. Read the article on pages 16 and 17 and do whatever you think is both appropriate and reasonable to help. I say this very carefully: we have no quarrel with any individual or decision except that short-sighted and patronizing choice the leadership of Noreascon Four had made interfering with SF fandom's voluntary election to participate in the worthwhile charity we seek to preserve. Blood donations, a quarter-century tradition at World SF Cons, were instituted by Robert Heinlein. Preserving that tradition isn't a negotiable issue. It wasn't for Ginny. It isn't for us.

A happier note: depending on results of the nominating process we may have two Robert Heinlein novels to vote for retrospective Hugos for 1953 at this year's World Con. It would be a great tribute to a great man for him to receive yet another fifty-years-after honor for the best novel of the year.

I hope we see as many of each other at the conventions or other occasions we attend this year as possible. Please drop me a note with comments or suggestions anytime you wish via agplusone@heinleinsociety.org.

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