

The Heinlein Society

October 2003

The Heinlein Society, a non-profit corporation, is an educational charity.

<http://www.heinleinsociety.org>

PO Box 1254

Venice, Calif., 90294 USA

Bill Patterson "retires"

See page 2

New novel details

See Page 3.

Time to pay dues

See Page 5.

Blood drives

See pages 6.

Centennial report

See Page 11.

Heinlein Prizes

See Page 12.

Anyone can do it

See page 13.

Torcon3 report

See Page 14.

Heinlein Awards

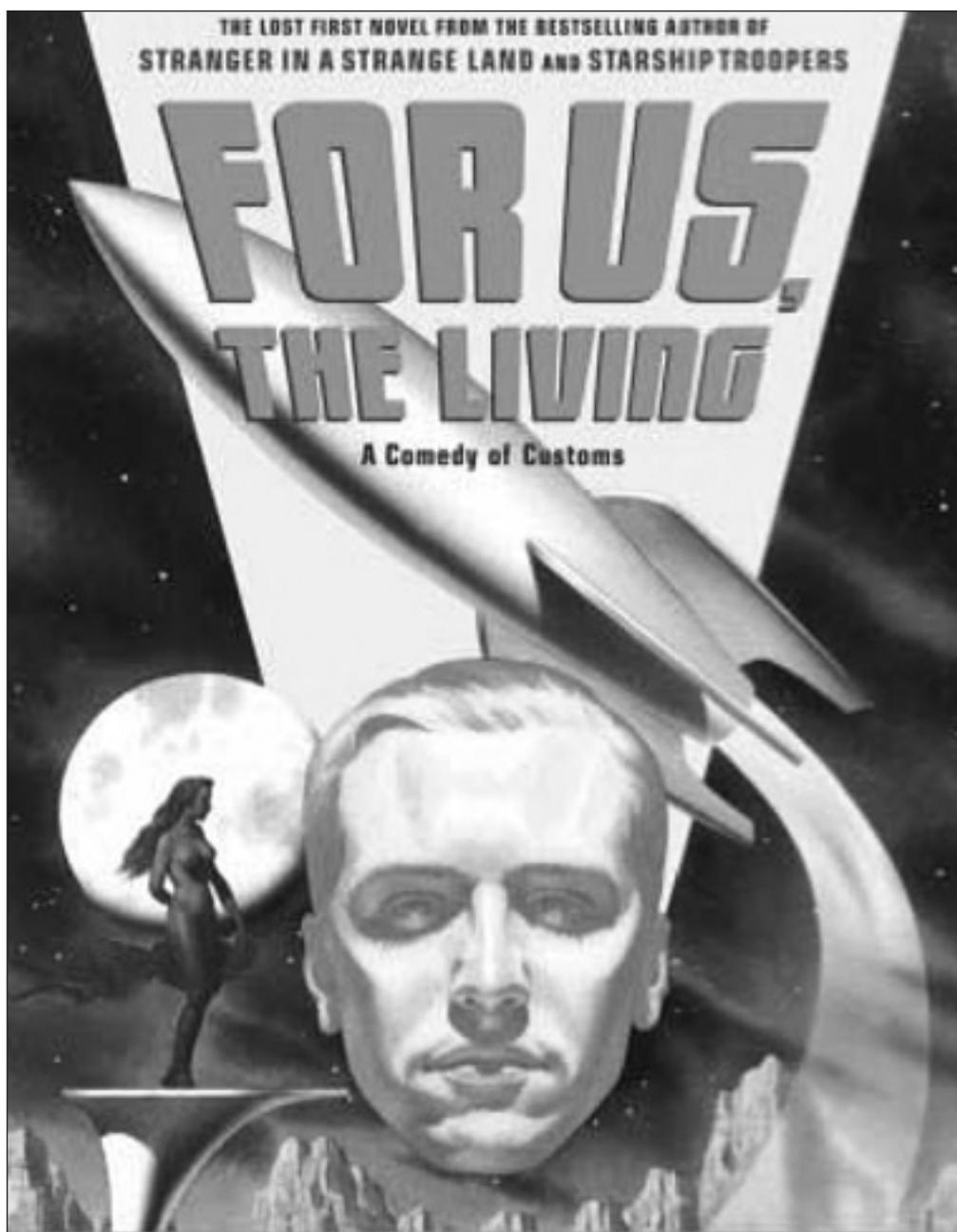
See Page 23.

Chairman's report

See Page 24.

newsletter

'New' Heinlein novel hits stands in December



ROBERT A. HEINLEIN

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY SPIDER ROBINSON

'In the absence of The Senior'

Patterson retires as THS chairman to work on Heinlein biography

By BILL PATTERSON

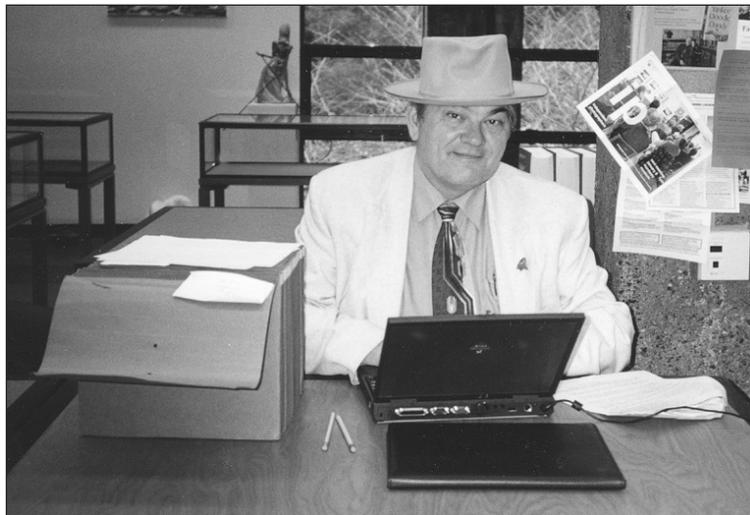
The Heinlein Society has been a major part of my life for the last six years.

It was quite an effort to get the Society off the ground, even with the enthusiastic endorsement of the people who showed up for the formation meeting. We weren't quite lucky enough to parallel Heinlein's first guest of honor appearance fifty-six years earlier — the Sunday of Westercon that year was July 6, 1997, so we made do, one day off. It was frustrating — just more work than I could handle by myself. Ginny Heinlein recruited our first secretary, Laurie A. MacDonald, to help with the work, and somehow, the three of us working together, the Society took off. Ginny also recruited her friend and longtime intellectual property lawyer, Art Dula, to handle our incorporation as a tax-exempt charitable and educational organization — Ginny could be very persuasive when she wanted to be!

When Laurie had done as much as she felt she was able, she resigned, and late in 1999 I asked David Silver to fill her size 6 pink pumps. David had launched the (then-AOL) Heinlein Readers' Group on almost the same day as the first organizational meeting of the Society, and he had spent years managing other charitable and educational organizations.

Under David's direction, the Society has grown pretty close to the magic number for self-sustaining size; the various technical pitfalls and organizational problems have been overcome, and we have taken a place of pride among other organizations promoting Heinlein's social legacy. I cannot pretend to be responsible for any major portion of these accomplishments: the Society as it currently exists is largely due to David's unremitting efforts, and it gratifies me to be able to turn over to his care the fruits of his own hard work. May his light, no less than his Talent of Silver, never be hid under a bushel as he takes up the Chair — "in the absence of The Senior ..."

On New Year's Day 2000, Ginny Heinlein called me — the first time we had spoken together on the telephone, though we had been conducting a brisk and voluminous correspondence by post and by internet for many months by that time. She had been a little mysterious about what it was she wanted



Bill Patterson working with Heinlein's sealed correspondence and wearing Heinlein's gardening hat.

Photo by Rita Bottoms, archivist (ret.)"

to talk about voice to voice, so I was surprised — and overwhelmed — when she asked me to write an official, formal biography of Robert Heinlein. She had reviewed and fact-checked and commented on the biographical sketch I wrote for The Heinlein Journal (No. 5, July 1999), and I guess she must have approved the way I worked with her comments. I visited Ginny in Florida early in February and collected the first of a series of taped interviews, then began work at the Archives at Special Collections of the University Library, University of California at Santa Cruz, in May.

The research for the library has involved reading and digesting perhaps as much as 75 million words of correspondence and secondary, historical materials over the last three years — essentially a ten year task condensed into two years. Mindful that this had to be the most complete and defensible biography possible, not a casual knock-off — but also that it was a project Ginny wanted to be able to oversee, I began the writing in August 2001, funnelling each chapter to Ginny as I finished it. This method made the task extremely cumbersome, because each chapter had to

Continued on page 20

For us, a ‘new’ Heinlein novel

By DEB HOUDEK RULE

As of this writing, August 31, 2003, there are only about half a dozen people in the entire known universe who can accurately claim that they have read every novel Heinlein has written.

For those of us who thought there would never again be another new Heinlein novel, the impossible has become reality. “For Us, the Living,” is a brand new, never-before-published novel by Robert A. Heinlein. It is going into print now for the first time and will be in bookstores by the end of November 2003.

“For Us, the Living” was written by Heinlein about 1938-39, before he wrote his first sf short, “Lifeline.” The novel, “For Us, the Living,” was deemed unpublishable, mainly for the racy content. So racy is/was the content that in the 1930s the book could not even have been legally shipped through the US mail! For this reason, after a few publisher rejections, the novel was tabled by Heinlein, but the content was mined for his later stories and novels. A fellow named Nehemiah Scudder even appears in “For Us, the Living.” It’s important to point out that according to those favored few who have thus far read this long lost Heinlein novel, it did not go unpublished because it was bad — they say it’s quite good, though clearly a first novel by the author (it has a two and a half

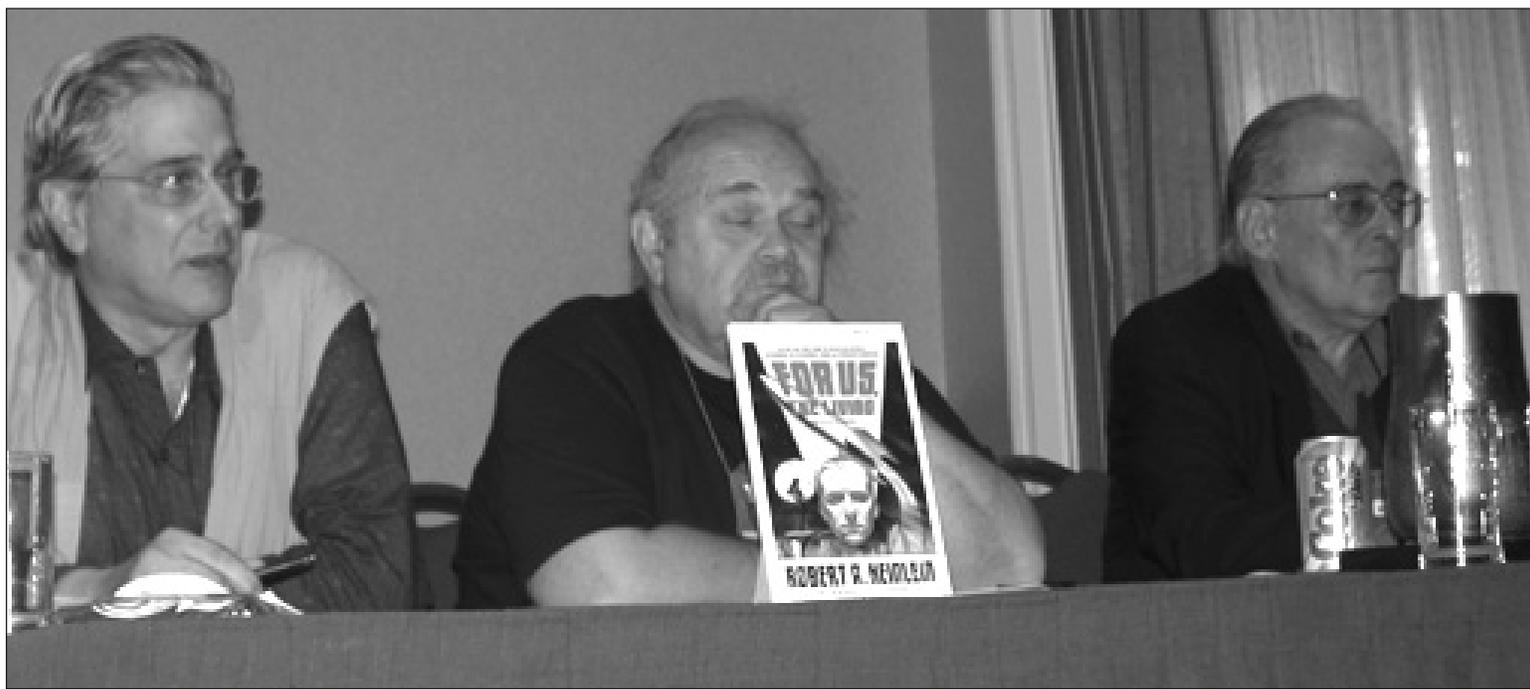
page footnote!). It was unpublished because the mores and culture of the time would not allow it.

“For Us, the Living,” was put aside, and eventually lost. The Heinleins apparently destroyed all copies they had. And, because at the time it was written Heinlein was not a member of the science fiction community, no other sf writers knew about it. He had let one or two friends read it, and it is by a long trail through one of them that this rarest of treasures was located.

Robert James, Ph.D., Heinlein Society member and Heinlein scholar, had been researching Heinlein and his life, focusing on Heinlein’s second wife Leslyn, when he came across a vague mention of an early novel, a copy of which one-time Heinlein biographer Leon Stover was supposed to have. Robert James went searching, and after serious hunting, finally located a forgotten copy in a box in a garage that had changed hands at least once since Heinlein himself had given it to a friend to be read. This copy had annotations written in the margin by Heinlein himself, with some in a second hand that was probably then-wife Leslyn’s.

Robert James presented the manuscript to the

Continued on page 4



Annual meeting: Left to Right, board members Alan Milner, Charles N. Brown, and David Silver. An image of the cover “For Us, the Living” is in the foreground.

'FUTL'

from page 13

Heinlein Society's secretary, David Silver, who promptly contacted Arthur Dula, the representative of the Heinlein literary estate. As they told the tale, they only informed Art that they had a "surprise" for him. When they picked him up, and the three of them were alone in the car, they handed Art the manuscript of this never before seen "new" Heinlein novel. "...when I regained consciousness," Art Dula said, describing the moment, he knew at once this treasure needed to be published for the benefit of us, Heinlein's readers. Through Eleanor Wood, agent for the Heinlein estate, they arranged publication of "For Us, the Living," the first truly new Heinlein novel since "To Sail Beyond the Sunset," published shortly before his death. Heinlein's last novel is now his first.

Virtually no changes have been made to the manuscript from Heinlein's original draft. The book, Robert James said, was not a first draft but a polished final draft. Only a very few minor edits and spelling corrections were made. There will be a foreword by Spider Robinson and an afterword by Robert James.

There are two bonuses to this landmark event that bear mentioning. As most novels have dedications at the beginning, the dedication of "For Us, the Living" will be to us ... to Heinlein's Children.

The other bonus is another gift to us. The money earned by this novel will be going to directly and substantially support Heinlein's dream, and the dream we, Heinlein's Children, share. Earnings will be going to the advancement of human exploration of space. When you purchase "For Us, the Living" you also contribute, in a real and meaningful way, to furthering this dream. Yet again, Heinlein 'pays it forward.'



Meeting of minds: A highlight of The Heinlein Society Dinner was the video of Robert Heinlein being interviewed by local newscaster Bill Stout on CBS during the first moon landing. The bottom photo includes Heinlein friend and science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke.

-- Photos by Geo Rule and Deb Houdek Rule

Secretary-treasurer's report

New members are great, but so too is paying dues

By JANE SILVER

"Good evening Mr. and Mrs. North and South America and all the ships at sea ... di dit di dit di dit dit dit. Let's go to press." — Walter Winchell.

Since my last communication with all of you, there has been a lot happening within the Heinlein Society. I've been to places I never imagined I would go and met people I never thought I would see face-to-face.

We have signed more than 50 new members largely through attendance at Torcon3, the valuable efforts of our members at the fan table and the announcement of the publication of "For Us, The Living." That is a more than 25 percent increase in total members!

We are opening new doors and enlisting a wide range of expertise to help us with the plans and goals of The Heinlein Society in conjunction with the Heinlein Prize that was announced recently. There is going to be a lot of positive activity in the next few years in which you, the members, can and should participate.

One of these areas is the fast-approaching Centennial celebration in 2007. It would seem like a long time in the future, but here we are. Can you believe it's October already? For this celebration to be as it should, a worldwide event, the planning and formulation of the theme (somewhat obvious but nonetheless required) is going forward now.

Other areas are the continuing efforts to have blood drives at as many venues as is humanly possible. Scholastic and Academic is a prime area

where we will enlist the scientific communities and encourage their involvement in the goals of The Heinlein Society.

The Library Committee Chair is vacant and in great need, wanting someone who feels strongly the desire to fill up those empty shelves with Heinlein. There is a gift, by Ginny specifically for this purpose, books languishing in storage that need to see the light of day and the turning, once again, of those pages.

Then there is Fundraising. In order for us to accomplish the goals we have set we must have the wherewithal and that is, simply put, the money. We have been gifted with a matching funds pledge by the Prize Trust of \$15,000 through the end of this year.

We ask that our membership not let this opportunity go by and that they encourage everyone they know who might be willing to contribute any amount, however small, in order to meet the full potential of this pledge.

Maureen mode: Now to an unfortunate and delicate subject. My second letter and invoice will be mailed out in the next few weeks. To be a non-recipient of my "second letter" one must be a dues paid member. We do not accept chickens, hams, pies, cobblers, or any form of barter as legal tender, sad to say and in order keep the wolf from the door.

The dreaded "third letter" wherein membership in The Heinlein Society becomes forfeit will follow The Second Letter.

The
Heinlein
Society

Visit the Web site:
<http://www.heinleinsociety.org>

Join today!

Sign up your friends tomorrow!

Blood drives

Heinlein Society members pitch in across the globe

By MIKE SHEFFIELD

Over Labor Day weekend some 4,500 science fiction fans descended upon the city of Toronto, Ontario for Torcon III, the 61st World Science Fiction Convention. Naturally, the Heinlein Society was there as well to, among other things, hold a blood drive.

Unsurprisingly, there were some snafus awaiting us there. The blood drive location was changed not long before the convention began (along with nearly everything else). Fortunately, all the convention publications had the correct location shown. Unfortunately, they listed the start time of the drive as 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, which was when the setup began.

Blood collection actually began at 11:30 a.m.

But the fans were undaunted in their quest to give blood. Throughout the day they waited in line to donate, some for nearly 3 hours! No bed was empty longer than it took to get one person off of it and another on. The drive was scheduled to end at 4:30 and though no more people were allowed to sign up after that time, Canadian Blood Services continued to work until 6:00 to get through those already waiting. By the end of the day they had collected 74 units of blood from 99 who attempted to give. And there would have been more. Many people who came by were unable to make the protracted wait due to

scheduling conflicts and left without even being screened.

All in all, the blood drive was very successful and we thank Canadian Blood Services, the Torcon III committee and most especially the fans who made it possible. It is no surprise that they rose to the occasion. And they were duly rewarded for their efforts. Each donor received, in addition to the cloisonne pins given at all of our blood drives, a signed bookplate donated by David Brin, and a chance to win signed book covers from Elizabeth Moon and an original

drawing by artist GOH Kelly Freas.

What may surprise you is that this was not our first blood drive outside the United States. Just 4 weeks before, on Aug. 2, we ran a blood drive at FinnCon X in Turku, Finland. Kullervo (Kultsi) Nurmi, a Heinlein Society member, coordinated the drive for us, and it was a definite triumph thanks to the cooperation and enthusiasm of everyone involved.

Things got off to a late start, as I didn't know of the

Continued on page 7



Deb Houdek Rule, the Heinlein Society's Webmaster, and Scholastic/Academic committee chair Geo Rule participate in the "Stranger than Stranger" panel at Torcon.

BLOOD DRIVES

from page 6

convention until just over two months before it happened. Then, after I e-mailed Kultsi to ask if he would be able to run it for us, it took almost a month to get his response because my spam filter was blocking him for some reason. Luckily he persisted and we were able to proceed with only five weeks to go before the convention.

In general it would not be possible to set up a blood drive on such short notice, but the convention committee was very helpful and supportive and made room inside for the drive even though they had to rearrange their room assignments to do so. And the Finnish National Red Cross, after talking with Kultsi and walking through the convention site, agreed to send out a team.

And the fans didn't disappoint. More than 80 people tried to donate, though unfortunately a lot of them were deferred, many for being too young. If this is the youth of fandom we have a great future to look forward to. The final tally was 37 units of blood collected — 18 of them first time donors! And though this was fewer than the Red Cross had targeted, they were still pleased with the result and are eager to come back again next year.

We are indebted to Kultsi for all his hard work and perseverance, and grateful for the enthusiastic support of the FinnCon committee and the Red Cross. And, as always, my hat is off to the fans.

Moving south, on the same day we were collecting blood in Canada, Alan Koslow was handling the first of a two-day blood drive at Dragon*Con in Atlanta, Georgia. This was



Prize winner: Dr. Amy Baxter (right) and Eleanor Wood jointly receive the first ever Heinlein Award on behalf of Virginia Heinlein.

-- Photo by Jeanne Robinson

another example of how hard work and determination can really pay off.

Though we first contacted the convention in early May, we didn't learn until July that the Red Cross had decided not to do the blood drive there this year after having done so for the last several years. A convention of this size — it's the largest SF convention in the U.S. with more than over 20,000 attendee — was too valuable to let slip away without making every effort to salvage it. We contacted LifeSouth

Community Blood Centers and they were more than eager to step in and run the blood drive. However, the Dragon*Con convention committee had become somewhat discouraged after the Red Cross dropped out, and had some reservations regarding space for the drive inside.

Enter Brad Linaweaver at the request of Bill Patterson and Peter Scott, with just six weeks to go. Brad was able to convince the board of the

Continued on page 8

BLOOD DRIVES

from page 7

merits of setting aside space for the drive, and to add a Heinlein panel to convention schedule. A very persuasive fellow is

Mr. Linaweaver.

There were still more hurdles to clear. The blood drive hadn't had much pre-convention advertising apart from a brief mention on the website and it didn't appear in the printed program, so we had to get the word out. Alan, who had brought his whole family with him to help, and Wendell Broadwell — another Heinlein Society member — engaged

in some very effective guerilla advertising as well as running a fan table for the Society. Brad mentioned the drive on all of his panels. And, of course, fans can sense a blood drive a mile away (they can sense chocolate two miles away, but that's another story).

The end result was better than we could have hoped for given the circumstances. One hundred and thirty people tried to give blood and 92 units were collected. Donor demand was so high that the blood drive, originally scheduled for six hours on Saturday and four hours on Sunday, was continued on Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kudos to everyone involved. LifeSouth was a great organization to work with, even producing a special t-shirt for the blood donors and running the drive on multiple days to accommodate the con-goers' schedules. The Dragon*Con committee really came through in the end, making space inside an already crowded convention, which always results in a better turnout than the bloodmobile. Thanks to David Brin for

supplying signed bookplates for Dragon*Con, as well as Torcon3 to reward our blood donors.

Thanks to Wendell and the Koslow family for all their hard work. And thanks to the fans for lying down on the job, so to speak.

I want to bring attention also to a convention that has been paying it forward entirely on their own for a great many years. Robert Heinlein attended San Diego Comic Con (now Comic Con International) in 1977 and helped them run their first blood drive. And they have held a Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive every year since then (this

was their 27th year). This year the San Diego Blood Bank collected more than 300 units of blood in the two days of the drive (they had an attendance of over 70,000). They have a

great deal of support from vendors, publishers and studios and each donor receives a whole bag of stuff and a ticket for the raffle of around 100 items. This is a very impressive accomplishment that is worthy of notice.

We also want to extend a special note of thanks to the Southern California Institute for Fan Interest (SCIFI) and the New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA) for their generous donations to help with cost of producing the cloisonne pins we give to each blood donor. For those of you who don't know, these pins were designed by Robert Heinlein for the first Science Fiction convention blood drive at MidAmerican in 1976. Last year the Los Angeles Science Fantasy

Continued on page 9



Heinlein's jewels: Deb Houdek models Robert Heinlein's Naval Academy class ring during The Heinlein Society Awards Dinner on Friday, August 29, at Torcon3.

BLOOD DRIVES

from page 8

Society (LASFS) found five boxes of these pins in their clubhouse (not left over from 1976, but a later production run) and supplied them to us to give to convention blood donors. Earlier this year, as this supply began to run out, we began producing them again and will continue to do so in Robert's memory.

I heard a particularly moving story regarding these pins in Toronto. One young lady who donated blood at Torcon3 told me that the pin held special significance for her. Her father had donated blood at MidAmericon and gotten one of those pins. She didn't know if he still had it, but he had spoken proudly of it and she was ecstatic about having one of her own to show him. People like this are the main reason I started running blood drives.

How about you? Have you considered donating blood? Is there a convention you attend that might be able to host a blood drive? Or perhaps your workplace or a local church or community center could host a drive. Are you willing to help make it happen? Our goal is no less than to have a blood drive at every SF con large enough to support one, and to move beyond that to having blood drives wherever and whenever possible. With your help we can save a great many lives and honor the legacy Robert Heinlein left us. Joining the Society is a great first step in paying it forward. We hope you will take the next step in helping one of our committees to work toward a brighter future.

Thank you.



No Strangers here: L to R: Heinlein Society members Bradford Lyau, Fran Van Cleave and Joseph Major participate in "Stranger than Stranger" panel at Torcon.



Enjoying dinner: Jerri Rivera and Education committee chair Robert James at the Heinlein Awards dinner. Dr. James discovered the lost manuscript of *For Us, the Living*.

As a memorial to Ginny Heinlein, sign up a new member

Please tell us how to contact you. Most information is optional, of course, but it will help us serve your interests better. The few fields we must have in order to enter you in our membership rolls are marked with an asterisk[*].

First name: * _____

Middle initial: _____

Last name: * _____

Title: _____ Organization: _____

Street address: * _____

Address (cont.): _____

City: * _____ State/Province: * _____

Zip/Post code * _____ Country: * _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail * _____ Website: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: Male ___ Female ___

For which membership are you applying?

- \$35.00 Regular
- \$15.00 Supporting
(non-voting student or senior citizen)

Please check any or all of the following areas which interest you:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Literary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blood Drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund-Raising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-English Out-Reach | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centennial | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerospace Out-Reach |

Mail to:

The Heinlein Society
c/o Secretary-Treasurer
PO Box 1254
Venice, California 90294 USA

Centennial committee report

Ideas needed for celebration

By PETER SCOTT

As you probably know, the Heinlein Society intends to stage a convention commemorating the centennial of Robert Heinlein's birth, which will occur July 7, 2007.

The Society would like your assistance with its deliberations concerning the form of that event. Right now we are considering a proposal for a mostly conventional type of event to be held in Kansas City; some board members and I received a presentation from facilities representatives during Torcon3. Without prejudice to that proposal, the Society feels its members deserve the benefit of the board exercising diligence in considering additional choices and more creative thinking.

Therefore, we invite your input on alternatives. Be as creative as you like whilst remaining practical. We will not be gathering on the international space station. However, a commemorative cruise along routes described in "Tramp Royale," for instance, would be an entirely appropriate proposal provided you can put some flesh on those bones based upon specialized knowledge of the cruise business.

We are looking for suggestions as to form and location; if you wish to propose a conventional event in a city with which you have experience, please detail the advantages of that location and

what facilities it provides. We require not only brainstorming, but also concrete information that will allow us to evaluate the proposal as a business proposition.

Please give attention to what the Society would have to commit to and what assurances would be provided to it. Do you propose an event to be run by volunteers, in which case, what group and what is their track record? Or do you propose something run by professional staff, in which case the same questions apply, along with some idea of what they cost. How much would attendees pay?

This solicitation presupposes a broad spectrum of possible responses, and we are comfortable with that. We realize we are not providing guidance as to how large an attendance we are looking for, drawn from what demographics, paying what attendance fee and neither are we being specific about the goals of the event. In part, the Society's decisions on those parameters will be determined by the choices available to it. In other words, you may have considerable power here if you have a suggestion for us.

Please direct your responses to CentennialChair@HeinleinSociety.org. We would like to evaluate ideas by the end of October.

Thank you.

Remembering Ginny: There wasn't a dry eye in the house at the Heinlein Society Dinner when a video was played of Virginia Heinlein accepting the NASA Distinguished Service Medal in 1988, shortly after Robert's death. It was at this ceremony where she read Robert's essay: "This I Believe."



Heinlein Prize set at \$500,000

9/29/03: The Heinlein Prize, a major new award for practical accomplishments in commercial space activities, was announced today at the International Aeronautical Congress underway in Bremen, Germany. Trustees of the Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust revealed that the first Heinlein Prize award has been set at \$500,000 USD.

The Heinlein Prize may be given as frequently as annually to one or more individuals that have achieved practical accomplishments in the field of commercial space activities. The Trustees emphasize that the award is for effort by an individual - not corporate or government sponsored activities - and that the Heinlein Prize is intended to be world-wide in scope.

"The purpose of the Heinlein Prize is to provide an incentive to spur the advancement of the commercial use of outer space," explained Arthur M. Dula of Houston, Texas, USA, one of three Trustees. "In order to accomplish that goal, the Trustees will establish an Advisory Board drawn from respected persons in space activities from around the world. The Advisory Board will keep abreast of developments in space commercialization and will review nominations and propose its own candidates for the Heinlein Prize. The Trustees will select

recipients of the Prize based upon recommendations from the Advisory Board. The Heinlein Prize will be awarded on July 7th of those years in which the Prize is given."

The Trustees are currently in the process of selecting the Board of Advisors. Until the Board of Advisors is announced, nominations for the Heinlein Prize may be made directly to the Trustees through the Heinlein Prize website at www.heinleinprize.com.

The Trustees of the Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust are Mr. Dula, Dr. Buckner Hightower of Austin, Texas, USA, and Mr. James Miller Vaughn, Jr. also of Houston, Texas.

The Heinlein Prize honors the memory of Robert A. Heinlein, a renowned American author. Through his body of work in fiction spanning nearly fifty years during the commencement of man's entry into space, Mr. Heinlein advocated human advancement into space through commercial endeavors. After Mr. Heinlein's death in 1988, his widow, Virginia Gerstenfeld Heinlein, established the Trust in order to further her husband's vision of humanity's future in space. Funding for the Heinlein Prize came from Mrs. Heinlein's estate after her death earlier this year.

Spider's grasp:

Geo Rule and Deb Houdek Rule flank noted science fiction author and long-time friend of Robert and Virginia Heinlein, Spider Robinson.

Spider was a judge for The Heinlein Award.



Blood Drives 101: Anyone can do it

By KULLERVO "KULTSI" NURMI

Editor's note: THS member Kullervo Nurmi demonstrated the ideals behind "Pay it Forward" put into action when he organized a blood drive at FinnConX, and paid for most of the expenses out of his own pocket. He also was first in line to donate. The following first-hand report is a primer on how any Society member can Pay it Forward by organizing a blood drive at any of the science fiction or fantasy convention in their area.

I arranged a blood drive at the FinnConX/Eurocon 2003/Animecon II/Baltcon 2003 combined convention in Turku, Finland.

The drive resulted in 37 bags of blood, there were 18 first time donors, and an astounding number of people who wanted, but could not donate for one reason or other and therefore got turned away.

All in all, the convention visitors were young, pierced, tattooed, in the drink, hung over, or any combination of these. To make the things more difficult, the 80 sail ships attending the Tall Ships' Race set sail on the nearby Turku River, starting at the same time as our drive.

One thing became apparent at an early stage: You must be there early, the blood drive must be in the convention program, so that lectures, awards, panels, and whatever leave the visitors time to donate. It will only happen if the organizers are aware of the blood drive while doing their planning. This will ensure the blood drive is on the con's web site from the beginning and it may get a place in the con posters etc. This will save money.

It will also help in getting the place to do the actual taking of blood — not a small consideration, as the alternatives



Paying it Forward: Heinlein Society member Kullervo "Kultsi" Nurmi (above) not only donated blood at FinnCon X in Turku, Finland, he organized the drive and paid most of the costs out of his own pocket.

Finnish friends: These two ladies donated at FinnCon X.



may turn out to be costly. I was able to secure a classroom and the entry hall of the building next door to the one with the other con activities, a special arrangement with the University at no cost. I think the University administration thought the blood drive was a good thing. The classroom was used for the operations, and the hall for administrative trivia such as taking the persons' data; filling out the forms; waiting; sitting after the donation drinking juice, coffee, tea, with munchies while under observation. A blood mobile or the like might be OK, but the

six tables the Red Cross people had could have handled two hundred persons in the four hours we were in operation.

Contacting the local Red Cross need not be as early, because they are used to taking things to a place, setting up the operations, doing their stuff, packing up again and tidying up afterwards. They do need time in advance, as they

Continued on page 14

KULTSI

from page 13

may have to plan extra shifts and the like, but not as much as with the convention organizers.

An early start will help in another thing as well, such as getting sponsors for stuff, like the drinks, possible posters/handouts, accommodation, etc.

During the con, it's really good to get in contact with the organizers of other/next conventions; they are likely to be there, as they are advertising their own con.

One thing that was brought to my mind too late was to gather the names and addresses of all the people who even try to donate. We can send a letter to those people and notify them of the next Convention Blood Drive in their area, as well as bring them info about the society and its goals.

I received a bunch of RAH Blood Drive pins from Mike Sheffield, the Blood Drive Chair, and the text explaining how the pin came about. I redesigned the text into a folded card with "Thank You" on the first page, and the text on the third, had them printed, cut, and folded, and then I attached the pin under the text in the front.

Art McNutt put my text into the poster he designed for TorCon3, and I originally thought of having them printed in two sizes, but the time ran short, and the printing house could only deliver the smaller sizes, so I took more of those, all of twenty — and should have taken fifty, at least! Art did the same poster in shadow background in smaller size, which I printed out on our company's laser, and then had them cut in the middle, as I used a layout that gave two identical handouts on one printed page.

Torcon3: By the numbers

By DAVID SILVER

Torcon3, the annual World SF convention began Thursday, August 28th, and continued through Monday, September 1st, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Four board members, including one board officer, four committee chairs, and several other active members attended. Keith Kato, our social activities chair, arrived earliest, on Tuesday, the 26th, to inspect the restaurant banquet facilities where the Heinlein Memorial and Awards Dinner was to be held on Friday, August 29th. Sam Kramer and myself, David Silver, arrived early on Thursday morning, with other committee chairs, board members and members arriving later in the day.

A non-member, Phil Paine, a old friend of Bill Patterson's who had planned to attend but who was caught up in a transportation mix-up, graciously met me at Pearson International in Toronto and quickly provided transportation to my downtown hotel, The Grand, a former Royal Canadian Mounted Police headquarters, where I had rented a suite for The Heinlein Society. We later held a small party and several business meetings there.

Phil was a life-saver for us during the Con. He'd arranged to print 3,000 black and white flyers with our advertisement made by Art McNutt announcing the Awards Dinner and the Blood Drive, and delivered them to Torcon's committee to stuff them individually in the bags Torcon gave out upon registration to attendees, so they would know of these events in time to attend despite the much delayed printing and mailing of the last progress report and souvenir program which had similar ads that were not likely to be seen by anyone before the events themselves.

I invited Phil to attend the awards dinner as our guest. I was happy to see later he did and enjoyed himself.

After a late and much needed breakfast, I took a cab to the Convention Centre, picked up my registration and went to the fan table area to set up the big Heinlein Society banner we use, laid out a few copies of the Newsletter I'd brought; and got ready to push dinner tickets. Sam Kramer met me there within thirty minutes; and we got started selling tickets until it got close to 5 p.m. when I had go moderate the first of our panels, "Heinlein's Women: Just Like the Girl that Married Dear Old Dad." Sam got a few cups of tea into me so I was able to pronounce my name despite the really bad case of jet lag I had by the time the panel began.

The panel, despite being scheduled on a Thursday which prevented both Robert James, our Education committee chair, and Deb Houdek Rule, our new website committee chair, from participating, since their flights weren't due in until later that evening, went very well, attendance filled the room, and the discussion was lively.

Larry Niven and Elizabeth Ann Hull, Fredrick Pohl's English Professor wife, made up a great attraction as our guests on the panel and together were probably the reason for the full room attendance we had, despite several other attractive panels being held in that hour. Fran Van Cleave, a Society member, several of whose recent stories have appeared in Analog, and Pat York, a teacher from Buffalo, both did wonderful jobs on the panel, keeping a good balance in their

Continued on page 15

TORCON3

from page 14

presentations, filling in for Robert and Deb. Dr. Hull had a few interesting approaches to the subject; and Larry gave a great overview of Heinlein's women characters.

Later that evening, my sister Jane, our Membership Services chair, arrived with more newsletters and relieved Sam and me at the fan table; and, yet later, Deb and Geo Rule arrived with all sorts of great pre-printed items Deb had created to promote our events, which they set up. I was so jet-lagged, I don't even remember going to dinner with Sam, but know I did; for I got back to the hotel, and awoke the next day ready and raring to go.

Sam Kramer, Peter Scott, and Mike Sheffield started manning the fan table early Friday morning with Geo and Deb while Jane, board member Alan Milner (who had arrived Thursday night) and I attended to a few logistic details.

Jane and Alan set out to the banks to change the large amount of US dollars we needed to prepay for the dinner into Canadian, while I arranged with the printer Phil had lined up to print up quickly a few things — the big sign we use to advertise the panels we'd scheduled, the financial statements and reports for the Society's annual membership meeting, and a great looking full color flyer for "For Us, the Living," that Simon & Schuster art and advertising department had made up and e-mailed a PDF to me in Toronto.

Phil had dropped off the remaining black-and-white dinner advertisements for Sam and Mike to use; and an author named Keith DeCandido had brought out from New York for Simon & Schuster some nice tasteful table

signs announcing "For Us, the Living" when I arrived at the fan table. We were able to use both at the fan table and later at the dinner. By the time I got to the fan table with the sign and flyers, etc., I was happy to see that Sam, Mike, Peter and the rest who had helped out were doing great on selling tickets to the dinner, and beginning to feel a little relieved about finances — for we needed to sell about thirty dinner reservations more than we had sold before leaving for Toronto just to break even. Sam, who is now appointed membership recruitment committee chair, also reported a large amount of new membership applications. Alan and Jane arrived with the Canadian cash during the noon hour; and we left a note on the fan table and all left for our 1 p.m. corporate meeting in the Royal York Fairmount.

We held the Annual Corporate General Membership Meeting on time, with 18 members, and three directors, Alan Milner, Charles N. Brown, the publisher of *Locus*, and myself physically and one, Dr. Yoji Kondo, present by power of attorney to me, and one non-member visitor.

Joe Haldeman, who had been scheduled by Torcon for a panel and a luncheon that conflicted before he had been elected as a director, had expressed his deep regrets at not being able to attend this, his first general meeting; and I expressed his regrets to those present.

Bill Patterson had gotten hung up in a transportation glitch, so I expressed his apologies for missing Torcon as well, and I presided as pro tempore chair at the meeting.

The Minutes were approved as read. My Secretary Treasurer's Financial Report was given and commented upon. We conducted our annual Election of Directors

for those positions for which the 3-year terms were expiring. Charles N. Brown was unanimously reelected to a three year term. I surrendered the gavel to Mr. Milner, and while he presided I was reelected to another three year term as well. Both Mr. Milner, before he surrendered the gavel, and I introduced and commended all those Committee Chairs who were present, including Mike Sheffield, who has done a wonderful job overseeing and organizing more than ten convention blood drives this year, Peter Scott, who equally has worked hard to develop plans for the 2007 Centennial celebration, Geo Rule, whose efforts to organize the academic committee are laudable, Keith Kato, who has saved us much time in arranging for social activities, and Jane Silver, whose membership services efforts have been especially fruitful, as demonstrated by the much improved dues payments situation once she took over the job.

We also introduced, thanked and commended Dr. Amy Baxter, Ginny Heinlein's "adopted" granddaughter, who was present with her husband, Dr. Louis Calderon, also both members of the Society, and who did so much to ease Ginny's last illness. After thanking those present, I adjourned the meeting and we made the trek back to the Convention Center for our next panel, "Heinlein 101: All You Ever Wanted to Know About Heinlein But Were Afraid to Ask."

Robert "Doc" James was all ready to go when we arrived, passing out the prepared outlines he had made for the audience which was already filling up the room. Our panel, very lively and well-presented, was once again given to a standing room only crowd, just as it had been at

Continued on page 16

TORCON3

from page 15

ConJosé. Dr. Brad Lyau and Deb Houdek Rule joined Robert and me for the panel, and everyone did their usual splendid job, while I moderated and tried to stay out of trouble. Once it was finished, some of us left immediately to our hotels to get ready for the dinner, while Deb, Robert and Kitten Trumpski-Roberts ably filled in on a "Heinlein and Sex" panel that some of us had to miss since it was set just one hour before the Awards Dinner.

Back at the hotel, Peter, Jane, and Sam got the dinner reservations list straightened out, and final place cards printed up; and we finished dressing and left for the restaurant. I was greatly relieved to find we'd hit close to our break-even point for the dinner, with 93 paid guests, and two additional "comps," giving us a total of 95 official guests for the dinner.

Arriving at the restaurant at 5:30 p.m. there was the usual mad dash to get everything in place: Peter Scott got the AV tech squared away, Sam and Jane and everyone else cooperated in getting the place settings down, Deb and Geo, assisted ably by Jake Keaton, set up the cameras to tape the event, while Alan Milner acted as my substitute host, keeping things going, while I paid off the restaurant and the service from which we'd rented the AV equipment and set up.

Guests did arrive indeed at "6 p.m. sharp!" and we let them take their seats while cocktails were served. It was a well-dressed, wonderful-looking crowd, and everyone seemed very excited and pleased to be there.

During the cocktail hour, Teresa Redmond arrived, beautiful as she always does — hair styled like Friday Baldwin and ready to help our blood drive the next day, and



Manning the table: Member Kate Gladstone with husband Andrew Haber help out at fan table at Torcon3. They discussed the Heinlein Society with con-goers and helped sign up new members.

promptly sat in my lap at the head table, and while the cameras clicked and flashed, provided ample evidence for my wife Andrea to keep things warm for me at home for the next several months, by hugging me and planting a nice big kiss right on top of my bald spot. Thanks, Pixel! Andrea appreciated the photos my dear sister took. She said you looked beautiful, of course. Further, deponent sayeth naught.

Dinner began without a hitch with all guests including all the head table seated and served in plenty of time. After the entree was consumed and while coffee and dessert was being served I began the program by introducing the head table: Alan Milner, our director and fundraising chair, and Simone DiMatteo, his lovely guest for that evening. Alan deserved a special commendation

Continued on page 17

TORCON3

from page 16

for attending – he underwent surgery only three weeks ago, and two lobes of his left lung were removed, so he was under considerable “discomfort” as the medicos call it; but Simone, a wonderful lady, deserved even more commendation for making his attendance possible. Next I introduced Larry and Marilyn Niven. Larry is one of the Award judges, and so well known as an author to require no further introduction. Then came Art Dula, the Heinlein Prize Trustee and successor literary executor. Art’s

beautiful wife, Tamea, could not arrive in time for dinner, so we had seated Lt. Col. Sam Kramer, resplendent in his mess blues, whose devoted efforts at selling all the dinner tickets at our table merited his inclusion at the head table, next to Art. I next introduced Jeanne and Spider Robinson. Spider, a very well known author, is an Awards judge, but also was the Toastmaster Guest of Honor at Torcon3 and one special attraction of the dinner was the opportunity to see Spider actually wearing a tuxedo! He looked glorious! Black tie was optional. Dr. Kondo, whose daughter had been called up and is in Afghanistan, could

not attend, but had suggested black tie for the head table. It added tremendously to the tone of the affair. Next year be ready. See if it still fits. I suspect there will be even more guests wearing it, or the equivalent, in Boston. What was it they said about Robert Heinlein, ladies and gentlemen, that he’d even dress for dinner in the jungle?

I then introduced my sister, Jane Silver, who was lovely in her formal, and who lost the bet with my wife on who would be my keeper this World Con; and then on to introduce Gay and Joe Haldeman, who like Larry and

Continued on page 18



Heinlein Awards: From left, Eleanor Wood (who jointly accepted for Mrs. Heinlein), recipient Michael Flynn, Awards Judge Spider Robinson, Amy Baxter (who accepted for Mrs. Heinlein), Awards Judges Joe Haldeman, Stanley Schmidt, and Larry Niven.

-- Photo by Geo Rule and Deb Houdek Rule.

TORCON3

from page 17

Pink Niven, need no further introduction to SF readers.

Joe is both an Award judge and our Society's newest director; I then introduced Stan and Joyce Schmidt. Stan, an editor, critic and well-known writer, is the fourth of the Award judges able to attend; and finally I introduced Charles N. Brown, our Society's founding director, and the lovely Jennifer Hall, Locus Magazine's new editor, now that Charles is "retired." Jenni had nicely arranged to have her camera ready during the ceremonies and took some photos of the event and presentation of the awards that we hope to see in Locus' next couple issues.

Once all the head table guests were introduced I asked them all to rise and the guests vigorously applauded them.

Spider Robinson began the awards ceremony with Joe Haldeman's able assistance. Spider and Joe awarded the first Heinlein Award to Virginia Heinlein, posthumously, for her years of devoted work to publish and restore the body of Robert's works, and her overall encouragement of man's quest to permanently achieve space flight and colonization.

Eleanor Wood and Dr. Amy Baxter jointly accepted the award for Ginny, and Amy gave a beautiful, heart warming speech about Ginny. Next, Larry Niven and Stan Schmidt awarded a second Heinlein Award to author Michael Flynn for the body of his work, which includes a fine four volume series on advancement into space in the tradition set by Robert Heinlein. Michael thanked the judges and us for the award, and expressed his pleasure to be at the dinner.

I'm happy to note that Michael

was one of the top three authors who we, the Society, suggested to the judges' panel after their invitation to us to do so given us back in May.

We next had an interlude, not originally scheduled, in which Fred Moulton, one of our first Heinlein Society members, on behalf of the Libertarian Futurist Society, awarded Robert Heinlein its 2003 Hall of Fame award for the story "Requiem." I was honored to accept that award on Robert's behalf. It is a beautiful plaque which I'll forward on to the UC Santa Cruz library to go with the Hugos and Nebula and all the other awards presented to Mr. Heinlein during his lifetime and beyond.

That makes two awards I've been honored to accept on behalf of Mr. Heinlein, this one for "Requiem" and the other, the retroactive Hugo for "The Man Who Sold the Moon," at MilPhilCon in 2001, so you might say I've accounted for Mr. Harriman's awards as well.

We then had the audio visual presentation. We again showed Ginny's copy of the broadcast of the interview by Walter Cronkite of Arthur C. Clarke and Robert Heinlein on the occasion of man's first small steps in July 1969, the moon landing, to the delight of the crowd. There followed, while the disks were being changed and cued up, an interlude in which first Mike Sheffield was introduced and recounted our past year's blood drive successes and urged all to attend the blood drive scheduled for the next day. Alan Milner then discussed fund raising and made an appeal to the audience to participate that evening in donating funds to further the Society's good works, which he started with a check of his own of \$1,000, and then Alan introduced Art Dula to speak briefly on the Heinlein Prize Trust which Ginny set up before her

death and to which appointed him a trustee.

Art followed up on Alan's appeal for funds and promised that the Prize Trust would match any funds raised during Torcon by The Heinlein Society. A note: we raised a total of \$3,400 during Torcon; and the Prize Trust has matched that amount. The Trust's offer stands until the end of the year, for the balance of \$15,000.00.

If you, as many do, make your charitable contributions before the first of the next year, please remember our good works and plans for next year could use your support.

Our AV Presentation then concluded with Ginny receiving Robert's posthumous DPSM at NASA, in 1988 shortly after Robert's death; and with her reading of "This I Believe" on that occasion. Maybe there was a dry eye in the house after that: I wouldn't know. I got a little distracted for a moment.

We ended the dinner with thanks to all who attended and those who could not, but would have attended if they could: Dr. Yoji Kondo, Greg Bear, Elizabeth Moon, Jerry Pournelle, and John Hill and Herb Gilliland, the other award judges; and to the late Dr. Charles Sheffield, who had been an award judge.

Many of us then retired to the Heinlein Society suite at the Grand Hotel and decompressed. I am gratified to report everyone was abed, trying to if not sleeping, by at least 4 AM.

The following day, we conducted our Robert Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive.

Officially, 74 of nearly 100 presentees gave blood. Once again, despite our efforts to convince them of the potential, the Blood service grossly underestimated the capacity of a

Continued on page 19

TORCON3

from page 18

properly advertised Con blood drive — there were three- and four- hour delays from signups to donations — and despite this, donors showed up as they were closing and they had to go past the scheduled time by ninety minutes to finish all who got in under the wire. Next year they'll know better; and we plan to have an organized group of local members ready to help them.

While this went on, just next door, in fact, at 2 p.m. we held our "Heinlein: Stranger than Stranger, Four Decades After the Hugo" panel, once again, to a packed room. Well over 120 people were present. With Dr. James moderating, Brad Lyau, Geo Rule, Deb Houdek, Fran Van Cleave, and Joe Major all presented a variety of views. Mike and I were interviewed by a television crew for a local station about Mr. Heinlein, his goals in organizing blood drives, and the society's goals in continuing the tradition by paying it forward. Funny thing, later that afternoon, while I checked by the fan table, another television crew was interviewing Sam Kramer about the Society, its goals and activities, and of course about Mr. Heinlein.

Later that afternoon, we presented, in a room four times the size of the ordinary panel room (between 400 and 500 seats), absolutely packed, the "Heinlein: Lost, Strayed, Misplaced, and Found Again" panel, which was, of course, mostly about the discovery and publication of *For Us, The Living*. We distributed the flyers Simon & Schuster had provided; and I'll cause a link put on the Society's website so you can download your own, in full color, to use as you wish. We ran out of flyers,

including those black-and-white copies we had printed knowing we were going to run out.

It was a wonderful panel, the most successful we've had. Spider Robinson, Eleanor Wood, Art Dula, and Robert James participated along with your humble obedient servant who mostly stayed out of trouble, again. Art Dula surprised me at the end of the panel, when he asked to say a final word: He told the audience that if it was grateful for this last bit of Robert Heinlein's work being published, a way to pay back that gratitude was to join the Society, through whose members' efforts the manuscript was recovered.

We continued the next two days with two more panels: "Heinlein's Take on Law and Lawyers: The Year We Hanged All the Lawyers," on Sunday and "Heinlein's Juveniles: Just Plain Kids, Superkids, or Sociopathic Monsters" on Monday, once again (I'm getting as tired of typing it as you are of reading it) to fully packed rooms.

L.N. Collier almost made it this time for the lawyers panel to join Art Dula, Sam Kramer and me; he got as far as the plane change at Chicago, when he received a telephone call notifying him that his younger son had been in an accident; and he had of course to return home to see that all was well. Fortunately, L.N. reports the boy is now okay, doing well; and he regrets missing the panel. We all shared his fatherly concern about his son's accident and are glad of the certain recovery to full health. The photos that L.N. web-posted of the Butler original Heinlein home, which was restored last year, include photos of both L.N.'s younger son and his daughter; and he reports they are wonderful children; they look bright as their father is, and as talented.

So Art, Sam and I killed all the lawyers to the best of our ability, without his help. Sam, now retired from the Army, is a Deputy Public Defender in his second real life. Next year, for Boston, I'm going to schedule a layover through Kansas City and handcuff L.N. into a chair next to me. I'll have him properly sedated and smiling when we arrive at NorEasCon to kill the lawyers one more time! Maybe we'll both need a keeper to accompany us to ensure we arrive: Oz, are you reading this?

We were joined by David-Glenn Anderson, Fran Van Cleave, and Joe Major for the Juveniles panel. David-Glenn is the manager of the Reading For the Future list Greg Bear, Greg Benford and David Brin created a few years back to encourage the use of SF in teaching, and teaches himself in Utah. All our panelists were a great help on that panel.

And, oh, yes, we held more than merely a bit of a fairly successful membership drive at Torcon. We now have FIFTY-THREE more members than we had before we left for Torcon: unquestionably the most successful drive we have ever had at a SF convention; and we're still receiving sign-ups that are attributable to the good work we all did in Toronto.

We have a brand-new designed website thanks to Deb Rule. For further information and photographs on Torcon3 events, I suggest you might visit it if you haven't lately. You'll be delighted how well executed the redesign is! See <http://www.heinleinsociety.org>

Everyone worked hard, and all mentioned above are especially commended for the hours of effort they've put in at Torcon. Success breeds success. Wait until next year!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

from page 24

recruitment program that two or three, or four or five, or ten members can use at any convention, any size, held anywhere to come back with one percent, or more, of attendees as new members recruited. We found these past two years that new members will join if our appeals include certain things: the crucially important support of blood drives, educational panels and approaches that are attractive and display that our programs have worthwhile goals and entertain the convention audience, and include enjoyable social contacts, new members will join. Expect the CD-ROM before the end of the year.

Also expect something else. You'll receive contact, by mail and e-mail, and likely, by telephone, from the Society — all designed to form local geographically-proximate groups. We've actually reached the point where conventions are contacting us, asking for our help to support and organize blood drives and panels. To do that we'll need your help, a little of your time and your willingness which we know we already have to help pay the debt forward. Expect to hear from us, again and again, this next year to enable you to do that.

Also, it's time now to expand our efforts from SF conventions to other areas where Robert Heinlein's influence lies. This month offers the springboard for that effort. When Ginny Heinlein died, a lot of people thought, and some outright asked: Where's the money going? The Heinleins had no children — unless we can claim to be "Heinlein's children" — nor close relatives. This answer formally comes tomorrow, Monday, September 29th, as I write this. The Heinlein Prize Trust was established by Ginny well before her death to use the wealth that

Robert's writings and Ginny's conservation generated to Pay the Debt Forward. It will award a Prize, currently set at half a million dollars, annually, to individuals who achieve practical accomplishments in the field of commercial space activities. It is intended to be worldwide in scope. It will be formally announced tomorrow, September 29, at the 54th International Aeronautical Congress underway in Bremen, Germany.

That means there will be renewed interest in the activities of Robert Heinlein in aeronautical professions and industries. His writings inspired many of those active in those professions and activities. This month, we begin an aerospace recruitment program to attend aerospace science meetings and seminars and explain our goals to candidates for membership in those fields.

If you're interested in helping, please drop me a note, by e-mail or postal mail. Use "agplusone@heinleinsociety.org," and I'll pass on your offer to help this new critical effort to our new membership subcommittee formed to start up efforts in that area.

And Thanks:

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone, board members, committee chairs, and all our members, old and new, for all their efforts these past three years; and to thank especially Bill Patterson for his inspiration in forming the Society from the beginning and passing on to all of us a vital growing charitable organization to Pay Our Debt Forward.

And to thank Ginny, always Ginny.

Here's to our past, and here's to next year!

David M. Silver

*President and Chairman of the Board
"The Lieutenant expects **your** names to shine!"*

PATTERSON

from page 2

be revised to take newly discovered research material into account. By this time, I was working on the biography essentially full-time, and I had come to the point where, to take on any new task meant that some older commitment had to be jettisoned. When it became clear that Ginny's health had become dangerously unstable, I accelerated the writing and finished 180,000 words, just after the start of her final hospitalization. I got him up to the end of his failed 1938 political campaign. Things had to stop there, while I moved back to civilization, to look for work.

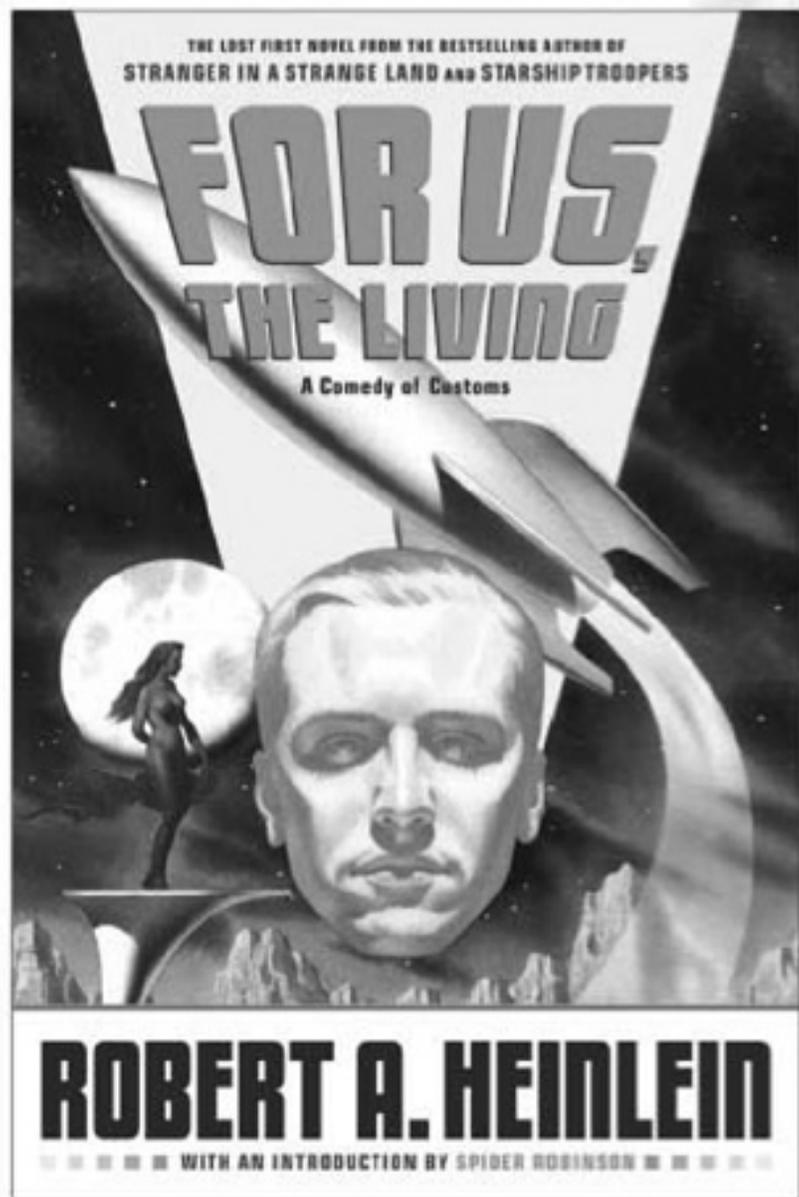
Ginny's death, sad thing that it was, re-created my original research-versus-writing problem, since about as much new material came to the Archives as was

already there, and much of it important to the biography. It was there, for example, that I found almost all the factual material that let me write the next chapter, about the creation of Heinlein's Opus 1, the soon-to-be-published For Us, the Living. Years earlier, I had been scheduled to see this material, but Ginny's health had begun to fail and forced cancellation of my twice-yearly trips to Florida.

Between the important and time-consuming organization and design tasks I am performing for the Archive as this year's Heinlein Scholar and the now again ongoing writing of the biography, I am no longer able to serve effectively as the Society's Chair. I am relieved to be able to turn it over to David and not have to worry about the health and continued existence of the Society. It is in good hands because it is in the hands of its members.

Share water: Pay it forward.

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Fan outreach:
Heinlein Society members Sam Kramer (membership outreach subcommittee chair) and Peter Scott (centennial committee chair) at fan table explaining purposes of the Society and the benefits of its membership to Torcon3 attendees. The Society signed up more than 50 news members at TorCon.



Mrs. Heinlein, Michael Flynn are 1st Heinlein Award winners

On August 29, 2003, in Toronto, Canada, site of the 53rd World Science Fiction Convention, the Heinlein Society presented the first Heinlein Awards. The first award was presented posthumously to Virginia "Ginny" Gerstenfeld Heinlein in recognition of her enormous contributions to the science fiction field. Not only did she collaborate with her husband Robert Heinlein in the idea creation phase of his books, she was a technical consultant for many of the scientific aspects integral to his novels. For example, the horticultural and terraforming information in "Farmer in the Sky" came from Ginny Heinlein-- she was both a chemist and a well-qualified horticulturalist. Ginny Heinlein also contributed, and will continue to do so long after her passing, to the advancement of the endeavor to put humans in space. As well as making a multi-million dollar contribution to the Naval Academy for the Heinlein Chair, she managed the largest literary estate, leaving behind yet more millions to be used to promote

Top left: A close-up of the actual medal given Heinlein Award winners.

Top right: Science fiction author Michael Flynn with his Heinlein Award certificate.

Bottom right: The certificate honoring Virginia Heinlein for her invaluable role in helping her husband create his volume of work.

our space-faring future. To those who knew her personally, she is universally regarded as having been a grand lady and well deserving of this award.

The next Heinlein Award presented was the award for outstanding published work in hard science fiction or technical writings inspiring the human exploration of space. This award was given to author Michael Flynn by a panel of judges including many of the leading writers in the field. The judges were Greg Bear, Joe Haldeman, Yoji Kondo, Elizabeth Moon, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Spider Robinson, Stanley Schmidt, Herb Gilliland, and John Hill.

Michael Flynn's books are available at Amazon.com.

Michael Flynn's works include: Fallen Angels, Firestar, In the Country of the Blind, The Nanotech Chronicles, Rogue Star, Lodestar, Falling Stars, and The Wreck of the River of Stars.

-- Article and photos from The Heinlein Society Website: <http://heinleinsociety.org>



Chairman's report

'Everyone's doing fine ... I don't plan to make any big changes, but I have a few small things...'

By DAVID SILVER

They taught me, one hot, muggy summer forty years ago at Ft. Benning, down in Georgia, a place where they try, without spoiling them, to turn perfectly good soldiers into "ninety-day wonders," that the first thing you tell the unfortunates you'll be ordered to lead if you ever manage to survive and receive a gold bar, is this: "I've only been around a short time, but I can see everyone's doing a fine job, and I'm honored to be assigned to lead you. I'll try to do as well as the man I am replacing. I don't plan any immediate or big changes. Just keep doing the same fine job and, from time-to-time, I'll have a few small things I might want to see done, after I talk them over with the NCOs ..."

It worked then; probably it'll work again, so here it comes:

Torcon3: An Analysis of Achievement:

I am going to refer quite a bit in this column about The Heinlein Society's achievements at this year's World SF Con, Torcon3, because they demonstrate the accomplishment of the vital goals we set for ourselves in attending SF conventions, since our efforts first began with Philadelphia in August 2001, a little more than two years ago.

The important point to remember is this: Due to dedicated efforts by many Heinlein Society members, those who attended and those who didn't, we went into Torcon3 with 192 registered members and came out with 245 — an increase in more than 25 percent. It is the largest single bump in membership we've ever had in such a short period of time!

Our goal has always been to increase membership enough to Pay the Debt we owe Forward to new generations of Robert Heinlein's readers — and to all of each of our societies. Only by recruiting new members — and with other efforts including fundraising — we can spread our influence



David Silver was elected president of The Heinlein Society after the Society's meeting held in conjunction with Torcon3 in September.

sufficiently to do the things we decided were necessary when we formed and joined this Society.

What was done for membership recruitment at Toronto, Canada, can realistically be done at any and every other convention — science fiction, fantasy or related — that our members can attend.

Torcon3 reported 3,645 members attended the five-day event. Our 53 new members is less than two percent of that. But there are eighty-one SF and related conventions named in Locus Magazine's on-line partial listing for next year. They take place all over the world. Some are smaller, some few are larger; most are probably in the 1,000-attendee range.

See, <http://www.locusmag.com/Conventions.html>

If we could recruit just one percent of the people who attend those conventions next year, our membership would increase five-fold. We should.

We could. How?

In the past two issues of this quarterly newsletter we've emphasized attendance at SF cons to increase membership, support our blood drive programs, and to form a base for future fundraising and other efforts. We've learned a few good lessons — that work for us — to increase our membership and help pay the debt forward. Every SF-related convention is different, sometimes quite different; and the major thing to remember is to maintain the flexibility necessary to achieve our goals. A lot of lead time to and patience working with volunteer convention staff also helps.

A Few New Things to Expect:

Between now and the end of this year we are finally going to put together in CD-ROM form the "membership kit" we've been promising from our website for more than a year. It'll contain what each of us need to know to organize an effective

Continued on page 20