

TORCON3

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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

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