

TORCON3

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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

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