Connie Willis was elected to The Heinlein Society board at the October meeting. Connie Willis is the award winning author of *Doomsday Book*, *Passage*, *To Say Nothing of the Dog* and *Bellwether*. Connie has been awarded 10 Hugo Awards, 11 Locus Poll Awards and 6 Nebula Awards. The first half of her newest novel, *Blackout*, was published in February 2010 with the second half, *All Clear*, being published in October, 2010.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER**

**Connie Willis** was elected to The Heinlein Society board at the October meeting. Connie Willis is the award winning author of *Doomsday Book*, *Passage*, *To Say Nothing of the Dog* and *Bellwether*. Connie has been awarded 10 Hugo Awards, 11 Locus...
In 2005, in partnership with Cascadia Con, Science Fiction Museum, and Reading for the Future, the Heinlein Society produced an “Education CD” of materials for educators interested in using Science Fiction to teach their students. The materials involved cover a variety of age groups, and include a significant amount of material specific to the works of Robert A. Heinlein, not least of which is the complete text to three Heinlein shorts provided courtesy of The Heinlein Prize Trust. Leading SF educators like Julie Czernada, C. W. Sullivan III, and Robert James are represented.

In the years since it was first produced, the Heinlein Society has distributed this CD free of charge to any and every qualified educator or librarian who has requested one. Though we have never had the funds to engage in large scale advertising to educators about this offer, we have distributed several hundred of these CDs, often with positive feedback. Fulfilling these requests is an ongoing part of our furthering of the legacy of Robert A. Heinlein and the power of Science Fiction in general. Within weeks of writing this report, we provided 35 copies of the CD in support of the SF educator’s conference held in conjunction with Brigham Young University’s “Life, The Universe and Everything” symposium on speculative fiction. Individual educators contact us regularly, as well.

We are now getting close to issuing a revised “Version 2.0” of the Society’s “Educator’s CD”, with all the material of the original, and several exciting new contributions.

The famed “Killer B’s” (Gregory Benford, David Brin, and Greg Bear) who have done so much to lead efforts in SF education, have all three agreed to provide one of their stories for inclusion on the CD. We also intend that Robert James, PhD, will provide a lesson plan for each of these stories. Brin, Bear, and Benford all have our thanks for this generous contribution.

C. W. Sullivan III has provided his “Space Opera vs The Right Stuff” about Heinlein refusing to “write down” to a juvenile audience.

C. Herbert Gilliland, professor of English at the US Naval Academy, has contributed his experiences in teaching Heinlein to college age students.

Robert James is back again, and the Lesson Plans for the “Heinlein juveniles” are now complete, and will include Lesson Plans for both Starship Troopers and Podkayne of Mars in addition to the traditional list of Heinlein works published by Scribner’s. Also included new for v2 of the CD are Lesson Plans for the three short stories already on the original version – The Menace From Earth, Black Pits of Luna, and Tenderfoot in Space. Here again, The Heinlein Prize Trust played a key facilitating role in making possible the creation of these lesson plans.

We are currently in discussion with Reading for the Future about the possibility of cooperating with them to distribute v2 of the CD at Renovation in Reno later this summer.

To see what is on the Educator’s CD, visit the Society’s webpage and click on the Education link.
PAY IT FORWARD

BLOOD DRIVES

Blood Drive Report:

There is an upcoming blood drive at Wondercon in San Francisco, Friday, April 1st, 2011, WonderCon Convention West Mezzanine Rooms 270/272. See our website at heinleinsociety.org/blooddrives for more upcoming donation opportunities.

Bakuretsucon (Colchester, VT Oct. 21-24) blood drive results: 20 donors, 16 usable units. The Red Cross goal was 21 units, but this was close enough to make them want to come back again next year.

The Society sent blood drive pins and cards to Pete McCartney, from Calgary, who is doing his 5th annual "Bash of Blood". He gets other local fans to donate and throws them a mini-con with gaming, snacks and non-alcoholic drinks. He found out about us when he was at Gen Con in 2007. We also put him in touch with Steve Coates, a TSH member from Calgary who is organizing a blood drive at the Calgary Comics & Entertainment Expo in June. Some real go-getters up there!

The Society was contacted by DunDraCon (San Ramon, CA, Feb. 18-21), which had its 2nd annual blood drive.

We’re running low on pins, etc. Hopefully we will have sufficient funds soon with member renewals to be able to place a large pin order. We get the best prices with larger orders. Ribbons and cards are a bit less expensive, and get good price breaks at smaller quantities.

How You Can Pay It Forward

New Heinlein Society member, John R. Bean, is buying copies of "Farmer in the Sky" to donate to his local scout troop. This is a great idea for helping to inspire the leadership of tomorrow. "Farmer in the Sky" takes Scouting to the moons of Jupiter. Look at the themes of the other Heinlein juveniles and see which match your local clubs areas of interest and donate copies. A math or computer club might find the use of binary computers in "Starman Jones" fascinating. A model rocketry group may be inspired by "Rocketship Galileo." Paperback copies of Heinlein’s novels are not very expensive, and when bought from Amazon.com via a link on the Heinlein Society’s website give a small commission back to the Heinlein Society.

Over 10,000 units of blood have been donated through Heinlein Society Blood Drives!

“Someday you’ll find somebody who needs a hand. So give him a hand and think of us.”

“...I’ll do it and think about you, not once but more than once.”

“That’s best. Bread cast upon the waters always comes back...”

Friday

by Robert A. Heinlein

Offer your support to Heinlein’s hometown library in Butler, Missouri, home of the Heinlein Reading Room.

Visit their website at: butlerpubliclibrary.org

Page 3
The position of Archivist is new within the Heinlein Society. Its responsibilities include the care of, and looking toward the future of, various Heinlein artifacts and property the Heinlein Society owns. Among the more interesting items left to the Heinlein Society by Virginia Heinlein is Robert Heinlein’s second best bed. Position of Archivist is filled by Michael Cassutt. On Saturday, Feb. 12, Mike Sheffield, Keith Kato, Bill Patterson and I, along with instigator Gregory Benford, were treated to lunch by the University of California, Riverside, in the person of university librarian Ruth Jackson and special collections head Melissa Conway. UCR professor emeritus George Slusser and wife Dany were also present. The Eaton Collection is likely a happy home for RAH materials that are not part of the UCSC archive. Further, Slusser has proposed that UCR and Eaton become a Center for Heinlein Studies, a notion that seemed to intrigue Jackson and Conway. Frankly, I think all of us found the idea fascinating and attractive.

On a related note, I was in touch with the SF Museum in Seattle during a visit there in January, and not only is there no chance for an RAH exhibit this summer (perhaps to commemorate the 50th anniversary of STRANGER), but no chance for any new author-related presentations: the museum's space is going to be taken up with an AVATAR exhibit for the next couple of years while most of the SF prose exhibits go on tour.

Kelly Freas painting of Lt. Uhura.

The photograph is of the painting on the wall at the Heinlein’s Bonny Doon home.
Most of Heinlein's literary works are part of The Heinlein Prize Trust represented by agent Eleanor Wood of Spectrum Literary Agency. Ms. Wood provided us this publishing update:

Spectrum has now put three titles up via our platform on Amazon and Nook, and they're up on i-Pad:

TUNNEL IN THE SKY
ORPHANS OF THE SKY
THE NOTEBOOKS OF LAZARUS LONG

All fans with either Kindles, Nooks or i-Pads are urged to check these out.

We plan to digitize and convert HAVE SPACESUIT - WILL TRAVEL and will have that up on these platforms as soon as possible.

Via a nonexclusive deal, Baen Books is also selling e-rights on its site to HAVE SPACESUIT - WILL TRAVEL.

The Heinlein Society has no special connection nor influence in what is published related to Robert A. Heinlein and his works.

For all copyright and publication queries contact:

Eleanor Wood
Spectrum Literary Agency
320 Central Park West, Suite 1-D
New York, NY 10025
fax: 212-362-4562
The Heinlein Prize Trust represents a significant portion of the estate left by Robert and Virginia Heinlein including many of their literary properties. In addition to investments the Trust has the income from most of the Heinlein copyrights. This comprises book rights for most of the books that are still in print all over the world, audio rights and movie and television options and production. Your purchases of Heinlein’s works, in any form, directly benefit the future Robert and Ginny Heinlein dreamed of by supporting the endeavors of The Heinlein Prize Trust.

The Heinlein Prize Trust works on educational efforts aimed to forwarding a human presence in space. Among the recent endeavors is the very successful “Have Spacesuit—Will Travel” program in which students have the opportunity to examine, and even wear a real spacesuit.

The traveling spacesuit is a genuine Sokol spacesuit, made available to schools participating in the “Have Spacesuit—Will Travel” educational program sponsored by The Heinlein Prize Trust, World Space Week, Astronaut Leroy Chiao, Ph.D., and led by former astronaut Dr. Don Thomas, who accompanied the spacesuit to the classes. As well as seeing the spacesuit, several students at each school actually got to wear it, assisted by astronaut Don Thomas who served on four missions aboard the Columbia and Discovery space shuttles between 1994 and 1997.

The Heinlein Prize Trust also sponsored the Heinlein Society’s very successful educational program, the Educators CD. With lesson plans based on Heinlein’s stories. The lesson plans are authored by Heinlein scholar Robert James, Ph.D., who has taught these novels in his own classrooms. New lesson plans now available are for Between Planets, Podkayne of Mars, The Star Beast, Starship Troopers, and Time For the Stars.

The winners of the Asian Flying Into the Future – Space Exploration Innovation Contest were announced on July 7, 2010 at the Chinese Academy of Governance. The awards ceremony was the culmination of two years of planning, coordination, and evaluation of the entrants. As well as cash awards, the winners were also presented with copies of Robert A. Heinlein’s books Have Spacesuit—Will Travel and Tunnel in the Sky.

October 2010, Lesson plans for Have Spacesuit—Will Travel were distributed to Czech Republic teachers at the 61st International Astronautical Congress in Prague, Czech Republic.

Robert A. Heinlein, 1972

We are at a cusp, a decision point. We can decide to go one way, to the stars, and enjoy unlimited opportunities, unimagined possibilities, endless evolution, and eternal racial life. Or we can refuse the challenge, stay where we are—and die.

Art Dula, Trustee,
The Heinlein Prize Trust
www.heinleinprize.com
“At Long Last…”

Let me be honest: there is really no way that I can be objective about this book. First of all, this is an unprecedented biography in the science fiction field; nobody has ever really produced anything like its devotion and depth of a Golden Age of Science Fiction writer. Wells and Burroughs, yes; Clarke and Bradbury have had largely failed attempts, which stopped at single volumes. Other writers have had reasonable biographies written of them, including Alice Sheldon and Anne McCaffrey in recent years, but those remain preliminary coughs (the Tiptree biography is good, but feels incomplete to me, and to at least one major SF writer, who complained that the author hadn’t even bothered to talk to the CIA about Sheldon’s employment there). The new H. Beam Piper and C.M. Kornbluth biographies are worth reading, but marked by amateurism and unanswered questions.

I exclude Asimov’s extensive autobiography from comparison, but then, the man never did stop talking about himself, with charm and joy.

There were very few secrets kept behind the public stage, and those have been revealed since his death in various places.

But Robert Heinlein deliberately hid his private life from his public, and then bedazzled us for decades with his fiction, an enchantment that remains, one assumes, for those reading these words.

We have always wanted to know the facts.

Which leads me to my second reason why I can’t be objective: I know too much. Having been involved in the research, both tangentially and deeply, I know how much has made it in, and what was left out, and why. Whatever I might have to say about the book is going to be tempered by my firsthand knowledge of the decade of work that went into its writing, rewriting, editing, and presentation to the public. I was a reader of the original manuscript, an early critic of its faults and omissions, a sometimes thorn in the author’s side for more than one issue.

And there’s the third reason: the author is one of my best friends, my co-writer, my editor, my constant correspondent, occasional passenger and dinner guest (not usually at the same time), and I have nothing but the deepest respect and camaraderie for him, both personally and professionally.

So, that said, let me make a desperate attempt to be objective, and to somehow avoid the accusation of writing a puff piece.

Let’s start with this: this should have been me...
writing this book. Bill got to Ginny Heinlein a handful of weeks before I did, and I shall never forgive him for being smarter, faster, and more prescient than I in somehow tricking Ginny into asking him to write the book. The bastard is just slippery that way. I've had to get used to it over the years. You will too.

Ah well. I grit my teeth, and I say this: it's a far better book than I would have written, and done far sooner than I could have done it. Bill has devoted his life to this project, while I had to go off and procreate. Twice. Diapers and homework and my refusal to ignore my children would have doomed me.

But that title....Oh. My. God. Love that “Learning Curve”, but the rest? Bill clung to that title, in all its glorious awkwardness and utility, as a means of connecting with readers down through the years who would not know who Heinlein was if they didn't see him talking with his century. Bill is stubborn that way; once he has his teeth on the bit, he won't let go until the ride is completed. Bill, you won the battle of the title; I will just have to content myself with saddling you with long and cumbersome titles on every article I write for you in petty revenge.

And if the biography has another flaw, it is an almost complete lack of critical analysis. Bill himself has agonized over that, and it has been a complaint from several reviewers. But had he included the critical analysis of the works, we'd be in 1941 at the end of volume 1, and looking forward to three more volumes, instead of just one. This is a measure of how important Heinlein's job, as he conceived it, was to keep before us those perennial values, those essentially American values that belong even more to the world and to the future. Robert A. Heinlein was our bridge to the future, no less now, twenty years after his death, than during his life, begun so very long ago.

There are minor nitpicks to be made, and Bill has been mortified by how many silly small errors crept in over the years. He has posted a list of them on his author's website, and a discussion of them can be found on the Nexus Forum on the Heinlein Society website. None of them are major, and only a small handful concern Heinlein himself. One of the great strengths of the biography – and something Bill worked on extensively in the editing process – is its intensely convincing rooting in the documentary evidence. Whatever speculation remains in the book is minimal, and duly noted in the endnotes, which are copious and well-worth reading in and of themselves.

The book reminds me of no other work so much as Carlos Baker's famous biography of Ernest Hemingway. For decades, it was the single inescapable biography. I suspect this biography will gain the same status as well, even as a wealth of new information is revealed as a result of its publication. I recall years ago hearing Ella Fitzgerald's biographer complain on NPR that the problem with biography is that all the good stuff comes out after the book is published, as people come forward with new information and evidence both anecdotal and otherwise. Bill has already been contacted by those who witnessed some of the events in this book, and still survive – unbeknownst to him, or anybody else involved in Heinlein research. A revised edition is unlikely, but already seems necessary, given the wealth of new data. Note to Bill: I would also love to see a greater sense of context, particularly of the early days, of the Progressivism of his childhood, and the culture...and how much Bill has to say about the subject. (Stay tuned; Bill and I are writing a critical analysis of the Heinlein canon as our next joint project...I intend to title it myself...).
of Missouri and Kansas City and Los Angeles, in the revised edition.

Without delving into the summary that seems to be the mainstay of reviewers of this book – why is it so few of them seem to be able to say anything other than telling readers the plot, or making inane comments that seem to reveal their own failed reading skills? – I would say that this biography is very capable, readable, and compelling. I found myself engrossed in reading the uncorrected proofs (indeed, I stole the author’s copy to do so....), despite my repeated involvement from the earliest days of the manuscript. There is a clarity of presentation now, which was at times lacking in earlier drafts. Rewriting, as great writers know, is the heart of writing.

The Robert Heinlein that emerges from these pages is, indubitably, the one we expected. Only more so. His time at the academy, and serving with the Navy is particularly well-executed. The surprises of his first love, his first wife, and the marriage to Leslyn are all relatively complete, given the destruction of much of the evidence by Heinlein after the collapse of his private life after WWII. (time travelers, please make a note: break into Heinlein’s house when he is in Philadelphia during WWII, and make complete copies of all the correspondence, poetry and other paraphernalia stored in the room above the garage in the Laurel Canyon home.) The divorce from Leslyn, the courtship with Ginny, and the changes of the writing career are particular strengths. The pictures are revelatory.

In short, I cannot imagine a Heinlein fan who will be disappointed in the book, other than having to wait for volume 2, which is going to be difficult. Good news: the editing has already commenced, and should prove to be a shorter wait than the decades we endured for the first volume.

Now, pardon me. I’m going to go read it again. And plot my revenge on the man for getting to Ginny first. And for writing such a damn good book, thus making it highly unlikely anyone will ask me to write a new version for at least two decades. And for cooking better than me. And dressing better than me. And having more hair than me. And owning Heinlein’s hats. And...and....and. Oh, forget it. He’ll just foil my plots anyways.

He’s that good.

Dammit.
The 9th Annual General Membership Meeting of The Heinlein Society was conducted at Loscon 37 on November 27, 2010, in the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel’s Atlanta/Boston Room, as part of Loscon’s program. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 2:30 PM, Pacific Standard Time, but it should not surprise anyone who has ever attended a science fiction convention that “fannish time” is fashionably late.

President Michael Sheffield and wife Sharon occupied the Society’s fan table throughout the convention, offering literature, answering questions, providing candies, and running visual displays of items such as the Heinlein-Arthur C. Clarke-Walter Cronkite televised session during the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Meeting Proceedings:

At 2:37 PM, PST the Society’s President, Mike Sheffield, called the meeting to order. The roll of eligible voting members was taken by President Sheffield and Secretary-Treasurer Keith Kato, showing eight members present, including Directors, officers, and assigned proxies. The meeting was also witnessed by about five to ten interested non-members.

As required in the By Laws, President Sheffield stated that a timely notice of the meeting had been presented in the October, 2010 Society Newsletter. He inquired whether anyone had a proxy to present to the Secretary, with was no response. He stated the Society’s postal box was checked the morning of the meeting, 27 November 2010, and there were no proxies received.

As the number of members attending was expected to be small, no copies of the minutes of the preceding Annual Meeting, 8 August 2009, had been duplicated for distribution. President Sheffield offered to read the minutes, or entertain a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, since as a practical matter only he and Secretary-Treasurer Kato, among the attendees, had been at the 2009 meeting. It was requested that the minutes be read aloud, which President Sheffield did, after which he entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting. Bill Patterson, the official Heinlein biographer, first Society president, and now chairman of the Society’s Academic committee, noted a minor correction (applying the honorific of “Doctor” to Director Jerry Pournelle’s name in the minutes), and the 2009 Annual Meeting minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

President Sheffield and Secretary-Treasurer Kato next distributed the Income Statement reports for the Society’s fiscal year 1 September 2009-31 August 2010. The Balance Sheet and Income Statement constituted the Society’s financial report, and showed the Society’s working account to be $2,965.97 at the end of August. There were no questions from the membership, although Secretary-Treasurer Kato made the obvious general observation that the decline in membership had led to a precarious financial situation.

As a prelude to the next item of business, the election of Directors for the 2010-2013 term, the President gave a de facto State of the Society summary:

He informed the membership that the Board had filled the vacancy due to the death of Charles Brown with Deb Houdek Rule (term expiring 2012), the vacancy due to the resignation of David Silver with Michael Cassutt (term expiring 2012), and the vacancy due to the resignation of Jane Silver with
Connie Willis (term expiring 2010).

He discussed the Society’s on-going and new campaigns for higher visibility and outreach at future science fiction conventions. Secretary-Treasurer Kato also added the Society was considering other avenues of outreach, such as the Heinlein constituencies of the space community and libertarian groups.

He discussed the acquisition of the Heinlein “realia” (Freas painting of Nichelle Nichols as Lt. Uhura, Ludekens “Green Hills of Earth,” Bonestell moonscape, Whelan print, custom bed frame, books), on-going efforts to have the art appraised by Mark Corrinet for insurance and display purposes, and the appointment of Michael Cassutt as Society Archivist with the intent of finding permanent homes for these items.

Bill Patterson contributed some background information on how these items had come into the possession of the Society.

He mentioned the Pirates Treasurer books and James Gifford’s The Martian Named Smith book that are available to the Society for fundraising.

And finally, he mentioned the recent efforts to restore the Society’s tax-exempt status in the state of Texas and at the Federal level, which had been lost in April, 2004.

At this point, it was moved by Bill Patterson that the membership commend the efforts of President Sheffield for his extraordinary work on restoring the Society’s tax-exempt status in such a short time. The motion passed unanimously, although Mike Sheffield abstained.

At this juncture, President Sheffield announced that the three incumbent Directors, Geo Rule, Joe Haldeman, and Connie Willis, had all been contacted and stated their willingness to stand for office again. Each of the three incumbent Directors was nominated without opposition, and after a motion was made and unanimously passed to vote the three Director seats as a single slate rather than three separate votes, the membership unanimously voted Geo Rule, Joe Haldeman, and Connie Willis for another term in office, which runs from 2010-2013.

The President noted that the Boston/Atlanta room had a programming item imminently scheduled, so he asked if there was any discussion for the Good of the Society:

On the matter of Society fund-raising, member Terry Brussel suggested a program at future Annual Meetings to inform attending members beforehand to bring and donate old cell phones, which could be used to generate income.

Although not a member, noted Heinlein scholar Dr. Robert James reported he had been commissioned by the Heinlein Prize Trust to create new lesson plans for all the Heinlein juveniles.

Following Robert Heinlein’s dictum that a motion to adjourn is always in order, a motion to adjourn was passed unanimously, and the meeting formally ended at 3:30 PM. Unofficially, Mike Sheffield announced that a cake celebrating the Society’s 10th year, would be served at the Society’s fan table. Also unofficially, the number of Loscon attendees who were served greatly exceeded the number of persons who attended the Annual Meeting.

The Heinlein Society is full of people who really believe, and really understand what he is trying to accomplish philosophically. They are a serious-minded group of individuals out to change the world for the better.

Virginia Heinlein

The 2011 Worldcon, Renovation, will be held in Reno, Nevada, from 17-21 August 2011. Further information on membership, hotel reservations, and convention activities can be found at www.renovationsf.org. If you plan to attend, please note that membership rates go up after February 28, and that hotel reservations begin online on January 17. The Heinlein Society will have its next Annual Meeting at this Worldcon, and we hope to see many more of you there. We are planning our Worldcon activities even now, and they include proposed panel topics and participants, a fan table as the “Nexus” of Heinlein and Society information, a display of the Heinlein realia, and hosting a large open party.
Renew your membership online at
www.heinleinsociety.org/join.html

I wish to join and work on
the following projects (check as many as you wish):

___ Membership
___ Library support
___ Scholastics-Academics
___ Blood Drives
___ Fund-raising
___ Education

Annual Membership Dues Check
(Please enclose check):

Regular Membership $35 ______
*Supporting Membership: $15 ______

*Supporting membership is available only to
students enrolled for a degree or certificate, or retired
on a limited income. It confers no eligibility to vote or
hold Society office.

Other Projects I’d like to see
The Heinlein Society work on:

The Heinlein Society
3553 Atlantic Avenue, #341
Long Beach, CA 90807-5606

www.heinleinsociety.org