

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

Newsletter for June 2023

Letter from the Editor

Hello, everyone!

Caroline Lynch, who's provided a wonderful service as The Heinlein Society's newsletter editor, has retired from the post and I (~~was summarily handed~~) volunteered for the job. I consider it an honor to work with the Society dedicated to the memory and the good works of the very first science fiction author I ever read, and subsequently my favorite author. I hope to contribute some spice to the newsletter here and there, as well as continue to report on special events and the current standing of initiatives like THS related blood drives and the Heinlein 4 Heroes book donation service.

This month we lead off with our Chairman's report on Balticon, where THS hosted a dinner with respected author John Scalzi, who himself rose to popularity after his early offering, *Old Man's War*, was referred to favorably as Heinleinesque. :-)

Jim Dutton - Newsletter Editor for The Heinlein Society



Balticon 57

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY CONVENTION

May 26-29, 2023

The Society had a wonderful time at 2023's Balticon, held again at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel. Balticon, run by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society and many volunteers, is a very reader/writer/artist-centric convention. The Heinlein Society has maintained a presence at Balticon for almost its entire existence. Chief among our activities is honoring the Heinlein Award winner—this year being John Scalzi.

At the opening ceremony on Friday night, Treasurer Beatrice Kondo formally awarded Scalzi with his medallion. The Kondo family have been stalwart supporters of the Heinlein Award and Beatrice is also on the selection board for the award, so as the presenter she is doing triple duty! [Scalzi had a wonderful acceptance speech](#) which was a glimpse of his Sunday talk.

[Read John Tilden's full report here](#)



by Carlin Black, Blood Drive Chair

Anemae Boston reported 63 donors with 3 Double Reds for 66 units Kudos to John Hodges and the Red Cross.

Kublacon was only a one-day drive due to staffing issues. We had 19 donors with 3 DR for 22 units. Kudos to Carlin Black, Steve Liu, and Vitalant for a successful one day drive.

The next Con drive is Gen Con in Indianapolis Aug 3-6.

There are two Library Drives scheduled at the West Valley Branch of the San Jose Public Library the first is July 28, and the next is Sept 26, to give whole blood donors eligibility to donate at both. We hope these will be successful enough to continue on a roughly 8-week schedule.

This fiscal year, we've made 243 shipments already, totaling 4,766 books distributed. Since the program's inception, we've sent 42,785 total books to our heroes.

The Heinlein For Heroes program (H4H) sends free books to troops, veterans, and military families. We send only to individuals or units that have requested SF material. Clearly many of our military men and women WANT to read good science fiction, including Heinlein. To meet that demand, our shipments go around the globe, as well as to veterans' hospitals here at home.

Contributions keep coming in, but your help is still needed. We need gently used paperbacks—and especially Heinleins, as we include Heinlein books in every shipment.

Money contributions are used to buy books wherever we find them (book dealers, eBay) at the right price. But free is even better than cheap. Is an SF friend or neighbor downsizing? You can help them and help us!

You can send us books at:
Heinlein for Heroes
c/o John Seltzer



2906 Alvarado Dr.
Bellingham, WA 98229

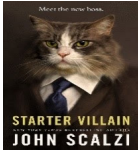
Go to heinleinsociety.org/h4h/ for information!

Thank you especially to the following donors! Your support helps us put a welcome escape in the hands of active military, veterans, and military families.

Baltimore Science Fiction Society and John Tilden and Herb Gilliland
Galaxy Press / BAEN Books / Partridge / Nathan Toronto / John Bean
Ed Johnson / Sandy Fish / Greg Songer / Bill Harvey / Deb and Geo Rule
Herb Gilliland / Pam Sommers

Thank you for helping us Pay It Forward.

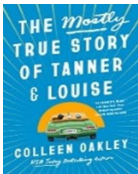
What I am Reading 13.0



I know that I recently I started giving a heads up when I know that favorite writers or series of books have something new coming out. Last month we posted the upcoming publication of John Scalzi's **Starter Villain** with a picture of the British cover. Just so you can find the book in the US here is a picture of the US cover. I think it is a much better cover! John Scalzi read part of the book at Balticon 57, and I can't wait for it to come out. I also mentioned that the Shining Smith Saga appeared to be ended with Book 3, but in the new print edition of **Junkyard Bargain** there is a fourth title **Junkyard Roadhouse** due out in 2024. Watch this space for more information. Ann Leckie fans might like to know that there is a new book titled **Translation State (Imperial Radch)** due out 6 June 2023.

Hester Fox - The Last Heir to Blackwood Library; HC, PB, Kindle, Audible

This book had me at the title and it was a good choice. It is not my usual genre, but I am hard pressed to put it into any genre. It starts as a post-WWI book, then hits the romance genre. It then moves to a mysterious house with even more mysterious characters, and weird happenings in the house and village, memory losses, strange cabalistic groups, evil dead monks, a fire and finally a satisfying conclusion. It is a quick read and worth the time.

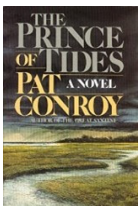
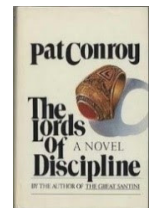


Colleen Oakley The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise; HC, TP, Kindle, Audible

Yes, this is definitely a play on "Thelma and Louise" but with your 80-year-old grandmother as Louise and a 21-year-old floundering ex-athlete as Tanner. I haven't seen the movie Thelma and Louise so I can't say if it is good or bad by comparison. This is however a funny, poignant, and in many ways insightful into the face of generational divides and coming together. Two physically damaged women come together despite the age difference between them, their journey heals both of them in more ways than one. The incidental family characters are well-chosen and illustrate how both Tanner and Louise came to be who and what they are. I can recommend this book as a fun and insightful read.

Pat Conroy The Lords of Discipline; HC, PB, Kindle, Audible

I am volunteering at the Pat Conroy Literary Center in Beaufort, SC, where we claim Pat as our poet laureate. I have, of course, read all of Pat's books since the 1980s and have most of them signed on my shelves. As I started my training to become an Ambassador, I realized that while I know some of the stories better than others, there were a few that I just don't remember enough details, so I listened to this on Audible. I remembered the basic premise (Pat's experiences at the Citadel Military College in the 1960s), I forgot how absolutely lyrically he can use words to talk about horrific incidents and yes, he made cry, twice. I recommend the book but not the movie that was made from it. The movie lacks the redemption that well-crafted words can give to the subject of hazing, betrayal, suicide, and other uncomfortable situations Pat drags one into in the course of storytelling.



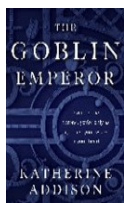
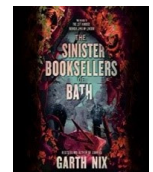
Pat Conroy- The Prince of Tides; HC, TPB, Kindle, Audible

Once more into the symphonic worlds created by this inimitable author's musical prose. His descriptions of the environments his characters inhabit can touch all five human senses. You can see his love for the water, the sky, the smells, the touch, and the sounds of nature as he invokes everyday life on a Sea Island in the 1950s and 1960s. The stories that Tom Wingo tells his sister's psychiatrist in NYC to help bring her back from madness, are deep, magical, sad and scary. The children, their father, mother and paternal grandparents along with the deep rooted good old boys' southern network and the equally haughty ladies' societal arbiters are all intertwined in a riveting story. Don't think for one moment that Pat made up what happened to mythical Colleton County, he just moved the action from several river communities farther north of where he set his story.

There is a nuclear power plant today sitting on the banks of the Savannah River and yes, people lost their homes and history when the US government took the land for national security reasons. Just FYI, Mister Fruit was a real person and I remember him. We called him Tutti Frutti, and he led all of the downtown parades, stepping high with his baton leading the way. The story is a touch hard to handle but didn't make me weep (maybe a little for the damned heroic tiger). Once again Pat turned his lyrical words into a symphony.

I still need to re-read **Beach Music** and **South of Broad** to have refreshed my memory enough to feel confident addressing the story of the stories to visitors to the Center. So, look for me to blather on about Pat Conroy books again next time.

This is the second book about left-handed booksellers and the worlds they guard. I really enjoyed this foray into the bookseller's worlds and following up on characters from the previous book **The Left-Handed Booksellers of London** (see What I Am reading 2.0) It is a fun, fast read and I highly recommend you venture into this world again.



Katherine Addison The Goblin Emperor; HC, PB, Kindle, Audible

This book was first published in 2015, but I didn't find it until the Subterranean Press limited edition came out in 2022/23. I didn't know what to expect but I got sucked into the story very easily, so easily that I ended up getting it on Audible and listened to it on my return driving trip from Balticon 57 as I couldn't wait to find out what happened as again it is apparently not safe to read and drive. I grew very fond of the characters and of the kindness shown by the new emperor for his people, his search for friends and a meaningful reign. The character's growth and how they resolve wrongs done to him is one of the best parts of this story. Kindness and found family make this book compelling and unstoppable. Highly recommend.

Until next time,
Betsey

Membership Report



During May, I sent out welcome emails to our new and returning members and thank you emails to our renewing members. I also sent membership cards to fifty regular and supporting members. We continued to grow on FB in May going from 295K followers to 299K followers. Now, down to the numbers. We had 49 renewing members including one returning member. We also had two members upgrade to life membership. We had five new members in May. Unfortunately, we had four members drop due to resignation or non-payment, giving us a net gain of two members, for a total paying membership of 1,048. This is our fifth month of growth in a row.

Best regards,
Ken Walters - Membership Chairman

The Heinlein Journal Needs YOU!

THE HEINLEIN JOURNAL

The Heinlein Journal is seeking authors.

Do you have a neat Heinlein-related idea you thought you might write up in an academic manner some day? As a wise person once advised, put the seat of your pants in the chair in front of your keyboard and start! (If you have some doubts about it, you can query first and we'll talk about it! If you are unsure about the format, do not worry; we can clear that up too.)

Reach out to:
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