

# Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

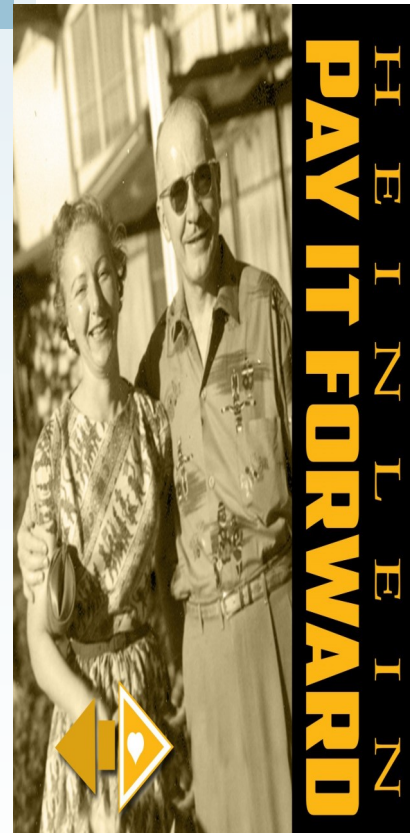
## The Mission of the Society is:

To promote the legacy of Robert A. Heinlein by encouraging the reading and discussion of his written work, the use of critical thinking skills in our daily lives, and a love of science essential in promoting humankind's future beyond our home planet. We will "Pay it Forward" through support of educational, literary, and charitable endeavors including, but not limited to volunteer blood drives; scholarships; the Heinlein For Heroes book distribution program; and the creation and distribution of teaching materials, including support of The Heinlein Journal.



## Vision:

We want to ensure that it is possible for anyone who wants to read a Heinlein story to be able to find a copy of his work and someone to discuss it with. We will work towards the day that humanity will realize Specialization Is for Insects and that every person should be a thinking being fully engaged as a productive part of humanity.



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# Board of Directors



John Tilden  
President



Herb Gilliland



John Seltzer



Ken Walters  
Vice President



Walt  
Boyes



Beatrice Kondo  
Treasurer

Mike  
Sheffield



Betsey Wilcox  
Secretary



Joel Davis

# THS Committee Chairs

***Heinlein For  
Heroes  
John Seltzer***



***Elections  
Will Hamilton***



***Membership/  
PR  
Ken Walters***



***Walt Boyes  
Board of Advisors***



***Balticon RAH  
Award  
Academic/THJ  
Dr. Herb Gilliland***



***Education/  
Financial  
Committee  
Geo Rule***



***Scholarships  
Mike Sheffield***



***Social Media  
Teresa Robinson***



***Blood Drives  
Carlin Black***



***Newsletter  
Jim Dutton***



# BOARD OF ADVISORS

In October 2016 the Heinlein Society Board of Directors created a special standing committee called the “Board of Advisors”. Members of this committee, if not paying members in their own right, are honorary members of the Society. Advisory status is confirmed each year by the Board of Directors. The Board of Advisors work to promote THS mission in personal appearances and discussions of our mission with fans of Robert A Heinlein and science fiction in general.

**Our 2023 Board of Advisors are:**

**Joe Haldeman**



**Dr. Charles E. Gannon**



**Eric Gignac**



**G. David Nordley**



**Howard Rosenblatt, P.A.**



**David Gerrold**



Follow the link to read more about our individual Advisors

<https://www.heinleinsociety.org/board-of-advisors/>



# Message from the Chairman



Members, Donors, and other interested parties of The Heinlein Society:

We have had another year of wonderful support from you and amazing work from our key volunteers running our core programs. You may always email anytime to [chairman@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:chairman@heinleinsociety.org).

I came onto the board of the Society in 2012 in a time of serious transition for the Society. I will be leaving the board at the end of my term in August 2023 with the Society in good shape. I hope you

agree!

In my opinion, our most serious remaining need is to build up a larger base of key volunteers that are able to help run our core programs. Doing something new may seem daunting, but to keep our charity running we need to have able managers for tasks and other volunteers who can learn quickly and be depended upon!

I know in the world of Heinlein fans out there we should be able to find a few more of you with those qualities, and we'd like to hear from you if you are interested.

I am grateful for the honor of serving as your President and Chairman.

## H4H Book Donors

### Books donated by:

Barry Locklear (& Vondi Forrester)  
John Bean  
Balticon ( via John Tilden)  
David Brin  
Mike Sheffield  
Bruce Roylan  
Pam Somers  
Bill Harvey  
Greg Songer  
Deb and Geo Rule  
Herb Gilliland  
Sandy Fish  
Ed Johnson  
Nathan Toronto  
BSFS  
Partridge  
BAEN Books  
Galaxy Press  
Andrea von Kaenel  
Dan Miller  
Rob Evon  
Keith Grimes  
Wren Harris

## Heinlein 4 Heroes

FY 2023: H4H shipped **6275 books** in **322** shipments

Total since beginning shipping (Nov. 2013):  
about 44,294 books 2906 shipments

Future: Expect to maintain at least 6,000 books per year with THS providing books and Heinlein Prize Trust granting for shipping expenses



Books (especially Heinlein) mostly cash purchases; donations of cash help!



## Treasurer's Report

Dr. Beatrice Kondo, Treasurer

Balances

As of August 31, 2023

*Reserved Accounts:*

Scholarship Fund	\$144,453.80
Savings	\$36,569.94

*Unreserved Accounts:*

Checking	\$16,561.82
Paypal	\$28,406.63
Total Unreserved Accounts:	\$44,980.45

Income	
Commissions	10.80
Donations	3,060.52
AmazonSmile	587.79
Blood Drive	1,000.00
Ensign's Prize Books	506.00
Heinlein For Heroes	315.00
Prize Trust Matching	
Scholarships	61,775.00
Total Donations	\$ 67,244.31
Grant	4,300.00
Heinlein Journal Individual Issues	66.00
Interest	42.65
Membership Dues	12,208.47
Lifetime Membership	9,000.00
Renewal	
Supporting	479.57
Total Membership Dues	\$ 21,688.04
PayPal Sales	24,663.55
Refund	11.10
Uncategorized Income	1,831.05
Total Income	\$ 119,857.50

## New Finance Committee

The board chartered a financial committee in late 2022 with a first version of a corporate Investment Policy.

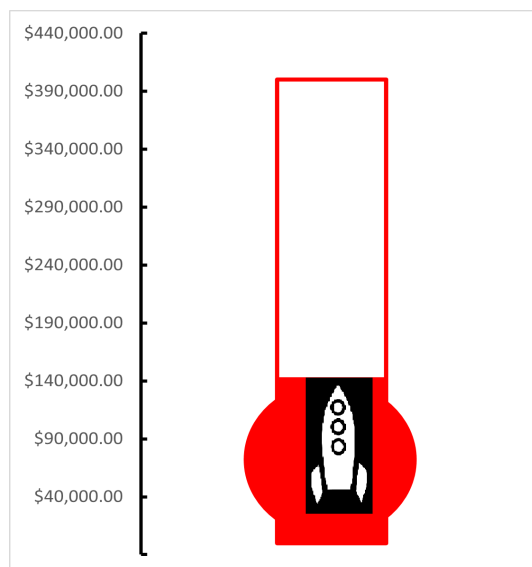
The Committee, consisting of President Tilden, Treasurer Kondo, Asst. Treasurer Rule, and Director Davis, met several times in January 2023 to revise and finalize the Investment Policy and set guidelines for our Scholarship fund investment with an eye towards growth. Those changed policies and investments were put into action within our Fidelity account and reported back to the board. Periodic reports have been made to the board since then and additional donations are being invested proportionally according to our policy.

Our Scholarship Fund is our only investment subaccount. We started with \$40,000 from savings and directed FY22 donations. As of September 2, 2023, we have a rounded figure of \$144,453.00 invested from additional donations that is dedicated for Scholarships. Our announced goal for the fund is to reach \$400,000 through donations or growth to be able to award our present scholarships without relying on yearly donations.

If you'd like to donate, we do have some significant donation "Thank You" gifts remaining. Learn more at our [Scholarship Fund](#) page.



Geo Rule , Asst.  
Treasurer





*"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 who are out to change the world for the better."* Virginia Heinlein

## Membership

### Membership Information:

The Heinlein Society offers three membership levels:

**Lifetime Membership is \$750.00.** You have or will receive a coupon discount code for new issues of *The Heinlein Journal*! Life Members receive ALL back and new issues free with their appropriate code.

**Regular Membership** is \$45.00/year. Your automatically renewing yearly membership payment of \$45.00 goes to support our programs: Blood Drives, Heinlein For Heroes, Scholarships, and Education. Thank you for joining us to Pay It Forward! By joining The Heinlein Society, and setting up this account, you agree to receive our bimonthly email newsletter and other membership communications. Your email address and information will not be sold or shared.

**Supporting membership** is \$15.00/year. For full-time students in a bona fide academic or trade school, or for anyone over the age of 65 on a fixed income. Dues are \$15.00 per year. Supporting members are not provided with a membership card, cannot vote at the annual member meeting, but are welcome to attend, and otherwise have all the privileges of a Regular member.

Upon joining, our Membership Chairman will send you a welcome email that includes links to various programs on the website and sign you up for our bi-monthly Newsletter.

We no longer require PayPal as a provider. You may use PayPal if you wish, but you now have the option of using a credit card without PayPal. However, if you prefer, simply mail your membership dues in US FUNDS to:

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

### Changes to Membership 2023

We have been making many changes for the better this year. Some of the changes have given us better confidence in our membership totals, which improves our budgeting and spending.

So, for the end of FY 2023 we proudly report that we have a total of 850 members, which looks like a huge decrease in numbers from last year. The potentially artificial decrease maybe due to change in accounting, so a 29% decrease over previous FY (+245) sounds like a lot but we are not concerned at this time.

Our End FY 2023 Lifetime Membership is at 89 which is an 18% increase over previous FY (+16).

We continue to engage in successful Social Media outreach through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and currently have over 300,000 followers on FB.



Ken Walters  
Vice President,  
Membership Chair

# THE HEINLEIN JOURNAL



Dr. Herb Gilliland, Editor

The purpose of the Heinlein Journal is to publish academically sound material related to Heinlein's work and life. THS has been putting together two issues a year since the passing of William H. Patterson, Jr. Currently we have planned for two issues per year, published electronically. The Journal is free to Society members. The Winter 2023 issue is in process now. We welcome material or ideas by new or experienced authors and look forward to our continuing mission.

Lifetime member Will Hamilton, first time blood donor because of lifted restrictions



**Critical need exists for new THS coordinators in Boston and SF metro areas.**

## BLOOD DRIVES

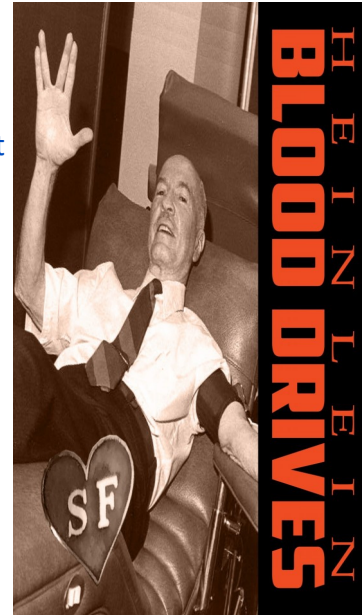
THS has a Donor Wall page online  
(<https://www.heinleinsociety.org/pay-it-forward/donor-wall>)

Send a selfie for posting when you donate to:

BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org



Carlin Black, Chair



## FY 2023 Blood Donations

- FY 2023—663 donors 910 units; Blood drive numbers without Dragon Con:
- End of FY 2023—49,935 donors 52044 units coordinated by THS since the first THS drive at PhilCon 11/2000

## Help needed

Coordinating a blood drive is easy and except for the day of the drive, not time consuming. A few friends helping make it fun

You will get lots of help and SWAG from the Blood Drive Chair.

There may be a new Library program for drives in your home town in 2024

## 2023 Scholarships Awarded

The growth of our scholarship program continues to be astounding. This year we received 744 applications, up from 567 in 2022. Likewise, our number of international applicants increased to 84, including 15 who had multiple citizenship. The international applicants hailed from 28 different countries across the globe.

Our demographic information continues to be diverse. We still have far more female than male applicants. This year we had 552 female, 131 male, 4 non-binary and 55 who made no selection or declined to state. Ethnically our numbers were: 375 White, 87 Black, 84 Asian, 71 Hispanic, 9 Middle Eastern, 1 Native American, 1 Pacific Islander, 44 multi-racial and 70 who made no entry. Applicants who supplied their age ranged from 16 to 38 years old.

With such a large field there were many excellent applicants, so being named among our ten finalists was no mean feat. Becoming one of the four awardees was even harder.

### Four Winners of \$4,000 each

**Rhiannon Red Bird – Rhiannon is the winner of this year’s Robert A. Heinlein Scholarship.** In the fall she will begin her senior year at California Polytechnic State University–Humboldt. She is majoring in Cellular and Molecular Biology with a Chemistry Minor. After completing her undergraduate degree, Rhiannon hopes to spend time in a research lab and eventually pursue a postgraduate degree in Veterinary or Human Medicine.

**Nine Reed-Mera – Nine is this year’s Virginia “Ginny” Heinlein Scholarship recipient.** She has a double major of Biological Sciences and Written Arts, entering her Senior year at Bard College. Nine began college at age 16 and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She has received numerous scholastic awards, including a National Silver Medal. She was awarded a Mellon Foundation grant to study extremophiles.

**Kenji Sakaie – Kenji is the Dr. Yoji Kondo Scholarship winner.** He is an incoming Freshman at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, majoring in Mechanical Engineering . Kenji is interested in working in the aerospace or naval architecture industries, working toward a goal of providing safe, affordable, and sustainable housing through the prefabricated building industry

**Victoria Woods – Victoria wins this year's Dr. Jerry Pournelle Scholarship.** In the upcoming academic year she will be a Sophomore at Trinity College Dublin, majoring in Geography and Geoscience. Last summer, Victoria interned studying the detection limits of hyperspectral sensors and is doing ongoing research in gamma ray spectrometry. She is active in her college's Environmental Society and International Students Club



Mike Sheffield, Scholarship Director

**Our other top ten finalists are:**

Elisabeth Hayduk,  
Ayushi Kadakia,  
Liane Lee,  
Anjara Mellman,  
Leyat Besufekad  
Tesfaye, and  
Rachel Todromovich.

We wish our winners, and indeed all of the applicants, great success in their academic pursuits and in their future careers. We have no doubt that they will use their knowledge as a springboard to Pay-It-Forward.

## Paying it Forward with Time Donations

**The Heinlein Society is a non-profit organization** run by volunteers. With the number of applications for scholarships going up every year, the committee finds itself **in need of even more volunteer readers.**

You don't have to have an academic background to volunteer. We have training sessions on what to look for both good and bad. We have always run the essays through a plagiarism program, but this year found that we needed to include AI written paper detection software. It was very sobering to find that 70% of our applicants had 30% or more of their essay content AI generated. We will be warning applicants next year that we will be checking all applications for plagiarism and AI generation.

## Special thanks to the 2023 Judges

Dr. Jason Aukerman, Mr. Carlin Black, Mr. Walt Boyes, Ms. Rebecca Roberts, Mr. Geo Rule, Ms. Betsey Wilcox, Mr. Graham Middleton, Ms. Julie Wilusz, Mr. Mike Sheffield, and Rev. Sharon Sheffield



## Around the Society



THS helps support the Robert A. Heinlein Award presented by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society annually. We had the honor of hosting a small dinner for the 2023 winner at Blackwall Hitch Restaurant Inner Harbor, Baltimore MD.



Left front Terry Cox, John Tilden, Ursula Kondo, Herb Gilliland, Betsey Wilcox, Beatrice Kondo, John Scalzi, Krissy Scalzi, Dianne Mock, Will Hamilton, Mr. Mock, and Ty Arnold.





Dr. Beatrice Kondo presenting and John Scalzi accepting 2023 Heinlein Award



Mr. Scalzi admiring his medallion, which he promised to wear the whole convention and he did!



Mr. Scalzi discussing Heinlein ,holding a first edition of the book that started his Heinlein journey



John and Krissy Scalzi heading home

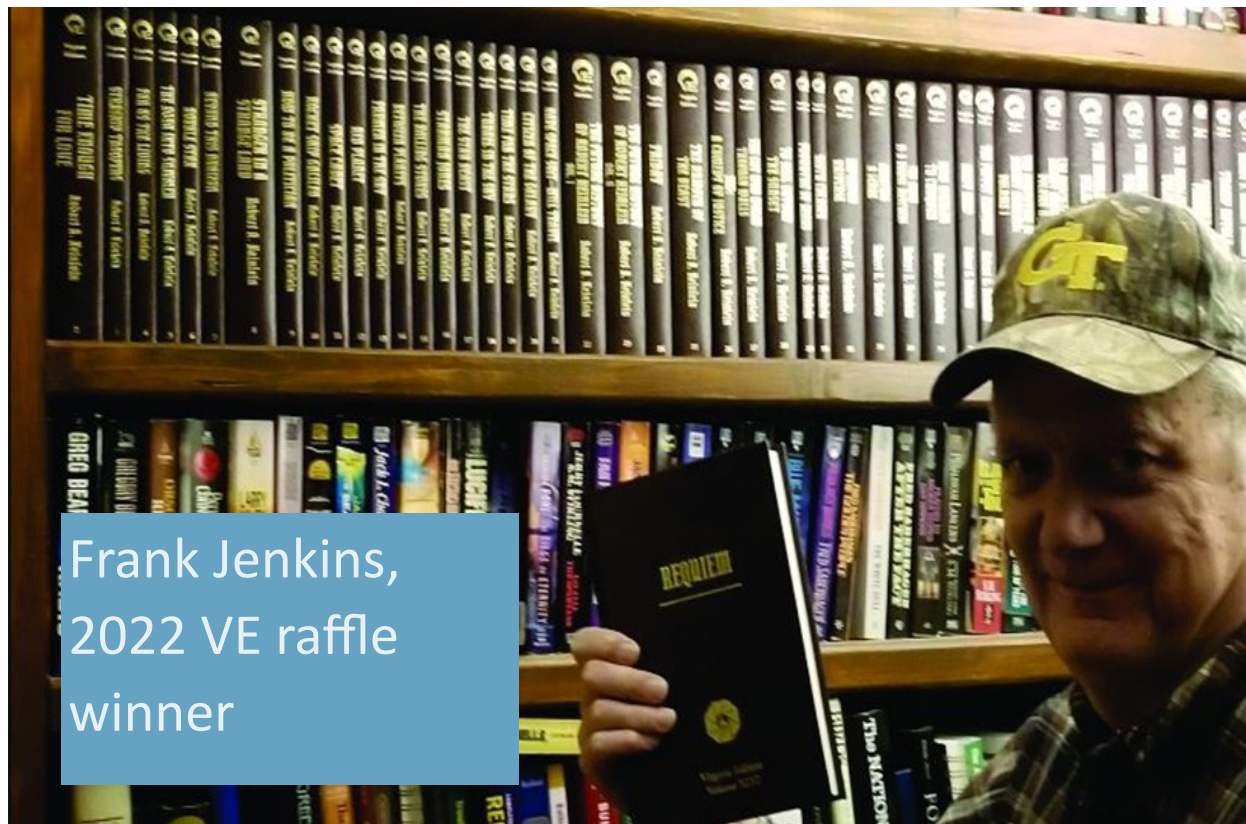


Old friends Chuck Gannon and John Tilden re-connecting



Book donations from BaltiCon





Frank Jenkins,  
2022 VE raffle  
winner



It was great to meet member Michelle Malone for the first time in person at our fan table!

## The Heinlein Society

The Heinlein Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, operated by unpaid volunteers, dedicated to Heinlein's principle of Pay It Forward.

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

[Chairman@Heinleinsociety.org](mailto:Chairman@Heinleinsociety.org)



## Changing of the Guard

We would like to take this time to officially recognize Board Members and committee chairs who are retiring, stepping back or decreasing their active involvement.

Our first farewell is to John Tilden, who has been on the Board of Directors in various roles, since 2012, culminating as the immediate Past President. JT, as he is called, has been an example of outstanding leadership and vision. JT is not completely leaving as he will become the Operations Chair in October 2023.

Also retiring this year is our Blood Drive Chair, Carlin Black. Carlin had the difficult task of coming up with new ways to maintain and restart one of our core programs, due to COVID. He also did what all great leaders do, succession planning. We welcome Joe Smiddie-Brush effective October 2023 as our new Blood Drive Chair.

Dr. Beatrice Kondo will be stepping away from Treasurer to become the east coast Heinlein for Heroes representative assisting John Seltzer on the west coast.

Dr. Herb Gilliland has retired from the Board of Directors, but retained his committee chair of the Heinlein Journal. Nobody does it better than Herb.

John Seltzer was re-elected to the board for a 3 year term. New board members also include Jim Dutton and Geo Rule. Filling the remaining 1 year term of Herb Gilliland is Walt Boyes.

**At the September Board meeting, Ken Walters was elected President & Chair; Walt Boyes Vice-President; Geo Rule Treasurer; Betsey Wilcox, Secretary.**