

The Heinlein Society August 2023 Newsletter

1 message

The Heinlein Society <operations@heinleinsociety.org>
Reply-To: The Heinlein Society <operations@heinleinsociety.org>
To:

Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 9:49 AM

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

Newsletter for August 2023

[View this email in your browser](#)

Letter from the Editor

Hello fellow coppers!

I have a mandate from President JT to remind everyone to watch for your ballots soon to vote for the 2023-2024 Heinlein Society Board. The email will come from our account at ElectionBuddy.com.



If you don't hang around the "Heinlein Forum" Facebook group, you may not know that there are often interesting and lively book discussions covering Heinlein novels and "related" works of other prominent Sci-fi authors. Running now is a discussion around [Joe Haldeman's The Forever War](#). Come join in as Joe is participating in the discussion! Joe Haldeman is a member of the Society's [Board of Advisors](#).

Also this month, check out the announcement for our 2023 Scholarship winners. I'd like to point out that our Scholarship Committee does a lot of work each year to bring this program home, narrowing the field and picking the best entries.

Jim Dutton - Newsletter Editor for The Heinlein Society

Website Updates:

We sent out emails to all active members and those that had our oldest kind of "PayPal subscription" in July, but a brief summary is that as the Society has grown, we have needed to rely more on automation through our website to keep up with reminders and processing membership dues. Every inactive or active member now has an account on our website tied to the last email we had for you. If you are 'inactive' and want to come back, please use that email to log on, or contact memberships@heinleinsociety.org for help in getting your account set to another email address. (Once you're in, you can easily change your email address.)

Also note that we are now requesting some additional information about you so that we can better understand the demographics of our members and donors. You will need to complete those fields before renewing. The information sent out by email is at: <https://www.heinleinsociety.org/june-july-2023-membership-website-changes/>.

\$750.00 for lifetime

☐ This is a gift

1

Join Now

Gift memberships now available!

As one of our website updates we are now able to easily offer gift memberships for your family and friends!

Just check the "This is a gift" box and enter in a valid email address for the gift receiver. They will get an email telling them of their new membership, and will fill out their personal information. Each year for a regular or supporting membership both you and the gift receiver will receive a reminder email.

Scholarship Program

Announcing our 2023 Scholarship Winners

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. They are:

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 Nation Silver Medal. She was awarded a Mellon Foundation grant to study extremophiles.

Kenji Sakale – 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. Our other top ten finalists are:

- Elisabeth Hayduk
- Ayushi Kadakia
- Liane Lee
- Anjara Mellman
- Leyat Besufekad Tesfaye
- 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.



by Carlin Black, Blood Drive Chair

We need local blood drive coordinators for the South Bay, San Francisco and Oakland, and Marin County. Also New England Coordinators are a critical need.

Coordinators in other areas are great. And Library Blood drives may soon become a Heinlein Society program so that there will be plenty for a coordinator to do. Cons may not be the only option.

Coordinating a blood drive is relatively easy. The blood center does most of the work before the drive. Except for the days of the drive, it is not time consuming. The rewards are huge. Each Unit of blood coordinated saves 3 lives at local hospitals. Best of all, you do not need to be eligible to donate to coordinate a drive. Even those with a fear of needles can Pay it Forward by coordinating a drive.

This fiscal year, we've made 296 shipments already, totaling 5,794 books distributed. Since the program's inception, we've sent 43,813 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.

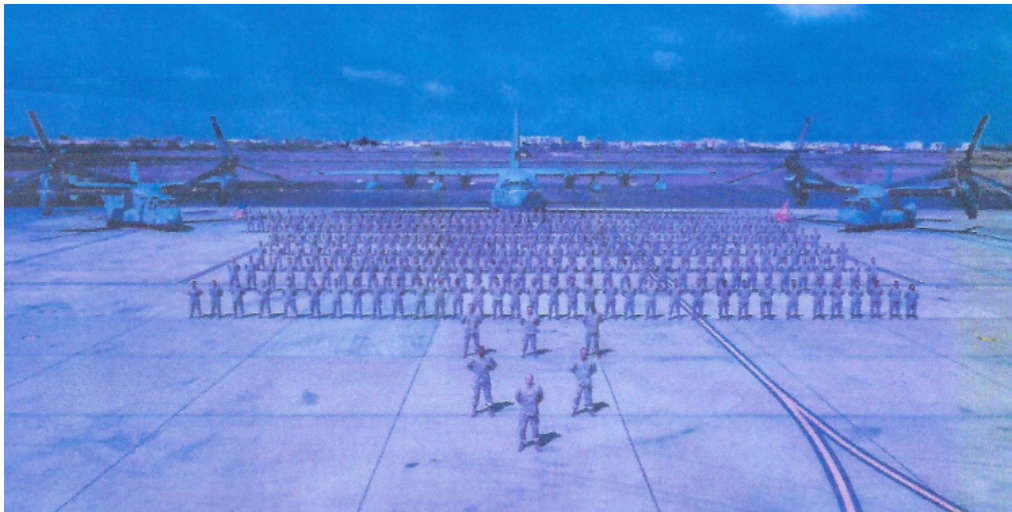
H 4 H

Donate



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!

We got a wonderful thank you letter this month:



We sincerely thank you for your support of VMM-266 (REIN) during our deployment. It has made a real impact on the morale of our squadron.

Our unit is based out of North Carolina and consists of marines and a few sailors. We fly and maintain MV-22 "Osprey" and KC-130 "Hercules" aircraft and are currently deployed to Africa. It has cooled down from the summer heat (in excess of 110 degrees) but is still relatively hot. Learning and experiencing a different culture has been a unique opportunity, and for many of us, helps put our lives in perspective. We are all grateful to be part of our great nation.

We are also proud to be out here serving our country. We joined to make a difference and it is truly an honor. It is many of our Marine's first deployment. While many of us certainly miss home, it means a lot to us to receive your support.

All of the snakes, hygiene products, games, decorations, and letters we have received in care packages really boosts morale and gives us a little taste of home. It also reminds us that we're supported on the home front. We appreciate all of the time, thought, and care that you put into the packages. The Marines and Sailors wanted to make sure you received their heartfelt -- THANK YOU, and OORAH!

Sincerely

The Marines and Sailors of VMM-266 (REIN)

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.

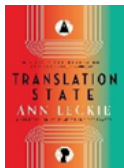
Barry Locklear (with packing and shipping by Vondi Forrester)

John Bean

Balticon with collection and shipping by John Tilden

Thank you for helping us Pay It Forward.

What I am Reading 14.0

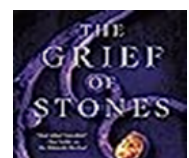
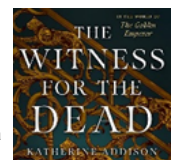


Ann Leckie- *Translation State (Imperial Radch)*; HC, Kindle, Audible, CD

Translation State is a new standalone story set in the Imperial Radch universe, but one does not have to have read any of the previous books to enjoy this story. Space adventure and mystery, combined with relationships and belonging, is thoroughly satisfying and engaging. Qven was created to be a Presger translator. The pride of their Clade, they always had a clear path before them: learn human ways, and eventually, make a match and serve as an intermediary between the dangerous alien Presger and the human worlds. The realization that they might want something else isn't "optimal behavior". It's the type of behavior that results in elimination. But Qven rebels. And in doing so, their path collides with those of two others. Enae, a reluctant diplomat who's dead grandmaman has left him an impossible task as an inheritance: hunting down a fugitive who has been missing for over 200 years. And Reet, an adopted mechanic who is increasingly desperate to learn about his genetic roots—or anything that might explain why he operates so differently from those around him. The Conclave of the various species approaches—and the long-standing treaty between the humans and the Presger is on the line.

Katherine Addison- *The Cemeteries of Amalo Trilogy -The Witness for the Dead and The Grief of Stones*; HC, PB, Kindle, Audible

The Witness for the Dead takes place in the same world as *The Goblin Emperor*, but has little or nothing to do with Maia, except the world setting. Thara Celehar, the Witness for the Dead who solves the mystery of the airship crash in *The Goblin Emperor*, is now working as a Witness for the Dead in the northern city of Amalo. Appointed to the position and paid outside of the usual pathways, he is beholden to none in the usual religious hierarchy, which makes him an outcast from the usual prelates and witnesses. This book explores what it is to be a Witness for the Dead and solves several mysteries, while building a highly believable world where all kinds of things exist. The second book, *The Grief of Stones* continues to build this world and gives Celehar a newly minted Speaker for the Dead to train and a mystery surrounding a Foundling Girls home, a murder and a suicide. The resolution of those mysteries ends in some tragedies and Celehar's loss of ability to hear the dead. I have become very fond of this character.



The following books are part of my summer beach reads, because it is that time of year....



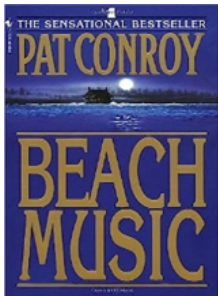
Victoria Benton Frank - *My Magnolia Summer: A Novel*; HC, TP, Kindle, PB, Audible

Whether you see this story as following in her mother's literary footsteps (Dorothea Benton Frank) or as forging her own place in literature, this novel will transport you to a world of treasured family traditions and unexpected twists of fate surrounded by stunning descriptions of the magic of the Lowcountry. For South Carolina transplant Maggie (born Magnolia after the fairest summer flower) the balmy beach weather of April back home on Sullivan's Island feels like a distant memory. Sullivan's Island is a two and a half-mile long barrier island near the entrance of Charleston Harbor. It is home to a little over 2,000 residents in half as many households. Until a phone call from her sister, Violet, changes everything. Gran, the treasured matriarch, has fallen into a coma after a car accident caused by Maggie's troubled mother, Lily. But once Maggie returns, she finds that her hometown of Sullivan's Island holds even more secrets. The Magic Lantern, the restaurant owned and run by generations of women in her family, is now rudderless, and her sister seems headed for a savage breakup. When the three generations of South Carolina women join forces—the family pillar Gran, troubled Lily, impulsive Violet, and redoubtable Maggie—anything is possible.



Susan Boyer - *Big Trouble on Sullivan's Island*; HC, Kindle, PB, Audible

I loved Susan Boyer's previous book series set in the Lowcountry. With dry wit and delightful dialogue, Susan M. Boyer delivers an eccentric, vegan gumshoe sure to appeal to any fan of Southern women's fiction. With her merry band of unique friends, Hadley Cooper is a Lowcountry detective you won't soon forget. A fifty-year-old mystery, that for some of us was very much like current local headlines and lifestyles of the rich and heinous. *Big Trouble on Sullivan's Island* is the engaging first book in the Carolina Tales series. If you like strong heroines, quirky sisterhoods, and plenty of Southern charm, then you'll love Susan M. Boyer's wonderful whodunit.

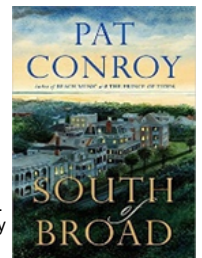


Pat Conroy - *Beach Music*; HC, PB, Kindle, Audible

Pat Conroy is without a doubt South Carolina's favorite storyteller, a writer who portrays the anguished truth of the human heart and the painful secrets of families in richly lyrical prose and unforgettable narratives. Now, in *Beach Music*, he tells of the dark memories that haunt generations, in a story that spans South Carolina and Rome and reaches back into the unutterable terrors of the Holocaust. *Beach Music* is about Jack McCall, an American living in Rome with his young daughter, trying to find peace after the recent trauma of his wife's suicide. But his solitude is disturbed by the appearance of his sister-in-law, who begs him to return home, and of two school friends asking for his help in tracking down another classmate who went underground as a Vietnam protester and never resurfaced. Told with deep feeling and trademark Conroy humor, *Beach Music* is powerful and compulsively readable. It is another masterpiece in the legendary list of classics that his body of work has already become.

Pat Conroy - *South of Broad*; HC, TPB, Kindle, PB, Audible

Set against the backdrop of Charleston, South Carolina, *South of Broad* gathers a unique cast of sinners and saints. Leopold Bloom King is the son of an amiable, loving father who teaches science at the local high school. His mother, an ex-nun, is the high school principal and a well-known Joyce scholar. After Leo's older brother commits suicide at the age of thirteen, the family struggles with the shattering effects of his death, and Leo, lonely and isolated, searches for something to sustain him. He finds his answers when he becomes part of a group of high school seniors that includes Sheba and Trevor Poe, glamorous twins with an alcoholic mother and a prison-escapee father; hardscrabble mountain runaways Niles and Starla Whitehead; socialite Molly Huger (Yu jee) and her boyfriend, Chadworth Rutledge X; and an ever-widening circle whose liaisons will ripple across two decades — from 1960s counterculture through the dawn of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. The ties among them endure for years, with hard-won successes and devastating breakdowns, and Charleston's dark legacy of racism and class divisions. But the final test of friendship that brings them to San Francisco is something no one is prepared for. Adding to the devastation of the characters is the fury of Hurricane Hugo and one final secret that rocks Charleston to its core. *South of Broad* is Pat Conroy at his finest whose passion for life and language knows no bounds.



Until next time,
Betsey

Membership Report



We had 55 renewing members 11 new members. We also had two members upgrade to life membership. We had five new members in May. Unfortunately, we had 15 members drop due to resignation or non-payment, giving us a net loss of four members, for a total paying membership of 1,045.

Beginning this summer, we're making a change in bookkeeping for our membership roles, eliminating counting non-renewing members during a 90-day grace period.

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!

And if you have some ideas for the types of articles you'd like to see in the Journal, let us know! We'll try to fulfill some wish lists!

Reach out to:

Herb Gilliland

Editor, The Heinlein Journal

editor@heinleinsociety.org

Copyright © 2023 Heinlein Society. All rights reserved.
Heinlein Society Monthly News and Updates for Members

Our mailing address is:

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

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to

why did I get this? · [unsubscribe from this list](#) · [update subscription preferences](#)
Heinlein Society · [3553 Atlantic Avenue, #341](#) · Long Beach, CA 90807 · USA

