

April 2021

# THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY



Spring is springing here in the Northern Hemisphere! Here's The Heinlein Society's latest news.

• JUN • 68



from the Collection of RDML Caleb Laning

---

## Scholarship Updates

By Mike Sheffield

The window for submitting scholarship applications for the 2021 - 2022 academic year closed on April 1. This year we received a total of 379 applications - slightly higher than last year's 365. The scholarship committee is reviewing the applications and evaluating the essays. Winners will be announced on July 7. This year we will be awarding three scholarships of \$3,000 each. As a reminder, our three scholarship are:

The Virginia "Ginny" Heinlein Scholarship (available only to female applicants)

The Dr. Yoji Kondo Scholarship

The Dr. Jerry Pournelle Scholarship

Many thanks to my scholarship team volunteers : Jason Aukerman, Carlin Black, Walt Boyes, Keith Kato, Rebecca Roberts, Geo Rule, Susan Seltzer, and Sharon Sheffield.

Here are some statistics on the applicants.

Gender:

Female - 262

Male - 40

Other - 2

Decline to state - 1

No selection made - 74

International:

Barbados - 1

Brazil - 1

Canada - 10

Dominican Republic - 1

Germany - 1

India - 1

Kazakhstan - 1

Kenya - 2

Mexico - 2

Mongolia - 1

Nigeria - 1

---

## **The Heinlein Journal Needs YOU!**

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:

Herb Gilliland, Editor, The Heinlein Journal

[editor@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:editor@heinleinsociety.org)

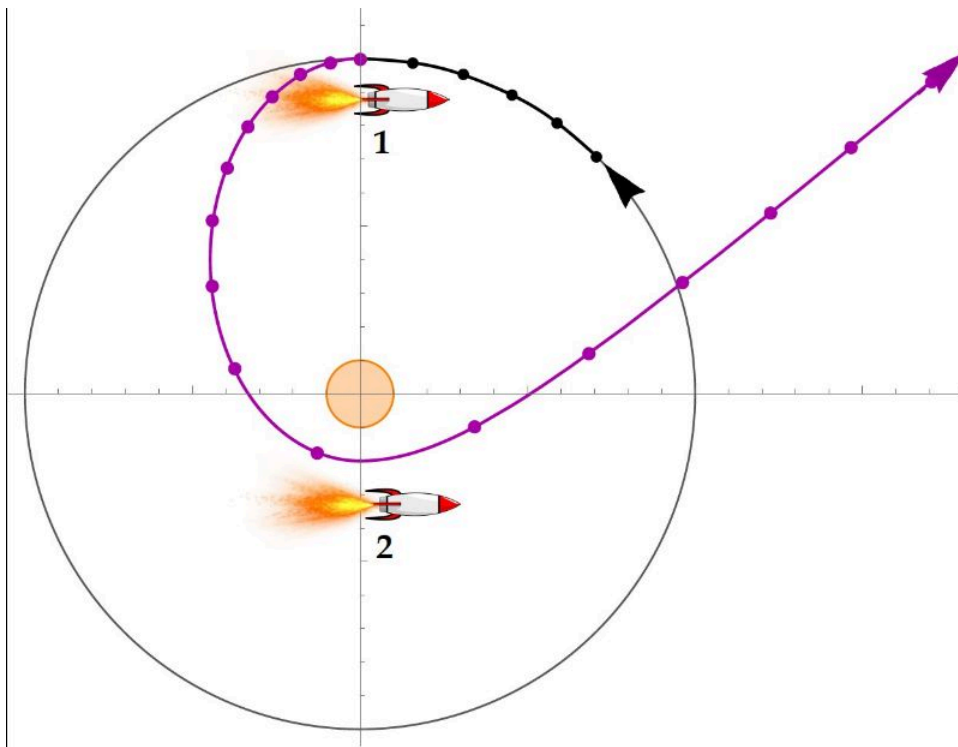
---

## Website Updates

We merged our HeinleinJournal.com website into [heinleinsociety.org](http://heinleinsociety.org) in early March! Members should have received an email about it. From now on you only need your user account at [heinleinsociety.org](http://heinleinsociety.org) to download back issues or new issues. Any existing coupon codes you were emailed are still currently valid. New Heinlein Journal issues are a perk of any Regular or Lifetime Membership when you use your assigned coupon code, along with a discount on back issues.

On another note, many of you have existing membership renewals directly at PayPal. You may not realize, but by creating a user account at [heinleinsociety.org](http://heinleinsociety.org) we are able to offer you more payment card options that also do not require a PayPal account (but you can also do PayPal there). We are not forcing any kind of a switch at this time to keep convenience foremost to our members, with the added benefit of not driving Membership Chairman Ken Walters crazy managing many people with questions all at the same time.

We like Ken a LOT and try to keep him happy because he really tries to provide good service to you all.



Dear Heinlein Society,

I have communicated with a few of your officers previously and enjoy learning about your activities from the website. You have a web page on the “Heinlein maneuver” where in 2013 David Nordley looked at a piece of orbital mechanics that appears in the Rolling Stones novel.

It may be of interest to your members that I have just published a paper in American Journal of Physics titled “High speed escape from a circular orbit” that provides a detailed analysis of the maneuver (usually called an Oberth maneuver), and I quote directly from the Rolling Stones. In the paper I do mention RAH’s association with Hermann Oberth, which I learned about from

the society's materials.

The paper has a narrated 2-min "video abstract" which is freely available at:

<https://aapt.scitation.org/doi/full/10.1119/10.0001956>. The reference list and some additional videos are also open-access, but to get to the paper itself readers can access it (via PDF) on my co-author's website at the U.S. Naval Academy:

<https://www.usna.edu/Users/physics/mungan/Publications/Publications.php#find-panel120202021>

I have attached a conceptual picture [above], from the paper, of the Oberth/Heinlein escape as an example.

Best wishes,

Philip Blanco, Ph. D., Grossmont College



## Worldcon Updates

By Keith G. Kato

**2021:** The committee for the 79<sup>th</sup> Worldcon in 2021, DisCon III, announced on 7 April 2021 ([New Dates, New Hotel | DisCon III \(discon3.org\)](#)) that they will proceed with an in-person in Washington DC, but will postpone the dates to 15-19 December 2021. Note this is the week before Christmas, with attendant higher cost issues of seasonal travel demands and limited hotel space.

DisCon III's original main hotel, the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, has closed because of bankruptcy, which (as the committee explained) caused delayed this decision due to multiple legal issues involving not only financial obligations to the Marriott, but to other vendors. The main hotel will now be the Omni Shoreham Hotel (basically across the street from the Marriott), which has smaller capacity (834 guest rooms).

Room reservations will open in the very near future. In addition, there are multiple plans afoot to change membership status "to" and "from," including a new Virtual Membership. The membership rates cited on DisCon III's website are valid through 30 April 2021, and include "First Worldcon," "Household" memberships, and installment payment plans. Attending the virtual CoNZeland in 2020 is not considered a "First Worldcon."

**2022:** The 80th Worldcon in 2022, Chicon 8 (<https://chicon.org/>), will extend the due date for their Attending membership rates of \$170 (\$110 for “First Worldcon” attendees) to 31 July 2021. Attending CoNZealand likewise does not “count.”

---

## Blood Drive Update

*by Carlin Black, Blood Drive Chair*

With Convention contributions to the blood supply on hold, Paying It Forward with individual local donations as often as you can is more important than ever. Please donate if you are eligible or encourage others to donate if you are not.

Many members are sponsoring blood drives at churches and other venues to Pay it Forward in these difficult times. You and a couple of friends or family would be welcomed as coordinators by the Red Cross or your local blood center.

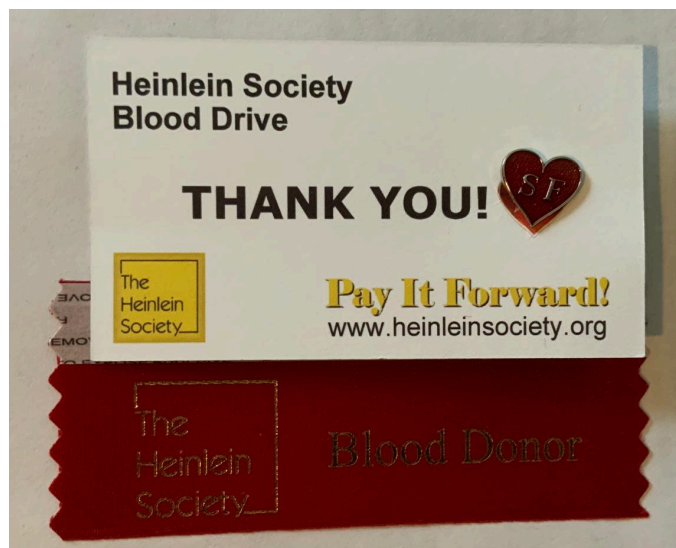
We are encouraging frequent THS donors to inspire others to Pay It Forward with a blood donation by publishing a profile on the [Heinlein Society Blood Drives Facebook Page](#).

High count donors, please send a profile and a donation selfie to [BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org)!

THS Donors will be recognized with an SF pinned Thank You card and ribbon on the [Donor Wall](#). Send a donor selfie and USPS address to [BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org) for recognition swag. You can credit a Con (or not) and any THS member is eligible! Help us beef up the wall! First time donors will be featured.

**HELP WANTED!** A Facebook user to engage with new likes on the Blood Drive Page to get them more involved with the Society and Paying It Forward through donating and recruiting donors. Email [BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org) to learn more!





Watch [The Heinlein Society Blood Drive Page on Facebook](#) for more details!

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Finding yourself shopping online more this year? Help us Pay It Forward by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Designate The Heinlein Society as your [recipient organization](#) and we will get a donation for each purchase, cost-free to you. Last year, THS received \$196.00 in donations through Amazon Smile!

**This fiscal year, we've made 190 shipments already, totaling 2,825 books distributed. Since the program's inception, we've sent 31,665 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/](http://heinleinsociety.org/h4h/) for information!

---

It's not an easy topic, but if you are an SF fan and you don't know who in your family would appreciate or understand the value of a signed book or significant collection when you are gone--the Heinlein Society will be here.

As a U.S. 501(c)3 charitable organization your estate could realize tax savings...plus your items or money will go to a cause you cared about in your lifetime as a member. If you are interested to know more about this topic, check out <https://www.heinleinsociety.org/planned-giving/>.

---

## H4H Thank You

Good Morning,

I would like to give thanks to the following individuals for sending in books for myself and the soldiers in my unit:

Carol Harold

Joy Ostaffe  
The Heinlein Society  
Donan Berg  
Kim Cremer

These books will be put to good use.

Greatly Appreciated,

Emerson T. Thayer  
SGT, USAR

---

GMC Joshua L. Boehnlein  
*United States Coast Guard*  
*Tactical Law Enforcement Team Pacific*

PO Box 400033  
San Diego, CA 92140

March 3, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to thank you on behalf of myself and the USCG TACLET Pacific service members for your participation in Operation Paperback. The books you sent will be used by our members; many of whom deploy around the world supporting a variety of missions.

We appreciate your support and kindness. Our members are from diverse backgrounds with equally as varied interests. Your generosity has allowed us to support our members in a unique way by fostering their current literary interests and encouraging them to explore new ones.

Thank you again for helping me bring this program to my colleagues here in San Diego.

Regards,

  
Joshua L. Boehnlein, GMC

*Thank you!*

---

---





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMPANY  
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTALION  
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-5000

November 19, 2020

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

Dear Heinlein Society Team:

Thank you for your support to Operation Paperback and our unit. This year especially, we are looking for more and different ways to support our Paratroopers as we coop with a very different environment. The limited access to activities, these books have given our Paratroopers the opportunity to read during off time, quarantine or even staff duty. It is a great feeling to see them pick up books to read instead of video games or smart phones.

I truly appreciate the support that you have provided, even if it seems like a small thing. The actions of you and volunteers like you have made a silent but huge impact on all of our Service Members and I hope that you continue to provide this support for years to come. The selfless acts and support like this are why we continue to serve our Nation.

Again, I cannot thank you enough for providing support to the Paratroopers.

Sincerely,

Maitiu I. Laman  
Captain, US Army  
Commanding

Hello Toni G, Stephanie and the Awesome Folks of Operation Paperback,

I'm with the 67th FRST and we have received some boxes from your organization. We wanted to extend our heartfelt thanks for the books and cards you have sent. Our whole team has been so exciting to look through them all and start reading! Thank-you again, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

V/r

CPT Ryan Sinteff

Operation Paperback,

Thank you very much for the variety of books you have sent to my soldiers over this deployment. The soldiers have truly enjoyed the books and shared them with others throughout theater.

We are now preparing to head back home and any further packages may get lost in the mail or potentially redistributed. We will share your mission with future deploying soldiers.

Thank you again!

Stephanie Meilleur, DVM, CCRP  
MAJ, VC, USAR  
Executive Officer, 422nd Medical Detachment Veterinary Services  
Operation Freedom's Sentinel/Resolute Support Mission  
U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A)

---

*Dear Mr. Seltzer,*

*Thank you so much for the books!*

*I genuinely enjoy old Sci-Fi or Fantasy classics. Older books just do it for me.*

*I often get donated books from my generation; I prefer Robert Heinlein over just about anything. Again, thank you for the great taste in books!*

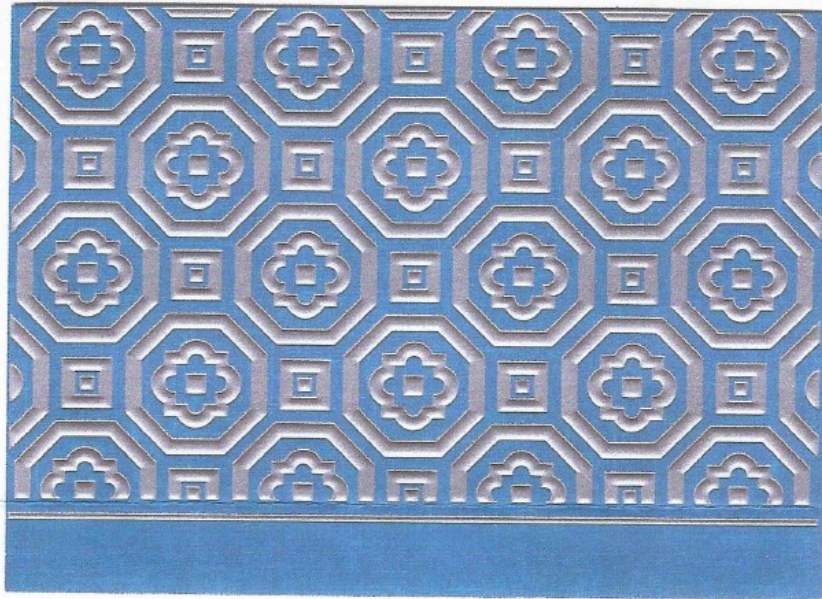
*Sincerely,*

*Rocco*

---

Thank you Heinlein for Heroes for this  
Awesome gift! Me & other troops  
are so grateful for these books. I know  
that I use them as a gateway to have  
moments of peace during these trying times.  
Thank you guys so much for everything!

SAC McIntyre Umika



Team,

Thank you so much for the books you've sent.  
They have arrived safely here in Kuwait and are  
being put to good use!

Sincerely,

Major Trent A. Kubasiak



Questions about your membership or automatic renewal? Please contact Ken Walters at [membershiprenewal@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:membershiprenewal@heinleinsociety.org).

---

Copyright © 2025 The Heinlein Society, All rights reserved.  
Heinlein Society News and Updates

**Our mailing address is:**

The 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](#).

