

**September 2021**

# THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY



Hard to believe that summer is drawing to a close (or just beginning, for those of you south of the Equator)! Here's what The Heinlein Society has been up to.



Many thanks to Baen Books for donating 260 brand new mass market paperbacks, including the latest copies of the Expanded

Universe, to Heinlein For Heroes! Pictured above is the tireless John Seltzer proudly displaying the books that will give our heroes hours of enjoyment.

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### **For the good of the order: Annual Meeting Recap**

THS's Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 with 33 in attendance internationally despite the wide range of time zones.

We are still confirming our three raffle winners and will have information about them in the November newsletter.

More info about what was discussed is available here: <https://www.heinleinsociety.org/2021/08/2021-annual-meeting-information/>

At the September 13, 2021 board meeting the new 2022 board met to elect as its officers for the coming year:

John Tilden, President

Ken Walters, Vice-President

Herb Gilliland, Secretary

Beatrice Kondo, Treasurer

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Hello Heinlein Society members. Are you experienced with Facebook? Have you been a page or group admin? Are you able to be politically neutral? Can you deal with a diverse group of people and remain polite? If you fit the bill, we need your help! Please contact Ken Walters at [ken@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:ken@heinleinsociety.org).



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### **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)

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## Paying It Forward: Scholarship Recipient Update

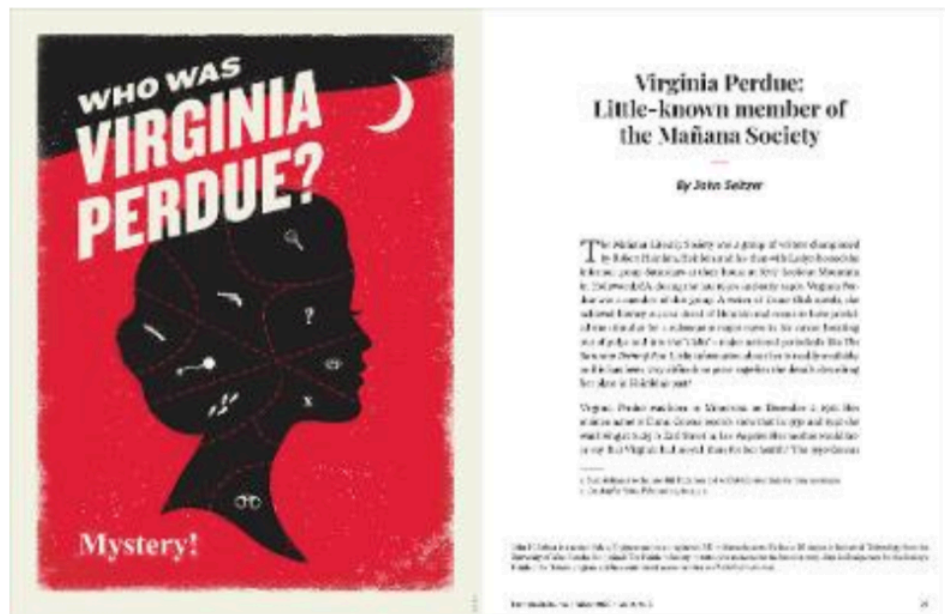
Good Afternoon,

In 2013 you awarded me with a scholarship to help attend nursing school. Since then I have become a pulmonary and critical care nurse, a profession which I love and am passionate about. Recently, we purchased our first home and I was unpacking my Heinlein books you all crossed my mind. Thank you for your assistance in helping me finish school and achieve my dream of being a nurse.

Sam Healy

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## *The Heinlein Journal: Award Winning!*



The recent redesign of *The Heinlein Journal* was chosen as one of 6 winners in the Editorial category of *Communication Arts'* 62nd annual design competition, the most exclusive major design competition in the world.

“This redesign matches the quality of the publication with the stature of its authors and their scholarship,” said Managing Editor and Designer Mark Bult. “We’ve enlivened the publication with a new masthead and typography, plus more photos and new, custom illustrations for each major paper accepted. I very much enjoy creating the illustrations for each issue — it’s a design muscle I don’t get to exercise very often.”

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# PUTTING THE SCIENCE IN SCIENCE FICTION LOSCON 47



## Nov 26-28, 2021

### CON UPDATE

by Keith G. Kato

Are you planning to attend LOSCON 21? The Los Angeles regional SF convention, Loscon, will resume as an in-person convention for attending members at its 47 th incarnation in 2021. Loscon will be held the Friday-Saturday-Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, 26-28 November 2021, at the LAX Marriott Hotel. Writer Guest of Honor is Dr. Gregory Benford, Lifetime Member of The Heinlein Society, physics professor emeritus, and award winning SF author.

Greg was banished from the 2019 Loscon for remarks from a panel there that an audience member complained about. He was offered the 2020 Guest of Honor as an apology by the Loscon committee (with the 2019 complainant now banished “for cause”). But the entire 2020 Loscon structure was rolled over to 2021 because of COVID.

For those who are thinking of attending see Loscon 47 – November 26th - 28th, 2021 Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel for membership and hotel information. Caveat emptor: Note the COVID restrictions on the homepage. Be that as it may, Greg has asked if there are any THSers with STEM expertise who would be willing to serve as panelists? If so, please contact me ASAP at [keithgkato@verizon.net](mailto:keithgkato@verizon.net).

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## Blood Drive Update

*by Carlin Black, Blood Drive Chair*

Your favorite Conventions are moving to fall! Wasabi Con in Jacksonville FL Oct 16-17. Those with Heinlein Society blood drives will be expecting your donation again. Please sign up early so the coordinators can plan for enough resources to accommodate all of you. If your favorite Con does not have a blood drive, please contact [BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org) for help in setting one up. Coordinating a drive is easy, the Blood Center does most of the work. Blood Drive Coordination mainly involves networking at the Con to encourage donations. With a few friends to help at the sign up table you will have plenty of time to enjoy the Con!

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](#). Or just send a profile and a donation selfie to [BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org) for posting.

THS Donors will be recognized with an SF pin 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.

Totals for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year: 182 donors for 194 total units. A big win, considering Con cancellations and COVID restrictions!

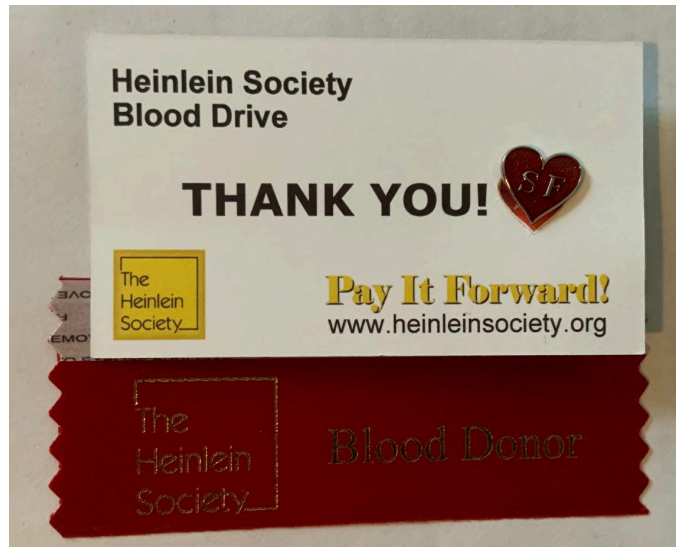
Totals to date 43399 donors, 44131 Units.

DragonCon reported in with 2383 donations for 2735 units collected for their Labor Day weekend drive. Attendance at DragonCon was half of normal so coming close to their usual numbers was incredible!

\*Note on donations vs. units. Double Red or Power Red donations use a machine to concentrate red cells in the donation to twice a whole blood donation. Therefore these donations count for two units.

**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!



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!

## What Am I Reading? Episode 4

### Betsey Wilcox

I am back with more recommendations for your reading pleasure! But first I want to tell you about a surprising conversation a friend and I had about dystopian and post-apocalyptic books. My friend picked up the Faith Hunter "Shining Smith" Audibles, and we had a texting session about how could I have liked those books because I detest dystopian books. I had to stand my ground and say they were not dystopian, rather they were post-apocalyptic like David Brin's "The Postman". Then we discussed the difference between dystopian & post-apocalyptic because apparently current use is interchangeable, but for me there is a big difference between the two and I don't use them interchangeably! I see post-apocalyptic differing from dystopian in one major way: hope or the lack thereof. The characters live and

work toward survival & a better future with hope as a driving force makes it post-apocalyptic. So please don't expect me to write about dystopian books, because I can't bring myself to read hopeless books, no matter how well written. Neither of the books below are in that vein so read away.

**Alex Kingston- "Doctor Who - The Ruby's Curse: A River Song & Melody Malone Mystery" - Audible**

I picked up this Audible as I was looking for something light & fun and who is more fun than River Song and what could be better than to have it read by the persona of the character. I was still unpacking & moving from room to room while my linked Alexas read to me. The story started out meeting my expectations; River Song narrated first person and then read parts of a book she was writing involving Melody Malone, Private Investigator circa 1939 A.D. I was enjoying the switching back and forth between Stormcage, ad 5147 and Melody Malone in ad 1939 with River being in ad 5147. It was time travel in a way, but it wasn't giving me a headache. Somewhere around chapter 15 or 17 the tone of the book changed, it was subtle but still a change and then my head started to hurt. There was a lot of jumping around and a new places & times were added (Egypt & Rome, 30 BCE). I think I was actually got time lost for a bit, but finally caught up & my head stopped hurting. For a Doctor Who novel written & read by Alex Kingston, this book in was no way disappointing. Well written & well narrated, it makes me want to try another Doctor Who book.

**J. Michael Straczynski- "Together We Will Go" - Audible**

This was another whim purchase, and I had no idea what I was going to get. I knew Joe Straczynski's writing from the TV series "Babylon 5" so I didn't think it would stink. It did not stink. There was a full cast recording, so it was easy to tell the 12 characters apart but when I bought it, I had no idea it was a journey about suicide with 12 strangers on a bus. The motivation behind each character's reasons for wanting to die are laid out provocatively and uniquely. **Spoiler alert:** not all characters die at the end of the journey. There are the unimaginative tropes, i.e., 30 something self-declared failure, the bullied fat girl & the bipolar party girl, then there are the characters who sneak in and take up residence in your mind like the young, very talented writer with a BA in Gender Studies who could have been a trope of gender confusion, but turned out to be so much more and the girl with a pain disorder who finds a way to vanquish her demon spider, and the blue man with a congenital heart defect who I think had been living with a death sentence for so long that everyday he lived was a triumph and you cheered for him. This was not depressing, or angst ridden or even implausible. It was a thoughtful exploration of what makes different people tick. I recommend this for those not faint of heart who wonder, just wonder.

**Dean Wesley Smith- *Smith's Monthly Magazine***

I met Dean Wesley Smith & his partner in life Kristine Kathrine Rusch in the late 1980s and found them both to be smart, friendly and a little mysterious. Their careers were about to take off both as editors and writers, so it has been fun to be vicariously along for the ride. I think my favorite editing and publishing adventure was the original *Pulphouse: The Hardback Magazine*, which I subscribed to and was sorry when it was done. Dean went on to

write and write and write as did Kris. I followed them both and when I discovered Dean was doing a series called *Smith's Monthly* I had to subscribe. Dean fills this monthly magazine with his own stories, and I found that I really enjoyed all the different characters in all the different settings. My favorite ones are the "Thunder Mountain" stories. These stories take place in late 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> Century in the mountains of Idaho. This is not time travel as we know it from Doctor Who, and it doesn't give me a headache. I highly recommend reading these stories. There isn't anything that I haven't enjoyed at some level in *Smith's Monthly* and it is up to Issue #52. All issues are available and as Dean says, "never go out of print". For aspiring writers there are articles and tips. My favorite being [Heinlein's Rules: Five Simple Business Rules for Writing: A WMG Writer's Guide](#). WMG is the publishing company Dean & Kris are currently associated with and where you can go to see the extensive number of stories, books, and magazines available. Why am I telling you all this? Mainly to show that I read things other than books and because I only had two books to offer up for your reading pleasure. I spent a lot reading time the last two months reading back issues of *Smith's Monthly* as they got unpacked and put on shelves. So, if you can't seem to find time to read a book, try reading short stories or serialized stories and give *Smith's Monthly* a try.

Until next time,

Betsey Wilcox

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**Editor's note:** If you've ever wondered what my favorite (if I really, really had to pick!) parts of the Newsletter are...It's H4H and the Blood Drive update. Sometimes it's tough to see the real, palpable good that your membership propagates in the world, and H4H and our Blood Drives provide a quick reminder. Thank all of you for continuing to Pay It Forward!

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**This fiscal year, we've made 326 shipments already, totaling 4,879 books distributed. Since the program's inception, we've sent 34,056 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/](https://www.heinleinsociety.org/h4h/) for information!

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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/>.

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**H4H Thank You**



We snapped a picture of the unit when a box of books arrived. Thank you again.

V/R

Kyle Jaeger

1LT, MI

S2 OIC, 441 EOD Bn

TF Hellhound

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Thank you so much to all the volunteers! We have received several shipments of new books. All of you are helping me to share my love of reading with my kids, they love getting the mail! I have also shared several books with my father-in-law, a special forces vet.

Thank you again,

SSG Sara Buzard

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I want to thank you for your shipment of books, it arrived safely and much sooner than expected. I have made an area here where soldiers can come and pick up books to read and return when they are done. It really helps with the downtime here since we don't have the best access to the internet available. Thank you again for your time and I look forward to receiving more and being able to share them with others.

Sincerely,

SPC Hopkins, Jason

Alpha Company, 115th ESB

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Thank you all at Operation Paperback, We are deployed to Iraq and I just received our first box of books. I have placed these books on a shelf in our community tent and they will be shared with all of the Soldiers here. Thank you for what you do for the Troops, and on behalf of all of the Wolfpack family, we appreciate it.

V/R,

Thomas F. Coveney

CSM, USA

Task Force Command Sergeant Major

Task Force Wolfpack

1-82 AB, 82nd CAB

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

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**Our mailing address is:**

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3553 Atlantic Avenue, #341  
Long Beach, CA 90807

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