

February 2022

# THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY



Happy "Twos-day" (2/22/22!) and Happy belated New Year! We hope you've had some time to curl up with a good book over the holidays. Here's what The Heinlein Society has been up to.



Eschewing the pillow, Ziggy would rather absorb literature through osmosis.

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## THS Rang in the New Year Together!

We celebrated internationally on our Discord server New Year's Eve/New Year's Day with members popping in from Australia, England, France, and most of the U.S. time zones. Want to try Discord? You can get an invite from Libby by requesting one via email at [thsdiscordacct@gmail.com](mailto:thsdiscordacct@gmail.com).

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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 Society at DisConIII**

**By John Tilden**

We opened with a “Mission/Vision” meeting on Wednesday attended by nine members where we provided pizza and drinks and talked about affirming, setting, or revising goals. This was valuable input provided to the entire Board of Directors.

Thursday was our most active day. President JT moderated a “Meetup” with great attendance. The biggest surprise was that the entire meetup was filmed as background for a documentary on First Fandom and its legacy. A special treat was the attendance at this meetup by Joe & Gary Haldeman.



*The crowd at our Meetup*

Thursday evening we had a private party for members and invited guests of the Society. We had Keith Kato's chili, made to his standards even though Keith couldn't attend this year. We also apparently hold the distinction of being the only party reported at this WorldCon!



*The Volunteers that made our Party a Success!*

We had a wonderful time connecting with people throughout the convention at our fan table and came away with two new lifetime members, two returning members, and eight new regular members!

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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 Glliland, Editor, The Heinlein Journal

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

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## **Scholarship Applications open for the 2022-2023 Academic Year!**

We are now accepting scholarship applications for the 2022 - 2023 academic year. The application form is available for download from our website:

<https://www.heinleinsociety.org/scholarship-program/>

This year we will be awarding four scholarships of \$4,000 each. The Virginia Heinlein Memorial scholarship is dedicated to a female candidate majoring in engineering, math, or biological or physical sciences. The Robert A. Heinlein, Dr. Jerry Pournelle, and Dr. Yoji Kondo scholarships are available to candidates of any gender with the same majors.

The deadline to submit an application is April 1, 2022. Winners will be announced July 7, 2022.

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## **Blood Drive Update**

*by Carlin Black, Blood Drive Chair*

Many thanks to Galaxy Press for their lovely donation of 500 copies of Battlefield Earth for Blood Drive Swag! Keep up with us here in the Newsletter and on Facebook for your opportunity to collect this swag and help us Pay It Forward!

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.

\*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!



Getting ahead or catching up on your holiday shopping? 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!

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## What Am I Reading? Episode 6

### Betsey Wilcox

The holidays and WorldCon really slowed down my reading time as did deaths in the family in December. I managed to complete two books and start on a new series, so I have something to write about.

#### **J. K. Rowling- *The Christmas Pig***

Yes, I am a fan of Ms. Rowling's writing - both her adult series and, of course, *Harry Potter*. I found *The Christmas Pig* to fall in-between. It is a lovely story and if you are searching for a way to explain loss to children this book might be the best effort I have read. It didn't make me cry, but I did really care for the characters, which run the gamut from stuffed pigs (yes, plural) to broken angel tree toppers and discarded bunnies to a nasty, scary creature (I don't want to spoil too many details for you!). This is a story that can only happen on Christmas Eve, when magic might happen. I was sucked into the story and wondered how it was going to turn out. I really liked how all of the loose ends were neatly wrapped up at the end. I highly recommend this book.

#### **Ada Palmer - *Perhaps the Stars* (Book 4 of *Terra Ignota*), Audible**

The previous three books in Ada Palmer's *Terra Ignota* require more than one reading to really understand and I am not going to claim that I really understand them all. Apparently, my classical Greek and Roman education is lacking! Now that the fourth book is out, I found myself missing some of the references - time to brush up on my Greek and Roman. I listened to book four on Audible and it was really well done, however, I found myself lost on occasion and had to replay sections. It didn't

always work. I have set myself a new goal of starting at the beginning and actually reading all four books in order. Sitting with Ada and her father and devoted fans in a private group at WoldCon was very illuminating and answered some of the questions that I had and got me excited to re-read the whole thing from start to finish. So, if you have not read the previous books, DO NOT start with this one thinking it will catch you up. It will not. You will flounder and drown. Start at the beginning and wade out into the surf slowly. The books in order are *Too Like the Lightning*, *Seven Surrenders*, *The Will to Battle* and *Perhaps the Stars*. Enjoy the challenge.

### **Martha Wells- *The Murderbot Diaries***

First, I had the great good pleasure to meet Martha Wells informally at WorldCon before she won two Hugos for her writing of this series of novellas and a novel. I had heard many good things about the novellas but had not had the opportunity to add them to my pile of TBR (To Be Read). They are there now, and I have started them. I am going to hold off writing about them until I have completed them (currently on the third novella) but I am enjoying them immensely. Next time I will review them all at the same time. Also, Martha, I did not mean to ignore you on the street on Sunday, but I was focused on my lunch partner and didn't realize who had spoken to me in passing until you were out of sight. Congratulations on winning two Hugos on Saturday night. Well deserved!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to mention the loss of one of my dearest and longtime friends in Science Fiction, Diana G. Gallagher. Had we not met in 1986 I might never have become as involved in science fiction or met so many people who impacted my life in so many ways. Diana died on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from long term complications of COPD. She was probably the most talented person I knew. She was a singer-songwriter in the filk world as well as an artist and a writer. She published at least a hundred books. I am proud to say that I have all her books, music and almost all of her art. The last time we went to a WorldCon together was 2013 in San Antonio. I miss her a lot but am grateful that I was able to call her friend and sister for 35 years.

Until next time,

Betsey

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**This fiscal year, we've made 126 shipments already, totaling 1,897 books distributed. Since the program's inception, we've sent 36,347 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!

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## H4H Thank Yous

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This month, we want to say "Thank you!" to YOU! Without your membership, the H4H program wouldn't be possible. Thank you for all you do to Pay It Forward.

Image (c) Caroline Lynch

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

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Heinlein Society News and Updates

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

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