

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

Newsletter for December 2023

Letter from the Editor

As deep Fall drives relentlessly toward the Solstice and Winter, it seems Winter has already come for some of our members in more northern climes. Facebook friends with many members, I've already been seeing pictures of snow and reports of temperatures well below freezing. Even here in the South, we've had more nights below freezing than not during November. With some of our favorite sports either beginning their seasons or winding up important Championships, US Thanksgiving having just come and gone, and the Holiday Season continuing through the New Year, it's been a busy time for us all, and the Society and I would like to wish a Merry and Safe Holiday and Winter Season to one and all. :-)

Our past President and current Operations Chair John (JT) Tilden wanted me to remind members that The Heinlein Society has a Discord server. This message from JT gives you the details:

Did you know THS is on Discord?

We have a Discord server and here is an invite link: <https://discord.gg/BjNTSzYJBv> . For those that might need a primer, this seems to be a good introduction: <https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/what-is-discord-and-how-do-you-use-it> . The service works best via apps on whatever device you are using.

If you have any issues using the link, contact jt@heinleinsociety.org .

Thanks for that info, JT!

Jim Dutton - Newsletter Editor for The Heinlein Society

Son of Silvercon

Last issue we announced a new convention in Las Vegas. The organizer, Kevin Trainor, reports an intimate turnout of 29 paid members who had a great time, and while they didn't have a dealer room, the attending authors sold a lot of books to attendees and next year they plan to have an official dealer room. The attendees enjoyed several conferences and gaming, and [next year's event](#) has already been planned for next July (instead of 2023's October dates).

Your editor, who's had other pursuits in life but has never gotten into the convention scene, has been recently surprised to learn that small regional Cons are quite common and spread out around the country and the calendar. There is a Con in Rosemont IL in mid-December, and no fewer than *seven* Cons in January! I found a convenient list of Cons [HERE](#). Note that Balticon in late May is somewhat of the official Con gathering for The Heinlein Society

Letter from a Member

We had this nice letter come in from member Jim Roberts, sent to John Tilden.

I liked being approached to rejoin as a request rather than a high pressure sales job with a "Premium". Oh, I realize that I was sold- tack up another [cah-ching] but that's all right - I can have fun knowing that.

Part of my reason was to feel that I could replay to the email, particularly to the 'What am I Reading 15.0 with regards to *Starter Villain*, which I just finished and also more particularly with respect to John Scalzi. First on *Starter Villain*, I only started reading Scalzi with *Kaiju Preservation Society* but read his list of works and had some small idea of his range. *Starter Villain* hits some of the same 'notes' exploring human reactions and psychology through other species, and also the theme of the acceptance of monied evil in society. I enjoyed it thoroughly, hoped that it might be a series, and nearly cried when it wasn't. I hope he will revisit that world someday.

But regarding John Scalzi himself, I had the pleasure of briefly meeting him at the Southern Kentucky Book Fest in Bowling Green, KY last year and passed a few worlds with him. I am forever tongue-tied when it comes to speaking with authors. I know, intellectually, that unless they jump very high, they put on their pants one leg at a time, just like me but somehow my limbic system considers them as Superior Beings. In trying to know a bit about the author after reading *Kaiju*, I had done some basic research and learned of his friendship with Will Wheaton and one

specific incident in which John had commissioned a painting of Will with a Rainbow Unicorn which painting was auctioned for charity. Will was also at SOKY Bookfest last year.

A small plot occurred to me, so I purchased a copy of *Kajju* to be signed by John Scalzi and asked for the inscription to be "Jim - Curse you, Will Wheaton, and the Rainbow Unicorn you rode in on!". I explained that I had come upon the recounting of the Rainbow Unicorn and wanted to have my wife get in line for Will Wheaton and present him the inscription to read. John kindly acquiesced. The inscription was given to Will to read - and as he laughed, I snapped a picture of him with the book and my wife to his side, which I showed to John Scalzi and was able to see him chuckle. Mission Accomplished.

And that's both my only John Scalzi story AND my only Will Wheaton story- both gained for the princely sum of \$17.99.

Jim Roberts
Hopkinsville, KY

Discussion group for the Heinlein novel "Friday"

I announced this discussion last issue, and it's been a lively one which began on November 11 and is ongoing. You can find it [HERE](#). If you're not a member of the Heinlein Forum, you'll need to apply to join the group to join this discussion: [HERE](#). There is some controversial content in Friday that's gotten a lot of mention and debate, but one thing the participants can agree on is its strong anti-bigotry theme, as Friday struggles to not only survive against opposing political forces, but find her own place in a world which doesn't consider APs (Artificial Persons) worthy of being thought of as "real". Its a fast-paced read with a serious look at a social theme which, sadly, continues to plague the planet.



Heinlein Society Blood Drives

December's report is the last from our long-time chair, Carlin Black, who is stepping back and handing over the reins to Joe-Smiddie-Brush. Carlin has done a tremendous job leading this effort, a focus of Robert Heinlein's efforts and one the Society is glad to Pay Forward in his memory. Your Editor has enjoyed getting to know Carlin, and we all both welcome Joe to the Heinlein Society team and thank him for stepping up to provide new leadership in this very important element of our activities.

by Carlin Black, retiring Blood Drive Chair

Officially, Dragon Con reported 2997 donors for 3433 units. Kudos to LifeSouth and Alan Koslow for a fantastic drive.

As this is my last report, I would like to welcome Joe Smiddie-Brush as the nominee for the new blood chair. I hope the board will welcome him with an approval by acclamation.

I suggest that emails to blood drive chair be forwarded to jsmiddiebrush@gmail.com and that outgoing emails be from blood drive chair and not default as they have been to x@hein...

It has been an honor serving the Society, but age and health issues indicate a new chair is prudent.

If you know anyone who might be interested in coordinating a blood drive, have them contact BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org. We will do all the work with the Blood Center to make it happen.

Reminder: all people are now eligible to donate. No more "permanent deferrals."

When you donate, send a selfie to: blooddrivechair@heinleinsociety.org!

And we have a [Donor Wall](#) page online.

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.

H4H has had a busy couple of months with donations from Colonel Mike J Neilsen, Herb Gilliland, Geo Rule, John Seltzer, Greg Funke, Carlin Black, Bob Feller, Alyn Flowers, Beatrice Kondo, and Tony von Krag (via David Dyer-Bennet). Thank you all for your generosity to our Veterans and men and women in active service!

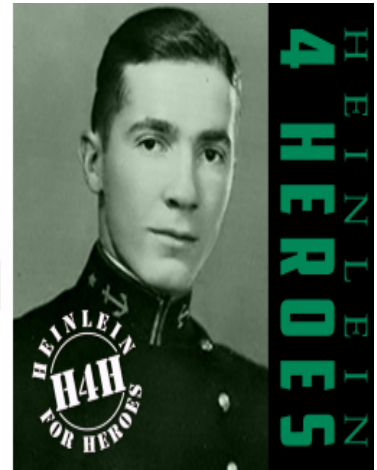
The H4H report for SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 and Fiscal year FY2024 is as follows:

Shipped in SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

69 shipments totaling **1,473** books

Best Regards,
Please call or text or email if you have any questions.

John Seltzer, H4H Chair
H4H@Heinleinsociety.org
Bellingham, WA
360-303-5325



We received this nice letter from the US Department of Veterans Affairs c/o Operation Paperback.

Operation Paperback <https://www.operationpaperback.org/> is a large organization that sends books to Troops and Veterans. Heinlein four Heroes ships SF genre books for them.

We've been their SF book supplier for several years.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Louisville-Robley Rex VAMC (603) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of 28 books for Veterans.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again in the future. - Thank you for your continues support.

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.

Martha Knowles and Ken Roy
Baen Books
Barry Locklear (assisted by Vondi Forrester)
Col Mike J Nielsen

Membership Report

Well ... along with whipping up this newsletter every two months, your Editor is now the Society's Membership Chairman, and in crafting this December issue I hit this space and something slapped me in the face. That's me now! I was so used to getting a note from the past Chairman and new Society President Ken Walters that I'd sort of forgotten that the Membership Report comes from (ahem) ME!

Well, lucky for me but unlucky for the Society, the Fall Quarter is seldom a busy time for new Society memberships. We typically have more memberships lapse than arrive new during these months, as priorities focus on many other Fall and Holiday events. Plus, as the new Chair, I haven't begun to advertise yet in our Facebook pages for new members. Unless otherwise prompted, I plan to let the holidays get out of everyone's hair and take that up after the New Year.

HOWEVER, that makes it important that members with expiring memberships renew and help support all the work you see above in this publication. The Society's work actually helps to Save Lives, and since this newsletter goes out to both active and expired memberships, if you haven't renewed your membership lately, please consider continuing to support the Society ... and I thank all members active and past, for their help. I know this message duplicates my normal call for renewal below, but it's worth mentioning in my more personal appeal, too.



The Heinlein Society Newsletter goes out to all current and past members. If you are a past member and haven't renewed your membership for a while, please consider Heinlein Society programs like the Blood Drives and Heinlein For Heroes. If you wish to support our core programs, your membership helps to not only do that, but helps us to sustain the memory of our favorite author, and we hope yours, too.

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

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