

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

Newsletter for February 2024

Letter from the Editor

We here at the Heinlein Society hope everyone had a pleasant Holiday season and are off to a good start in the New Year. :-) Our newsletter schedule doesn't make for a convenient, timely Happy New Year wish, but on the good side that also means I don't have to put a newsletter together on New Year's Eve!

It's not too early to start thinking about and planning for [Balticon](#). I've never been, but since my association with the Society I understand that Balticon is unofficially a Heinlein Society gathering for anyone convenient to the schedule and venue. This year it's May 24-27 and more detail can be found under the hyperlink.

There are no fewer than five upcoming regional Cons in February, and [this site](#) has a nice listing of just about any sci-fi con you might be interested in. There is one in Illinois, one in Irving, Texas, one in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and two in Maryland! And the Big Daddy of them all, Worldcon, is in Glasgow, Scotland on August 8-12th.

Jim Dutton - Newsletter Editor for The Heinlein Society

Two items of interest from Operations Chair and Past President John Tilden:

New Digital Download of Heinlein's voice

The Society was granted the right to make the 1973 Forrestal Lecture available for fundraising and educational purposes. We have set up a product at our online store to allow a donation by a member and receive the speech audio as a premium. You must be an active paid member to receive this premium with a donation. To thank our Lifetime members, the lecture is available for them with no donation necessary. Lifetime members should use the same coupon code that allows them to download The Heinlein Journal at no charge. (Don't remember your code? Email operations@heinleinsociety.org to receive a reminder.)

Interested? <https://www.heinleinsociety.org/product/forrestal-lecture-audio-1973/>

Need Help on the Website?

We have started to publish more 'Help' articles for common issues that happen for members when they are renewing or purchasing a membership. One common issue now is when a credit card expires and must be replaced on a subscription. We have tested these instructions and they do work when followed, but we are always on the lookout to make them clearer! To find the existing help articles just search the word "help" within the search box at the bottom of every page footer on the website.

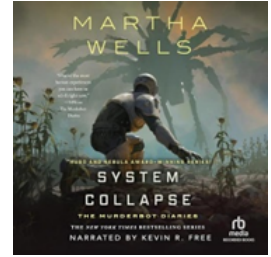
It essentially requires the member to cancel the previous subscription and begin a new subscription with the new payment method. At this time, an explanation and instructions go out with all renewal notices, so if you need to change payment methods, be sure to check out those instructions when you do.

What I am Reading 16.0

I am back with just a few recommendations, in part because of illness, company and the holidays you know "Life". The pain made reading very difficult as I kept falling asleep while reading. The good news is that the pain is finally under control, and I am ambulatory without depending on a cane or drugs for balance or ambulation. This has allowed me to read three books in January as opposed to one in December. I want to warn everyone now that I also just signed paperwork for building a house and land clearing will start next week. I don't know how much time this is going to suck out of my reading life over the next few months. I will try not to let it get between me and my reading, but I can make no promises just yet. This is the beginning of my forever home.

Martha Wells-System Collapse: The Murderbot Diaries, Book 7; HC, Kindle, Audible

Following the events in **Network Effect**, Murderbot finds itself not quite right and not operationally up to snuff. Missing some of its armor and maybe a few screws it must figure out what is wrong, fix it, save the human colonists it is trying to protect while not giving itself away to a whole new group of SecUnits from a predatory corporation. If they can't have the planet, then they want to indenture (read enslave) the human colonists already on the planet. Murderbot and its family of ships and people work together to save the day. Martha Wells does it again and does it "well"



Grady Hendrix- The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires ; HC, PB, Kindle, Audible

I got hooked on the title first, then the setting of the book (Charleston, SC area) and then the characters. I was having a rollicking time with the familiar female characters until the southern husbands stuck their noses and moralities into the story. I just wanted to slap them all silly for relegating the females to the "do as I say" obedient southern wife. Three years pass in time, and we are spared the gory details of that time, picking back up as the women return to their senses and start planning to kill the vampire in their midst who is threatening their children's lives. It was a completely satisfying end to a late 20th century southern novel. I am hoping to read the next novel, **How to Sell a Haunted House**, soon.

Lois McMaster Bujold- Demon Daughter; Kindle, Audio CD, Audible (March 2024)

The newest Penric and Desdemona, World of the Five God's novella does not disappoint. When a six-year old girl is accidentally joined to an elemental demon on a wooden sailing ship and proceeds to get thrown overboard because she can't stop starting fires, Pen and Des come to the rescue. Familiar characters appear, including the White God and his Saint, Nikys and Penric's children, and a wider understanding of demons. I think this is book 12 in the series and I am really hoping the Subterranean Press will also publish this volume. This is an easy reading page turner.



Until next time,
Betsey

Heinlein Society Blood Drives

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.



The H4H report for DECEMBER 2023 and Fiscal year
FY 2024 is as follows:

H4H Report for DECEMBER 2023

Donations

Shepard Stone.....\$250.00

Books Donated in DECEMBER

BAEN.....15-SF-t

.....46-SF-pbs

Carlin.....2-RAH-pbs

.....20-SF-pbs

Mike Sheffield.....120-SF-pbs

.....17-SF-h/c

.....15-SF-t

Books purchased in DECEMBER

JHSeltzer (eBay).....87-RAH-pbs

Shipped in DECEMBER

33 shipments totaling 682 books

Shipped in JANUARY

30 shipments totaling 596 books

H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2024 (5 months)

172 Shipments totaling 3,306 books sent

Program Total since inception 47,660

Best Regards,

Please call or text or email if you have any questions.

John Seltzer, H4H Chair

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H4H

Donate



Report for JANUARY 2024

Donations

Betsy.....\$50.00/monthly

Books Donated in JANUARY

Jonathan Burg*.....43-RAH-pbs

.....2-RAH-hc

John Bean.....18-SF-pbs

*shipped from London

Books purchased in JANUARY

JHSeltzer (eBay).....31-RAH-pbs

Beatrice (eBay).....43-RAH-pbs

Greg Funke.....63-RAH-pbs

.....533-SF-pbs

Membership Report

We don't get a lot of Life Membership, but this fall we picked up two new life members. Jerry Boyd and Terry-Lee Brussel-Rogers, thanks for those memberships!



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!

T H E 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:

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Heinlein Society Monthly News and Updates for Members

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