

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

April 2025 Newsletter



Editor: Jim Dutton

Society Directors and Committee Chairs

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Letter from the Editor

We have a few nice pieces of news for this edition of The Heinlein Society Newsletter. First is the announcement of this year's Heinlein Award winner.

Next is a portion of the Society's long interview with Art Dula, the Literary Trustee, and a driving force behind the Heinlein Prize Trust. For those not familiar, the Heinlein Prize Trust owns the lion's share of the Robert A. Heinlein Intellectual Property, and awards the Heinlein Prize to commercial space exploration as they find and recognize qualifying efforts. They also published the impressive Virginia Edition of all Heinlein's works, plus letters, essays, and other material.

I'll also remind members that Balticon is coming up in late May. It's the unofficial "Home Con" of the Society, and the venue for the annual presentation of the Robert A Heinlein Award.

Your editor is signed up and looking forward to the weekend. Last year my wife and I attended as our first Science Fiction Con, and had a wonderful time with Con activities, but even better was meeting several Heinlein Society members in person, including fellow Board members and past President John Tilden. It's a great experience if you've ever thought about attending. Also, The Heinlein Society will have an official presence at WorldCon in Seattle this year. Come by and see us if you attend!

Jim Dutton – April 13, 2025

Heinlein Award Dinner

At Balticon we'll hold a dinner for THS members honoring Sharon Lee. Also in attendance will be 2017 winner Robert J. Sawyer. It will likely be held the Saturday evening of Balticon at the hotel. Cost and start time still to be finalized. If you are even potentially interested to attend please send an email with your name and phone number and number of attendees to rsvp@heinleinsociety.org. We will follow up with you with payment details to finalize attendance. This dinner is a fantastic way to meet the awardees in a small setting. You do not have to be a con attendee to come to dinner.

If you're attending Balticon or live in the area, this is an event that should be on your calendar.

The 2025 Heinlein Award



Sharon Lee, novelist, is the 2025 winner of the Robert A. Heinlein Award. The award is bestowed for outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space. This award is in recognition of Ms. Lee's body of work of over thirty-eight novels and short

stories. A majority of her space themed work is in the Liaden Universe, written with her late husband Steve Miller, and features merchant families trading across the galaxy. The next Liaden Universe novel, *Diviner's Row*, is forthcoming from Baen Books in April 2025.

The award will be formally presented during opening ceremonies on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 8:00 PM for Balticon 59, the 59th Maryland Regional Science Fiction Convention. Balticon will take place at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore Maryland. Ms. Lee will participate in the Balticon program across Memorial Day Weekend.

Balticon and the Robert A. Heinlein Award are both managed and sponsored by The Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc. BSFS thanks The Heinlein Society and the family of Dr. Yoji Kondo for providing funding for this award.

The Robert A. Heinlein Award is a sterling silver medallion bearing the image of Robert A. Heinlein, as depicted by artist Arlin Robins. The medallion is matched with a red-white-blue lanyard. In addition, the winner receives two lapel pins for use when a large medallion is impractical, and a plaque describing the award for home or office wall display.

The Robert A. Heinlein Award selection committee consists of science fiction writers and was founded by Dr. Yoji Kondo, a long-time friend of Robert and Virginia Heinlein. Members of the original committee were approved by Virginia Heinlein.

Virginia Heinlein authorized multiple awards in memory of her husband. Other awards include the Heinlein Prize, which is fully funded by Virginia Heinlein's estate, and a National Space Society award for volunteer projects.

Sharon Lee maintains an official website at <https://sharonleewriter.com/>

Sharon Lee lives in the town of Waterville in the state of Maine, USA.

Art Dula Interview – Part One

John Tilden (JT)

We're doing this for the newsletter at large. And there's a lot of people that we--the Heinlein Society--get confused for the Prize Trust. So, I wanted to bring a human face in, particularly Art for you and for Buckner to understand how you first met the Heinleins, and how you got brought in to the point where you're a trustee. Speak about how you first got in with the Heinleins.

Buckner Hightower:

Well, the trust had already been set up with three trustees at the wishes of Ginny Heinlein. I was not one of the original three, but shortly after it was set up, one of the three stepped aside, and three trustees were authorized. I was asked, to my great pleasure, to be the third. So that's my short story.

Art Dula:

I worked with Mr. Heinlein on Congressional testimony on medical devices, and also gave him advice on copyrights and things like that. So I was a lawyer, and this was before he died in 1988, obviously, and when he died I went out to California and helped Ginny pack up their house to move to Fleet Landing because she was a retired ex-naval officer, and I also talked to her about space, and she was very interested in space. I think that Robert got a lot of his ideas from her.

So sometime after that, she asked me to set up a Trust that was to give a prize, and we discussed it, and my wife, who was practicing law with me at the time, actually drew up the Trust documents.

She's an attorney. I'm an aerospace intellectual property attorney. So I'm not specialized in Trust and things like that. But it simply was to give a prize, and the prize was for accomplishments in commercial space activities by individuals without significant government funding, and the intention was for this to be something on a much smaller scale, of course, like the Nobel Prize, where it would be a prestigious award and it would be given from time to time, and it would be in support of commercial space activities. To individuals, not to companies.

And it had to be for something that had actually been accomplished. Now, each of those words of limitation, as you can imagine, lowers the universe of people that can receive the prize. In fact, I would say, Buckner, that most of our time has been spent actively looking for people who have qualified for the prize. How do you feel about that?

Buckner Hightower:

Well, I feel that it has not taken a long time investigating that because so few have qualified. But yes, we have spent as much time as necessary to do that, and continue to.

Art Dula:

And in fact, we're looking now. The way that the prize works is that there are three trustees. We only have two now because one of them died, and we haven't replaced the third trustee yet.

And there are three advisors now. The advisors are not trustees. They can't give the prize. They're just advisors, but they're geographic. There's one for Asia, one for Europe, and one for the Americas.

I am the advisor for the Americas, because I know most of what's going on here and keep up with it as part of my professional work.

The Advisor for Europe and Africa is the ex-Dean of the Moscow Aviation Institute, and he is a very well-known Russian expert at aerospace, and he's familiar with everything that's being done in Europe.

I must tell you we are thinking about changing to a trustee in Europe that is outside of Russia, just because of the terrible difficulties we have dealing with Russia.

Buckner, why don't you talk about this a little bit? Because you know about that we're an international organization. We're not just American.

Buckner Hightower:

Well, yes, that's true. And that's why we have advisors from three different areas of the planet. So it's not too difficult to track the information that we're looking for, because there's so little work being done that meets the requirements of being awarded the Heinlein Prize.

Art Dula:

Well, our advisor for Asia, We're now looking for one, because our last advisor for Asia was the ex-secretary of the Chinese Society of Aerospace, which is their external organization that reaches out all over the planet for the Chinese space program.

I can tell you that China has changed its internal law in the last few years and it now permits private companies to build rockets and space capsules and space stations, and presumably space colonies, starships, and interdimensional warp transmitters if you want to.

And in response to that, many news organizations have been founded which are private. They're private companies, and they come from all over China, and they're very active. Would you like to tell them, Buckner, about some about the contest that we ran in China for Asia.

Buckner Hightower:

We reached out through our advisor for Asia to gather submissions from mostly university-age people, but it wasn't limited to them to come up with an idea for a profitable aerospace-related company.

We had judges and volunteers, not paid, and I believe we settled on one finalist from the submissions made, invited them to Beijing, allowed them to present their idea yet another panel of judges, and after that we had some tours around Beijing to some cultural sites, and then we had a dinner at which the prize was presented. We did something similar in Russia.

Art Dula:

Well, actually in Europe it was held in Russia.

Buckner Hightower:

Yeah, well, for Europe. But yes, it was held in Russia, because that's where our advisor lived and where most of our contacts live.

Art Dula:

Yes, we actually had over a hundred entries from Asia, and we had to have two rounds of elimination. Now the contest wasn't for the Heinlein Prize. It was just a contest for people under thirty-five years old, if I remember. It was for young people.

Buckner Hightower:

I know it's intended not to be far beyond collegiate age.

Art Dula:

Yes, and they could have up to four people on their team, and they had to present a technical plan. That is, they had to make a proposal, a technical proposal, and they had to have a business plan on how to commercialize it, because the Heinlein Prize is directed to commercial activities. I must tell you, a lot of the Russians initially didn't understand that. They said, well, the prize is not enough money. I cannot do my project on that amount of money. I must have more money. It was amusing!

What are Members Up To?



New member and donor Julie Germany sent this picture (along with the following note) of her space-flown postcard attending a session about lunar living. RAH would have liked that, methinks. ;)

“As promised, I brought the postcard you sent me with me to meet some astronauts at SXSW in Austin today. I’m currently in a session hosted by Dubai’s Museum of the Future with the astronauts Shawna Pandya and Hazzaa al Mansoori about lunar living.” - Julie

Joe Haldeman

We got this news about Joe Haldeman, noted science fiction author, a seventeen-year-member of The Heinlein Society’s Board of Directors, and currently serving on the Society's Board of Advisors.



This news came to us from [Mike Glycer’s SF Fandom](#)

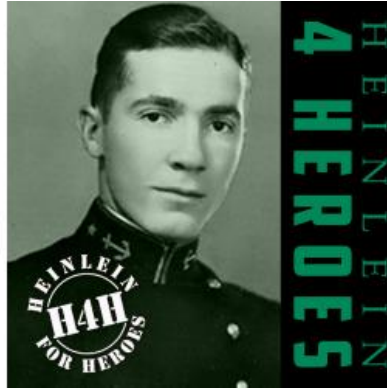
The National Space Society will honor sff author Joe Haldeman with the inaugural Arthur C. Clarke Memorial Award at its 43rd annual International Space Development Conference® (ISDC®) in June. The award is given for inspiring and educating the public about humanity’s journey to space.

(Note, this new award is a different honor than the literary Arthur C. Clarke Award, or those presented by the Arthur C. Clarke Foundation.)

Send any Newsletter contributions to: [News for the Heinlein Society Newsletter](#)

Heinlein for Heroes

Society Board member John Seltzer is the long-time face and muscle behind the H4H program. Board member Beatrice Kondo has recently joined the program.



<u>H4H Report FEBRUARY 2025</u>	
<u>Donations</u>	
Betsy	\$50.00/monthly
JHSeltzer	\$25.00/monthly
<u>Books Donated in FEBRUARY</u>	
Baen books	1 – box ~ 50 books
Dan Miller – Half Price books	2 – boxes ~ 100 books ea.
Bill Sears/JT/Beatrice	~620 SF books. Some RAH, E. Moon & H Harrison, +others.
<u>Books purchased in FEBRUARY</u>	
Silicon Valley Fine Books	44-RAH books
Seltzer - eBay	20-RAH books
<u>Shipped in FEBRUARY</u>	
42 boxes	794 books
<u>H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2025 (6 months)</u>	
201 boxes	3,697 Books
<u>H4H Program Total Since Inception</u>	55,643 books

<u>H4H Report MARCH 2025</u>	
<u>Donations</u>	
Betsy JHSeltzer	\$50.00/monthly \$25.00/monthly+\$185.00
<u>Books Donated in MARCH</u>	
<u>Books purchased in MARCH</u>	
Seltzer - eBay	173-RAH books+113-SF
<u>Shipped in MARCH</u>	
31 boxes	556 books
<u>H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2025 (7 months)</u>	
231 boxes	4,253 Books
<u>H4H Program Total Since Inception</u>	56,199 books

A nice thank you note from our men in uniform:

Hey JT!

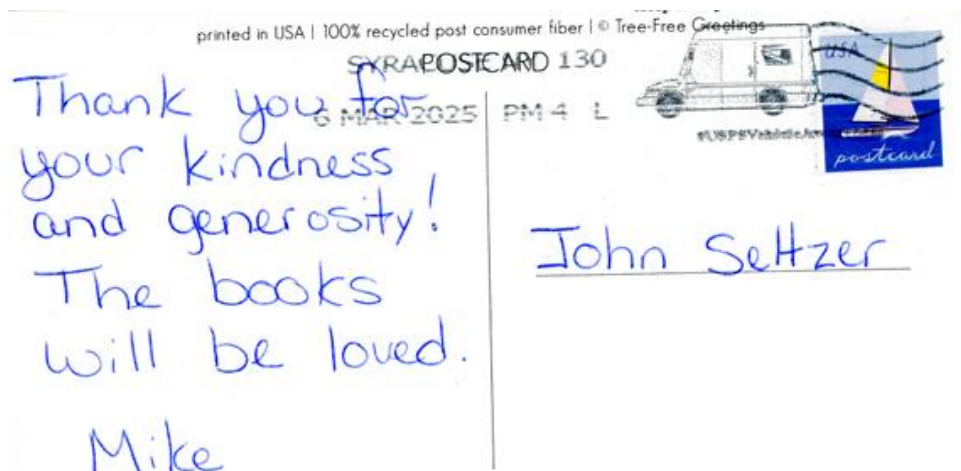
Greetings from REDACTED. I just received two boxes of books today from the Heinlein Society's H4H program; thanks for putting my name in. I've already passed some of the Heinlein books on to my fellow Soldiers, and I'll be handing everything off to the local USO here once I finish with them myself. The USO has a small library, but there's very little science fiction in it; I've had to resort to reading things like teen boarding school murder mysteries, so getting this science fiction is very welcome.

I hope to be home before Christmas, so maybe we can catch up in person around then.

--

John Paul Vrolyk

And this nice postcard:



And we had this request from Michael Booker:

"My name is Michael Booker and I'm a founding member of the Heinlein Society.

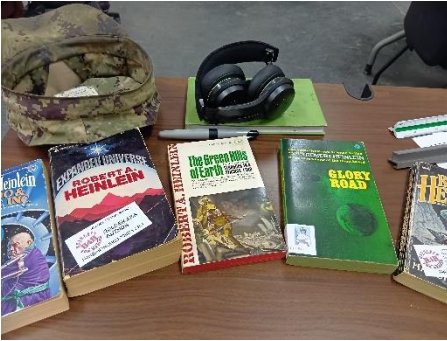
I'd like to request some books for the VA Hospital at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. I've been training there as a chaplain.

The Volunteer Services program (that distributes books to the patients) asked me to pass along two requests. The first is that they can only hand out new books, not used books. The second is that they have a donation form that they'd like to receive, along with the donation, for their records. That form is attached.

The form has addresses at the bottom for the two locations of VA Hospitals in St. Louis. I've been volunteering at the second one (at Jefferson Barracks).

Thank you so much."

Of course, John Seltzer came through for them!



And this, once again showing the hard work our fantastic H4H volunteers do:

Good Afternoon/Evening (depending on where you are in America that is)

I just wanted to take the time to thank you for sending out books, I'm currently deployed to Iwakuni Japan, and while it might not be the desert, six twelve-hour day work weeks can certainly grind away at the mind.

But seeing we had been sent a box full of novels written by one of my favorite science fiction authors did a great deal to lift my spirits, I've been a tremendous fan of Robert Heinlein ever since I read Starship Troopers for the first time, and reading it again after having enlisted made me feel, understood to say the least.

So thank you for sending out books to us,

Best Wishes,

Gannon Barton, NMCB 3 Detail Iwakuni

Recent New Full Members

Welcome to the Society and thanks for your support!

Earl Heinlein
David Osterhoudt
Teresa Davis
Dik Bree
Peter Locatelli
Susan Thomas
Amy Christensen
Jenn Rogers
Raymond Singer
Linda Merryman
Frank Luxem
Thomas Yorker

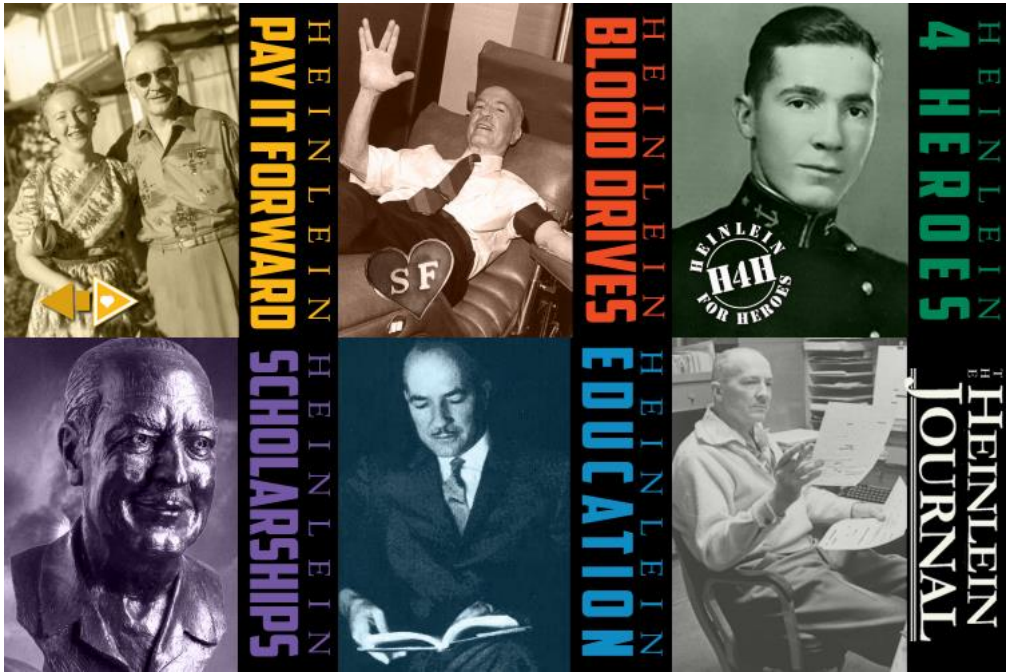
Current Members

When your renewal comes up, [please renew](#)! The Heinlein Society does a lot of great work, and we need your support. Your annual membership supports blood drives and scholarships! Plus get **The Heinlein Journal** and a drawing for a free [Virginia Edition](#)!

Editor's Note: Our accounting systems sometimes show previous members as new orders if there was a gap in membership. So if you were already a member before and I have on you this list, I'm happy to type your name anyway!

What the Heinlein Society Does

Click the image to Join or Renew!!



And folks, membership in this great organization is slipping month by month. Please consider renewing your membership, getting your name in the Virginia Edition Drawing, and supporting all the initiatives above.

Heinlein Society Blood Drives

The Society will have our normal blood drives at Cons again this year, but please get involved! Contact our Blood Drive Chair for assistance in organization one of these life saving events in your area.

If you know anyone who might be interested in coordinating a blood drive, have them contact BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org.

We had a blood drive at WonderCon in March. The totals aren't all in yet, but we'll have details about the WonderCon drive in our next issue.



We will do all the work with the Blood Center to make it happen.

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

The Heinlein Journal

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:

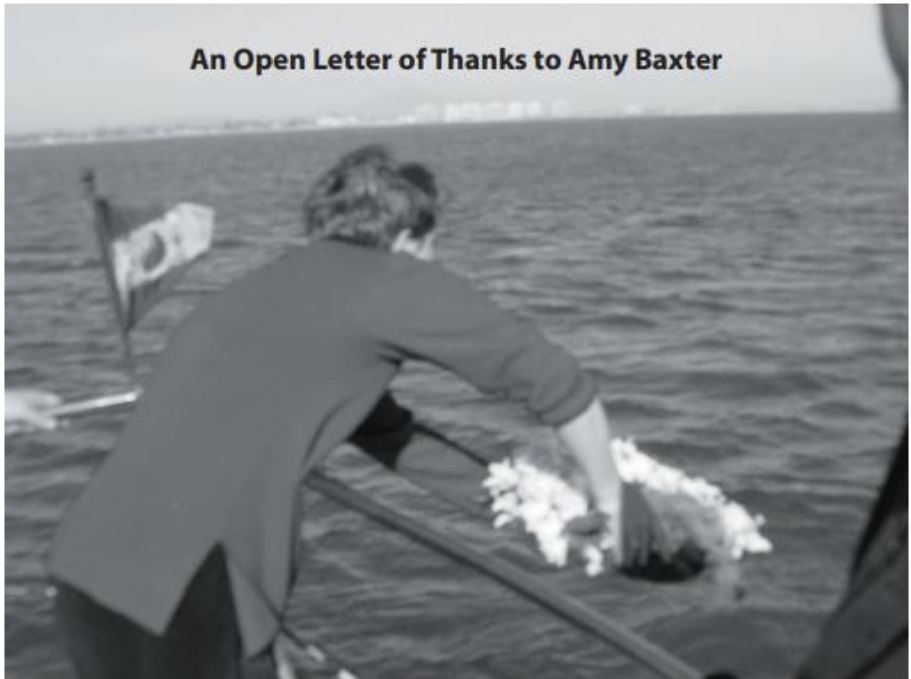
Herb Gilliland

Editor, The Heinlein Journal

editor@heinleinsociety.org



From the Archives – May 2003



An Open Letter of Thanks to Amy Baxter

Doctor Amy Baxter tosses wreath of orchids atop Virginia Heinlein's ashes. Photograph ©2003 by Victor Koman

Dr. Amy Baxter is known to many as the Heinleins' "adopted" granddaughter. She was never adopted. The term was conferred on her as their mark of the warm friendship in which they held her. Some several years ago a young girl wrote a letter telling Robert and Ginny she had no grandparents, that her parents were readers of his and had introduced her to his writings, that she knew they had no children, and asked could she please adopt them as her grandparents?

They wrote back warmly and said, kindly, "Of course you can." Over the years the letters continued. Eventually Amy visited and yet later came to spend some time with Virginia, who enjoyed her company and encouraged her dreams. Amy became a physician. During Virginia's last illnesses, Amy visited and ensured her adopted grandmother was receiving proper medical care, encouraging her to pursue the therapy necessary

to recovery, and helping to plan Ginny's return to her home. Sadly, on January 18th, Ginny died before those plans came to fruition.

During the weeks that followed Amy planned a small ceremony to reunite Ginny's ashes with Robert's in the Pacific. The Navy, because of hostilities, regretted it was unable to arrange a set time for a vessel that witnesses might board, but provided refreshments for the ceremony conducted on a boat owned and operated commercially by a retired Lieutenant Commander. Last month, in April, arrangements were completed, and Amy and her husband, Dr. Louis Calderon, arranged to travel to the Pacific Coast, with their smallest child, an infant girl, and invited a small number to attend an ashes ceremony held at her expense in San Diego Bay, California. Amy invited a small number of members of The Heinlein Society, of those local to Southern California,

For the article's conclusion, click [HERE](#).

Upcoming Cons



[Balticon 2025](#) has their site up!

[This site](#) keeps track of most upcoming cons.

There are upcoming cons over the course of the rest of April and then May in Omaha NE, Beckley WV, Minot ND, Glen Allen VA, Des Moines IA, Mandeville LA, Hollywood FL, Minneapolis MN, Waltham MA, Winnipeg MB, and Fargo ND.