

THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

July 2025 Newsletter



Sharon Lee accepting the 2025 Heinlein Award at Balticon 59



Letter from the Editor

Just a quick note with an explanation for the recent delay in publication of our Newsletter. The regular editor, Jim Dutton, has had some serious illness in 2025. He is dealing with his health, and in the interim the officers of THS have produced this issue.

We hope you'll enjoy the contents of the issue. Have you noticed that some of this content refers you to our website? We have been making an effort to have more interesting, and timely updated, content there.

2025 Heinlein Award

Sharon Lee was awarded the 2025 Robert A. Heinlein Award at Balticon 59. Besides the award ceremony at Opening Ceremonies, THS members had dinner with Sharon. The entire con enjoyed a wonderful interview with her. See more on our website (<https://heinleinsociety.org/balticon-59-report/>) for a full account!



2025 Scholarships Awarded

This is our fourteenth year of providing scholarships to worthy undergraduate students majoring in STEM fields. We are very pleased to say that we have now awarded a total of **\$103,250** to 43 winners to help them attain their goals. We owe a debt of gratitude to the many dedicated volunteers & donors who have helped to keep this program going.

Here are our four latest winners of a \$4,000 scholarship:

Kat Crawford – Kat is our *Virginia “Ginny” Heinlein Scholarship* recipient. Kat will be attending Stanford University as a sophomore, majoring in mathematics. She is working in parallel on a computer science degree through Stanford’s co-term program. She founded “Easy as Py”, an after-school coding program for elementary students, and cofounded the Elementary Math Alliance to similarly teach math. Her goals are to be a professor of theoretical computer science and start a non-profit dedicated to expanding STEM education opportunities.

Nora Kane – Nora is the *Robert A. Heinlein Scholarship* winner. She is entering her sophomore year at the California Institute of Technology with a dual major of Physics and English. Nora has spent hundreds of hours providing free tutoring to STEM students unable to afford professional tutoring. After she completes her undergraduate degree, she plans to pursue a PhD focused on the geometry of space time with the end goal of becoming a physics professor.

Nivriti Varanasi – Nivriti wins the *Dr. Jerry Pournelle Scholarship*. She is majoring in medicine at the University of Missouri Kansas City and will be a sophomore in the fall. While attending college she works as a medical scribe for ES Disability Exams, teaches yoga, and helps provide care at Sojourner’s Free Medical Clinic. Her goal is to become an ophthalmologist and provide much needed specialist care in rural communities.

Natalie Yen – Natalie is the winner of the *Dr. Yoji Kondo Scholarship*. In the fall she begins her sophomore year at Columbia University as a chemical engineering major. In high school she helped coordinate a Women in STEM poster contest for grades K-12 and is currently a member of Scientists and Engineers for a Better Society, volunteering in local elementary schools to encourage an interest in STEM. She hopes to use her degree to help develop safer consumer products, especially skin care products.

Our other top finalists are: Sharanya Chatterjee, Amadie Gajanaïke, Madison Mobach, Olivia-Nicole Okonta, Vanshika Sharma, and Aleksandra Vlasova.

A Remembrance of James Gifford

By Peter Scott

It is my sad duty to report the unexpected death of a luminary within the Heinleinsphere. Jim Gifford passed away at his Colorado home on April 3 of natural causes. The fandom pool we swim in would have been a puddle without his efforts, most notably his book *Robert A. Heinlein: A Reader's Companion* (https://www.nitrosyncretic.com/nsp_title_raharc.php), a tour-de-force reference containing the New Heinlein Opus List (<https://www.nitrosyncretic.com/rah/ftp/nhol.pdf>), commonly just abbreviated 'ARC' and 'NHOL', and his soup-to-nuts management of the Heinlein Centennial Convention in 2007.

Read the full remembrance at: <https://heinleinsociety.org/in-remembrance-of-james-gifford/>



James Gifford at the Heinlein Centennial, 2007



Inspiration for *The Door Into Summer*

By the end of January (1956) he (Heinlein) was generating a new “adult” book. He had an engineer/inventor on a bender because his wife dumped him to marry a rich man. But the elements weren’t coming together quite right, and he kept turning them over in his mind, changing a bit here and a bit there and seeing how the fit-together improved. One late January morning at breakfast, Ginny crossed his field of vision, being led-between-the-legs by their cat, Pixie. Bemused, he watched her open a people door for him and wait while Pixie sniffed disdainfully and turned away from the snow, complaining vocally at Ginny’s mismanagement of the weather. There were seven people doors leading out, and the same little playlet was reenacted at each door. When Pixie had rejected the last door and stalked away, indignant, Ginny shrugged. “I guess he’s looking for the door into summer.”

Suddenly, all the jumble of story elements he had been fiddling with fell into place in his head—a completely different configuration, and one that felt perfectly right. “Don’t say another word,” he said. He got up and almost ran to his office, eager to start getting the story down on paper. Thirteen days later, *The Door into Summer* was finished—the shortest length of time he had ever taken to write a full (if short) novel—and nearly perfect as it came off his typewriter. Pixie was the missing element; Robert’s familial affection for “the old warrior” gave the book its emotive core and tied all the incidents together in another ingratiating, seducing book.

Robert A. Heinlein: *In Dialogue with His Century, Volume 2: The Man Who Learned Better (1948-1988)* by William H. Patterson Jr.

We have a new issue out! Lifetime and Regular members may download the issue at no extra charge with their special coupon code. Review the issue's contents online [via the link](#).

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:

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Upcoming Cons



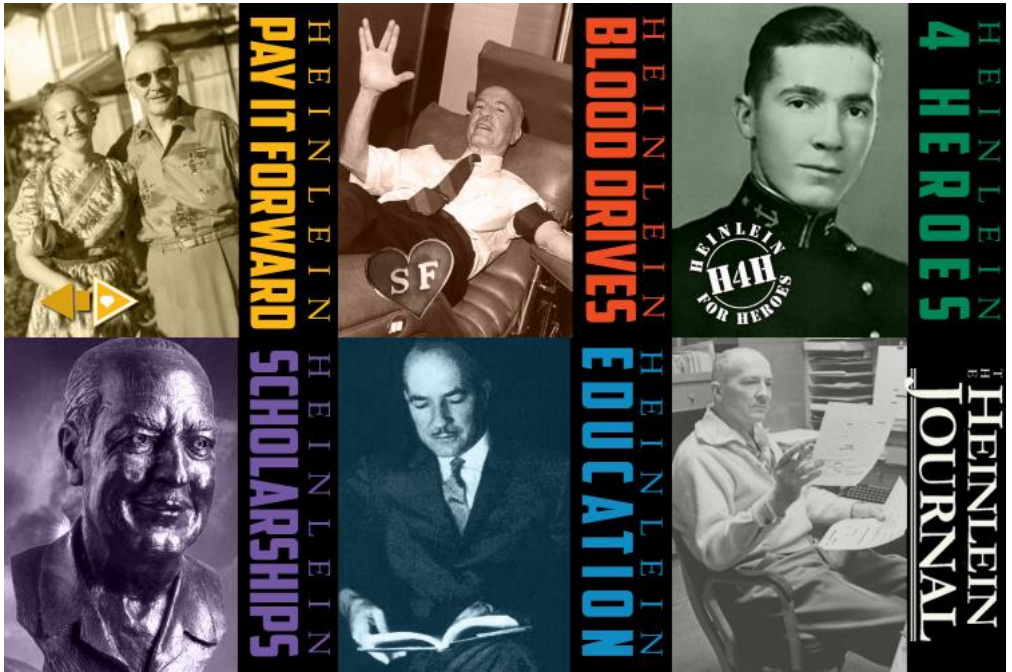
We'll have a fan table in space 28 at the [Seattle WorldCon](#)! Please RSVP via email to rspv@heinleinsociety.org if you are going to be there, or at least stop by the fan table to get your member ribbon. We are hoping to have at least one meetup during the convention.

We will not have a fan table at DragonCon but we are again sponsoring their [highly successful blood drive](#)! If you attend, please stop by and give if you can--and say thanks to the onsite volunteers.

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

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.