

# THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

## February 2025 Newsletter



Cover: Robert and Virginia, likely on their trip to the South Pacific.

Editor: Jim Dutton

[Society Directors and Committee Chairs](#)

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## Letter from the Editor

First, although this comes out in February, it's my first opportunity to wish all members a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

This week we have an interview scheduled with Art Dula and Buckner Hightower, the trustees of the Heinlein Prize Trust, the owners of virtually the entire Heinlein IP. Art was very active in the early day of establishing The Heinlein Society, and we're eager to interview them and publish the interview in the April newsletter.

Also, as many know, BaltiCon is the unofficial "home con" of the Society, and it's where we present the annual Heinlein Award. Last year it went to renowned publisher Tom Doherty. The Award Board is at work on this year's candidates and we're anxious to see who they select for 2025.

Since the last newsletter, we've done some work on the Society's [Newsletter page](#), bringing all newsletters into PDF files directly on our site, and reformatting the page to make it easier to spot old newsletters.

I'll have a link to BaltiCon's early information in the Con section at the end of the newsletter.

Once again, Happy New Year!

*Jim Dutton – February 9, 2025*

## What are Members Up To?

Here is Azerbaijani scholar Gunel Alasgarova, who in December received her PhD from the University of Languages in Baku, Azerbaijan, having written her dissertation on Heinlein. She is now a PhD student (yes, 2nd one) at Kent State University in Ohio. While working on her Heinlein project, she received modest help from the Society, in the form of books and help translating the dissertation abstract.



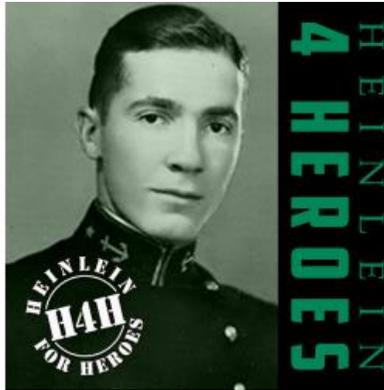
Hearty congratulations from all of us in the Society!

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.



<b><u>H4H Report OCTOBER 2024</u></b>	
<b><u>Donations</u></b>	
Betsy	\$50.00/monthly
JHSeltzer	\$25.00/monthly
<b><u>Books Donated in OCTOBER</u></b>	
Beatrice	20 H/C + 5 T
Half-Price Books (Dan Miller)	142-SF
<b><u>Books purchased in OCTOBER</u></b>	
Seltzer (Greg Funke purchase)	69-RAH + 562-SF
Beatrice (ebay purchase)	46-RAH
<b><u>Shipped in OCTOBER</u></b>	
30 boxes	581 books
<b><u>H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2025 (2 months)</u></b>	
65 boxes	1,296 books
<b><u>H4H Program Total Since Inception</u></b>	<b>53,242 books</b>

<b><u>H4H Report NOVEMBER 2024</u></b>	
<b><u>Donations</u></b>	
Betsy	\$50.00/monthly
JHSeltzer	\$25.00/monthly
<b><u>Books Donated in NOVEMBER</u></b>	
Beatrice	6- sf h/c + 6-sf-t
<b><u>Books purchased in NOVEMBER</u></b>	
<b><u>Shipped in NOVEMBER</u></b>	
32 boxes	459 books
<b><u>H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2025 (4 months)</u></b>	
97 boxes	1,755 books
<b><u>H4H Program Total Since Inception</u></b>	
<b>53,701 books</b>	

<b><u>H4H Report DECEMBER 2024</u></b>	
<b><u>Donations</u></b>	
Betsy	\$50.00/monthly
JHSeltzer	\$25.00/monthly
<b><u>Books Donated in DECEMBER</u></b>	
Beatrice Kondo	6-SF h/c + 9-SF-trade 36 - SF
Dan Miller – Half Price Books	
<b><u>Books purchased in DECEMBER</u></b>	
John Seltzer – eBay	143 – RAH
Beatrice Kondo - eBay	34 - RAH
<b><u>Shipped in DECEMBER</u></b>	
23 boxes	434 books
<b><u>H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2025 (5 months)</u></b>	
120 boxes	2,189 books

<b><u>H4H Program Total Since Inception</u></b>	<b>54,135 books</b>
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<b><u>H4H Report JANUARY 2025</u></b>	
<b><u>Donations</u></b>	
Betsy	\$50.00/monthly
JHSeltzer	\$25.00/monthly
<b><u>Books Donated in JANUARY</u></b>	
1 Cooper	1 3-RAH h/c + 2 non-fiction h/c + 7 - SF + 3 - trade non-fiction 2 13 boxes ~700-SF 3 3 boxes ~200-SF 4 4 - RAH + 4 Haldeman + 9 - SF
2 Baen books	
3 Mike Sheffield	
4 Joe & Gay Haldeman	
<b><u>Books purchased in JANUARY</u></b>	
Seltzer – Greg Funke	35 - RAH + 507 - SF
Seltzer - eBay	81 - RAH
Kondo – Greg Funke	50 - RAH + 295 - SF
<b><u>Shipped in JANUARY</u></b>	
39 boxes	714 books
<b><u>H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2025 (6 months)</u></b>	
159 boxes	2,903 Books
<b><u>H4H Program Total Since Inception</u></b>	<b>54,849 books</b>

# Baen Donates Books to H4H

As part of their regular donation series, the H4H program has received 12 boxes of new books from Baen Books LLC.

Baen Editor Jason Cordova noted that there would be another donation in the next few months.

Baen has been donating books on a regular basis to Heinlein4Heroes since 2017. Publisher Toni Weiskopf is entirely supportive of The Heinlein Society's book distribution project, Cordova maintained.

The Society thanks Toni Weiskopf and Baen Books for their generous continuing donation.

You don't have to be Baen Books to donate books by Heinlein or other science fiction to H4H. Contact John Selzer at [john@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:john@heinleinsociety.org) for more information.

## Other Recent New Full Members

Welcome to the Society and thanks for your support!

Julie Germany  
Jeffery Westbrook  
Kendall Blanchard  
Joel Williamsen  
Chris Frandsen  
Richard Rudnicki  
William Brooks  
Kevin Parenteau  
LaMoyne Darnall Jr.  
James Sloan  
Kimberly Kiel  
Alexandre Peshansky  
Sandra Stoller

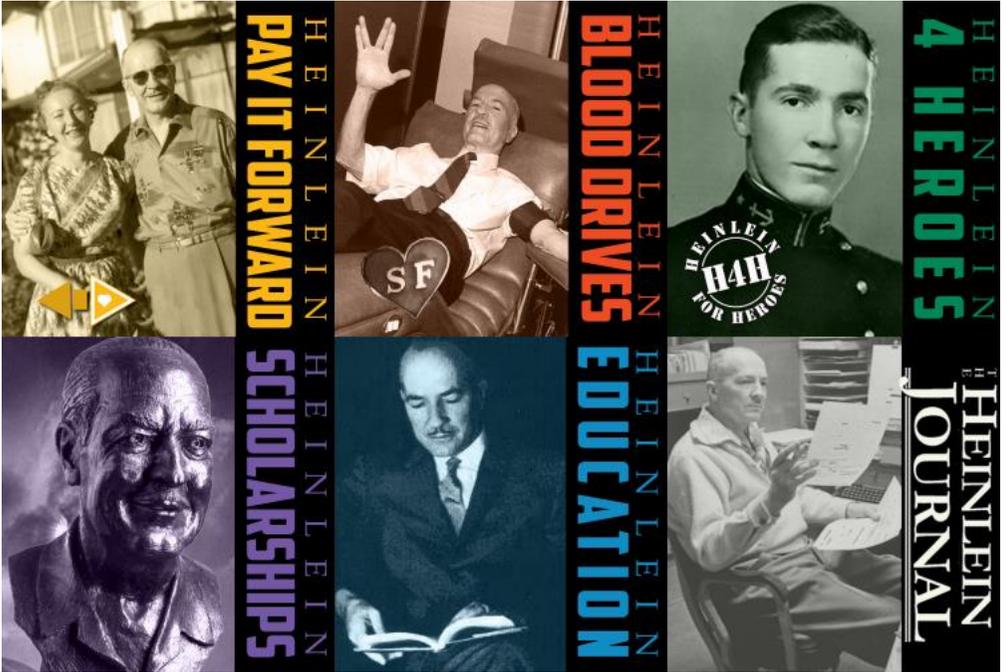
## Current Members

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!!

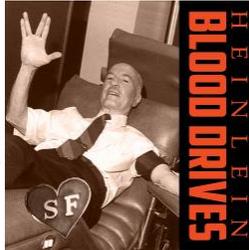


And folks, membership in this great organization is slipping month by month. Please consider renewing your membership, getting your name in the Virginia Edition Drawing, and supporting all the initiatives above.

# 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](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org).



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](mailto:editor@heinleinsociety.org)



From the Archives – February 2003

# Heaven is where Ginny is

Virginia Heinlein passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early morning of Jan. 18, 2003. She was 86 years old.

Mrs. Heinlein was the widow of famed science fiction writer, Robert A. Heinlein, author of "Stranger In a Strange Land" and 55 other books, who died in 1988. Her death followed a prolonged bout of respiratory illness, including pneumonia, as well as a broken hip sustained on Thanksgiving Day, 2002, requiring surgery and a long recovery. The couple had no children, but countless readers around the world refer to themselves as "Heinlein's Children."

Virginia Gerstenfeld Heinlein was born April 22, 1916, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of a dentist. She went to the Packer Collegiate Institute, a college preparatory high school, where she finished in three-and-a-half years, always on the honor roll. She attended New York University, majoring in chemistry. She lettered in swimming, diving, basketball, and field hockey. She also reached national competitive levels in figure skating, the sport that became her lifelong passion. In the late 1950's, she served on the U.S. Olympic Committee for Skating. In time, she came to speak over seven languages, including French, Latin, Italian, and Russian.

Graduating in 1937, she worked for Quality Bakers as a chemist until 1943, when the WAVE Corps was formed. She enlisted immediately and was offered a commission as a WAVE lieutenant, serving first at the Bureau of Aeronautics, then at the Naval Air Experimental



Ginny Heinlein with her cat Snowy in their Florida home.

Station in Philadelphia in 1944 and 1945. She met Robert Heinlein there, working as a civilian aviation engineer because the Navy would not overlook his medical discharge due to tuberculosis in 1934. She served as his assistant on several classified development projects as a chemist and aviation test engineer.

After World War II, she came to Los Angeles to study for an unfinished doctorate in biochemistry at UCLA. She married Robert Heinlein in Raton, N.M., in October 1948. Thereafter, the two were inseparable; those who knew them spoke often of their intense and abiding love for each other. She became his closest companion, aiding him in his writing, and traveling the world with him. Virginia shepherded Robert through two severe near-

death illnesses in the seventies through constant care and love. She took over the business aspects of his writing career, freeing him to focus on his writing. Together, they made a special project of organizing local and national blood drives and facilitating cooperation among all the blood collecting organizations in the world.

Shortly after his death in 1988, she moved to Florida. She gathered a selection of her husband's letters in "Grumbles from the Grave," printed for the first time his travel memoir Tramp Royale and political handbook "Take Back Your Government" (originally titled "How to Be a Politician"), and oversaw the restoration of several texts she felt had been badly edited, including "Red Planet," "Puppet

**Continued on page 3**

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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 in Pensacola Florida, Irving Texas, Chattanooga TN, and Pittsburgh PA in February.

March brings you cons in Bloomington MN, Plumsted NJ, Orlando FL, Jacksonville FL, Miami FL, and St John's, Newfoundland.