

Society Activities Reports

THS at Balticon37

by Ogden "OJ" Johnson, III, and John "JT" Tilden
We, the Washington, D.C. contingent, myself and my wife, Ogden and Mya Johnson, and Teresa Redmond and her daughter Heather, arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. We were met by THS member John Tilden and Dr. Yoji Kondo, one of The Society's directors, both Baltimore SF Society members. The Balticon organizers couldn't have been more gracious and helpful to us, despite our late reservation of a fan table.

They had moved heaven and earth and had a THS fan table for us in the "Main Concourse" area, right across from the Information Desk next to where the Art Show being held in one-third of the

the program modified to accommodate us, so JT ended up moderating a discussion about Heinlein and the Society, with OJ chipping in some good points, too. Dr. Kondo's stories are always entertaining!

The extemporaneous panel must have been well received. Attendance was pretty decent -- we have a total of sixteen in a small conference room, as the photos show. We've already been contacted informally by the Balticon folk who've asked us to make formal Heinlein Society panel suggestions for next year! Don't be too surprised if you live in the Baltimore area if someone from the Society calls and asks whether you'd like to participate in what we suggest.

The blood drive was conducted on Sunday. OJ



A Heinlein Society Panel emerges out of Dr. Kondo's "Koffee Klatch" -- Doctor Yoji Kondo, Heinlein Society Director, wearing a sweater vest, is seated facing the participants at the top center.

Photograph courtesy of John Tilden

ballroom. They also presented us with a bit of a surprise when we arrived.

The husband of Balticon's husband and wife Artist GOH (guest of honor) team, Omar and Sheila Rayyan, had donated one of his paintings to be awarded by a drawing from tickets filled out by blood drive donors.

We had a panel discussion, which took all us by surprise to see it listed in the 'con program. Dr. Kondo, who writes science fiction under the pseudonym Eric Kotani, had originally scheduled a Koffee Klatch to discuss his own works, but had

spoke to Omar at Sunday's drawing and formally thanked him -- on behalf of The Heinlein Society -- for his great generosity. As so many other SF fans have, Omar cut his teeth on Heinlein, although his course in SFF has veered since. He is also former military, and a long-time blood donor himself. The lucky winner of the Omar Rayyan original was Michael Konold of Baltimore. Our congratulations to Michael; and we hope he will be the first of a long line of raffle winners at THS blooddrives.

Balticon had actively promoted the THS blood