



חדשות האגודה – פברואר 2019 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

- המועדון בירושלים יעסוק בספר "סוכנות הבלשים של ז'יק ג'נטלי" מאת הג'נס אדאמס (כתר, 1988). המועדון יתקיים ביום שלישי, 26-02-2019, ב-19:00, בבית פרטי בירושלים (ובפייסבוק). מיקום מדויק ימסר למתפקדים ב"פתיל האוכל" בדף האירוע, ב-[facebook](#). מנחה: שירה אבנת. למעקב אחר הספרים המתוכננים ומועדי מועדונים נוספים ניתן להצטרף לקבוצה [מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה](#). ניתן גם ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - [גלי אחיטוב](#), ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטס'אפ של המועדון.

- המועדון בת"א יעסוק בספר "עץ השקרים" מאת פרנסיס הרדינג (עוץ, 2017), ביום חמישי 28-02-2019 בשעה 19:30, בבית פרטי במרכז ת"א. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמים ולנרשמות. מנחה: [דפנה קרש](#).

- הדרן ולנטיינ'ס דיי האגודה מארגנת הדרן כנס נוסף, שלישי לחורף זה, וכולם מוזמנים! מספר הרצאות מכני עבר, שיועברו מחדש, באווירה ביתית גיקית וכיפית, ביום חמישי, 14-02-2019, בשעות הערב. האירוע יתקיים בבית פרטי בת"א. הכתובת המדויקת תישלח מספר ימים לפני האירוע, למי שיתפקד בפתיל האוכל ו/או ישלח הודעה פרטית למארגנת - [דפנה קרש](#). לתשומת ליבכם: לצערנו האירוע בקומה שלישית, ללא מעלית.

- המועדון בחיפה יעסוק בספר "מזיגת הכהה" מאת טים פאוורס (אופוס, 2005). המועדון יתקיים ביום חמישי, 07-02-2019, ב-19:00. מנחה: [טניה חניקין](#). כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמים ולנרשמות. במייל של המנחה.

- המועדון בגליל מערבי בכרמיאל-משגב יעסוק בספר "מעוף הדרקון" מאת אן מק'קאפרי (אופוס, 2002). המועדון יתקיים ביום רביעי, 23-01-2019 ב-20:30, בבית פרטי במשגב. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים. מנחה: [ד"ר קרן פינט](#).

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד) לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או בדף האגודה בפייסבוק. Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

This month's roundup:

- Even more write-ups about the legendary Stan Lee (of the Marvel universe) fame – and various related links
- Yes! We have [a concise version of] "Sheer Science" this month
- I'll be continuing the multi-part review of Zion's Fiction in the next issue - Hope you enjoyed the first part(s) – As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Our Readers Reply

Good morning, Leybl! Here's a quick comment, or maybe two or three, on the latest issue.

Like many, I was saddened to hear of Stan Lee's death last fall at the age of 95. He enjoyed a lengthy and productive life, affecting millions of people with his vision and passion for his craft. Definitely a gifted and talented man. This may seem funny to you and some others, but when I noted his passing to my colleagues here in the English department at Blinn College, I referred to Stan Lee as a legitimate creative genius in American popular literature. My comment sparked a brief but lively discussion about not just comic books, but graphic novels as well, plus how Lee's creations have become ingrained into the public conscience of America. That was pretty cool to see: a bunch of academics conversing about comics and their influence.

Then again that may not be so surprising because in our primary literature textbook - *the Norton Introduction to Literature, 12th edition* (2018) - there is an excerpt - "The Shabbat" - from Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel/memoir *Persepolis* (2003) included. In fact, next week that excerpt is an assigned reading for class discussion. Plus, just last year one of my students asked if he could write a research paper on graphic novels. Since that was a rather broad subject matter, I recommended that he focus on probably just one. The student did just that, writing a pretty good paper exploring the psychological and sociological implications/commentary in *The Dark Knight*. I was impressed.

Before I forget, I need to order a copy of *Zion's Fiction*. It sounds very interesting. Your partial review of the book is good so far, Leybl, and thank you for the link to the website.

All the best,

John Purcell – Professor of English and ESL (English as a Second Language), Texas

Thanks for this John,
Times have changed and several generations of Americans have been brought up knowing about Superman and Batman - and later Marvel's Spiderman, X-Men, and more.

Stan Lee himself appeared before - probably - hundreds of University audiences across the USA, promoting comics as a valid form of literature and definitely made an impact.

This has surely had an interesting influence on pop culture - so much so, that when the MCU (as well as DC) films appear - they enjoy massive turnouts (and revenues). All the fighting and FX aside, many of the stories have interesting - deeper - messages, so it's not a wonder that students can write research papers on graphic novels that are (or can be, when done right) valid literature with an extra touch of visual art. In a way, two art forms for the price of one :)

Stan Lee was a forerunner in transforming comics into a legitimate cultural phenomena, with solid story lines very often touching deeply on the 'little man/person' and his/her daily problems, as opposed to just some entertaining but 'empty' pulp literature. I'm sure, that his legacy is something that will be studied and discussed in Academia for years to come.

Be well,
Leybl

The Never-ending Stories and Tributes to Stan Lee

<https://www.cbr.com/tag/the-life-and-times-of-stan-lee/>



<https://www.cbr.com/stan-lee-greatest-stories-10-7/>

Happy Birthday Stan Lee... December 28, Stan Lee would've celebrated his 96th birthday.

<https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/happy-birthday-stan-lee-syfy-wire-remembers-the-marvel-kingpin-and-honors-his-legacy>

including:

[Comic book icon Stan Lee dies at the age of 95](#)

[Marvel legend Roy Thomas visited Stan Lee days before his death. Here's what happened.](#)

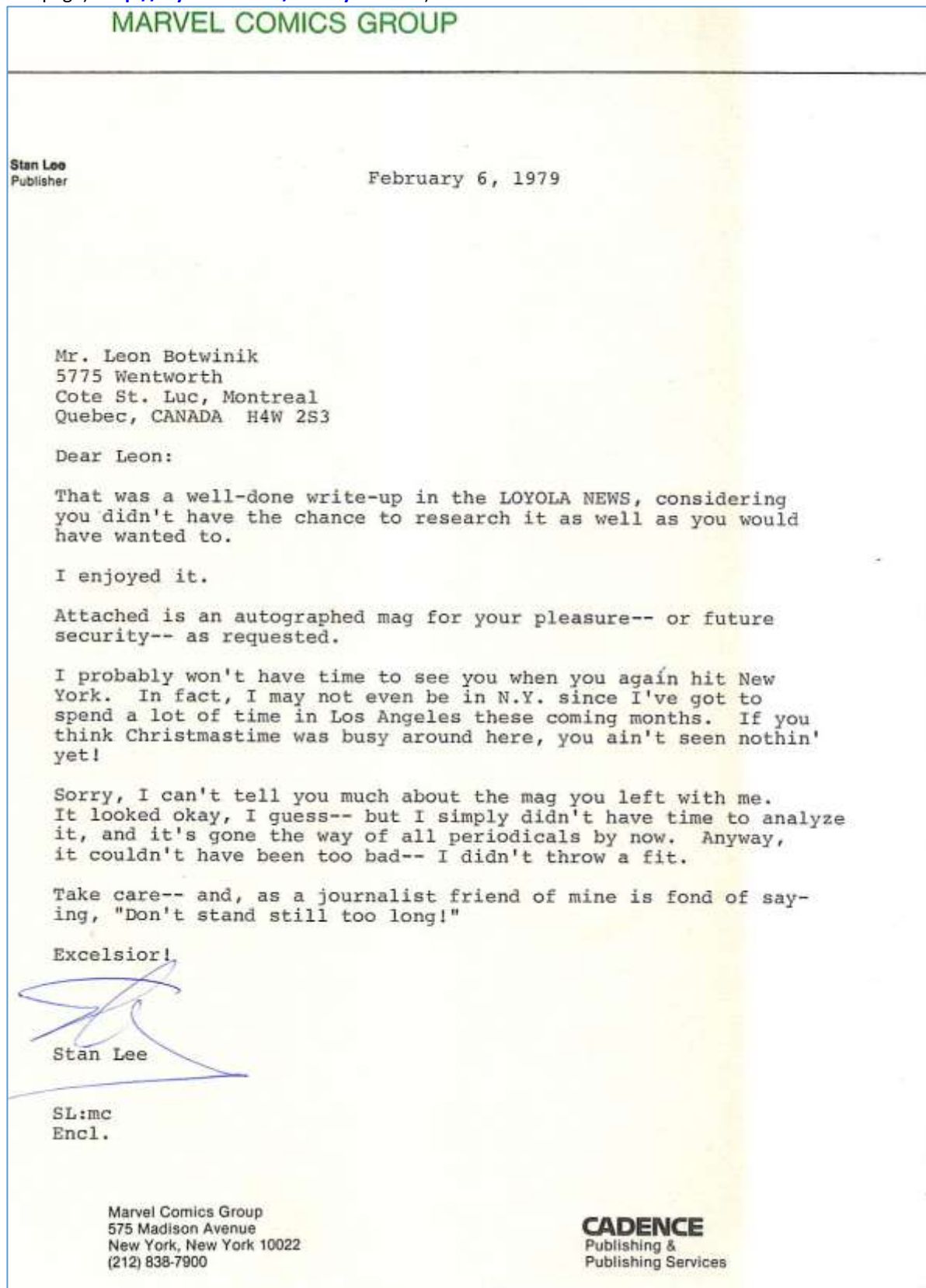
[Marvel creators remember Stan Lee](#)

[Stan Lee used his Soapbox to preach tolerance and fight bigotry](#)

[Hollywood, Marvel movie stars react to Stan Lee's passing](#)

[Todd McFarlane remembers Stan Lee, his friend and mentor](#)

Stan's answer to my letter, following my interview with him and published article (as mentioned last issue. See 3 parts at bottom of page): <http://leyblsvelt.co.il/lv-eseyen.html>):



I'm kind of proud that he called me "journalist friend of mine" - It's like being knighted (- maybe I should add that to my CV...).

RELATED (Just to show the 'power' and influence Marvel has had over the years)
 Since we're talking Stan Lee and the Marvel Universe he created, take a look at the following. The fans are so upset about the events in the 2018 Avengers "Infinity War" movie, that they have called out to NASA to come up with a way to save Tony Stark from dying in his mostly destroyed space ship in the movie's part II:

Following hilarious demands from Marvel fans that they rescue Tony Stark from his *Avengers: Endgame* plight, NASA issues an official response. After months of hype fueled by the fans themselves, this past Friday finally saw the debut of the first trailer for Marvel Studios' ultimate blockbuster, *Avengers: Endgame*. With the first footage from the film now released, its official title revealed, and its release date moved forward, the marketing machine for the MCU entry formally known as *Avengers 4* is likely soon to really get moving.

Read more here:
<https://screenrant.com/avengers-4-endgame-nasa-responds-tony-stark/amp/>

And now, back to our regular programming:

Some fun from the Websites:

Mighty Pretty Space Art...

Cosmic Wreath and Ornaments Decorate the Universe in These Space Telescope Photos

By Doris Elin Salazar, Contributor | December 2018

Holiday decorations glimmer under our roofs this season, and so, too, do celestial formations light up our largest home — the universe.



To celebrate the season, scientists with the [Hubble Space Telescope](#) showcased what they called a "holiday wreath made of sparkling lights" in deep space made up of the dust around the brilliant star RS Puppis, which is visible from the Southern Hemisphere.

Mighty Ugly Space Artist...

Legendary Scoundrel Harry Mudd Returns In Final 'Star Trek: Short Trek' Trailer: 'The Escape Artist'

By Scott Snowden, Contributor | December 2018

Save the best for last. Clearly that's what CBS has done with its four-part "Short Trek" mini-series.

The "Short Treks" have got consistently better each month with "The Brightest Star" that [aired just two weeks ago](#) being the best yet — and we're shaking with excitement for the final episode.

Called "The Escape Artist," it stars the one and only Harcourt Fenton Mudd, played by Rainn Wilson — who also directed the episode — and airs on Jan. 3, 2019.

"Wanted for 30 counts of smuggling..." A Tellarite law enforcement agent says. Mudd scoffs at him.

"Twenty counts of homicide..." The Tellarite continues. "Transportation of stolen goods. And you slept with my sister..."

"Oh..." Mudd murmurs, sheepishly.

Mudd is magnetic. Mudd is mesmerizing. He is enigmatic, charismatic and just plain mischievous.

<p><u>To read more, see:</u> https://www.space.com/42844-christmas-wreath-ornaments-hubble-chandra-photos.html#</p>	<p><u>To read more, see:</u> https://www.space.com/42833-harry-mudd-returns-short-treks-trailer.html#</p>
<p>News stories about space exploration etc.</p> <p>The Best Space Stories of 2018! By Nola Taylor Redd, Contributor December 2018</p> <p>As 2018 wraps up, it's time to review some of the biggest space science stories of the year. From incredible exomoons to masterful missions to groovy gravitational waves, the last 12 months have been packed with science. Here are the top stories of the year.</p> <p>[Related: The Greatest Spaceflight Moments of 2018! A Year of Missions</p> <p>The year 2018 saw the beginning of some missions, and the end of others. Even a long-ago-launched spacecraft from the 1970s chimed in to make news!</p> <p>The end of Kepler</p> <p><u>To read more, see:</u> https://www.space.com/42854-best-space-stories-2018.html</p>	<p>Who's the Boss?</p> <p>Why This Broadband Pioneer Wants Engineers to Run the World By S.C. Stuart December 2018</p> <p>If you're reading this via a speedy Internet connection, one person you can thank is Dr. Henry Samueli. In 1991, as co-founder and CTO of semiconductor company Broadcom Corporation, he changed the way we connected to the Internet, inventing the single-chip cable modem, which provided 50 megabits per second, or 1,000 times faster than the 56k dial-up available at the time.</p> <p>Back then, Dr. Samueli was a tenured engineering professor at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), but already looking to an entrepreneurial future. He built Broadcom into a communications giant, taking it public in 1998, and selling it for \$37 billion to chipmaker Avago Technologies in 2015.</p> <p>However, unlike many other inventors who retire to private islands and spacious penthouses,...</p> <p><u>To read more, see:</u> https://www.pcmag.com/news/365344/why-this-broadband-pioneer-wants-engineers-to-run-the-world</p>

FUTURE WATCH (50 and 100 years ago)

50 years ago:
The Mother of All Demos

This is a fascinating YouTube video running 1 hour and 40 minutes, recorded in 1968. YouTube has the following info on that webpage:
 "The Mother of All Demos is a name given retrospectively to Douglas Engelbart's December 9, 1968, demonstration of experimental computer technologies that are now commonplace. The live demonstration featured the introduction of the computer mouse, video conferencing, teleconferencing, hypertext, word processing, hypermedia, object addressing and dynamic file linking, bootstrapping, and a collaborative real-time editor."

See here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=15&v=yJDv-zdhzMY

I have to say, that I was totally mesmerized by the live demo. While watching it, I thought back to how revolutionary it must have been at the time, and today, how far ahead we've moved since. At some points in his talk he looks upward – as if getting inspiration from God, or someone Higher.

Read the comments after the video – to see how people reacted to this amazing demo. One person wrote (4 years ago):
 "Amazing!! One of the founders!! Not a Greek god, but a Geek god! He died less than 2 years ago, and wasn't even a blip on the radar, to the mainstream media. Depressing!"

To read more, see:
<https://www.extremetech.com/computing/282034-50-years-ago-the-mother-of-all-demos-showed-us-how-tech-would-transform-the-world>

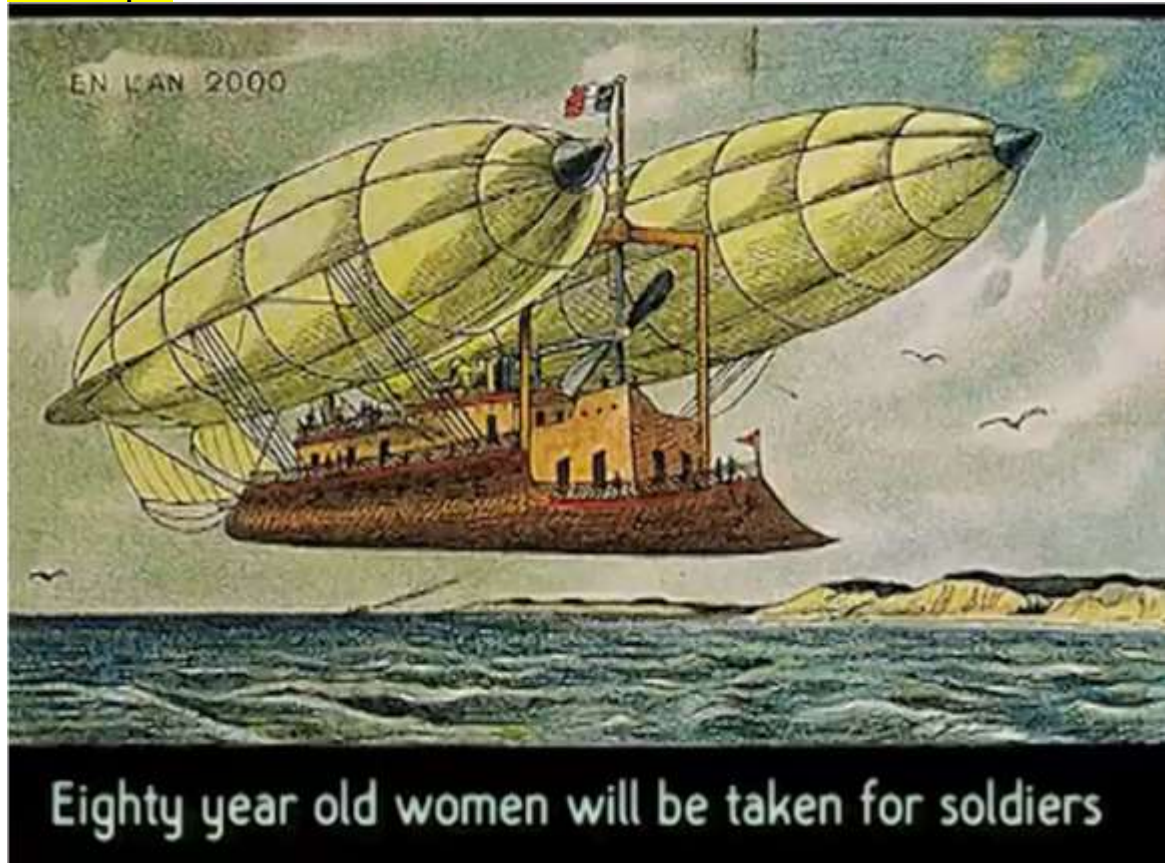
100 years ago (give or take)

“In Hundert Yor Arum”:

Retrofuturistic Yiddish theater song with English subtitles

Jane Pepler is a US-based musician and researcher into old, forgotten, and/or obscure Yiddish songs – and then bringing them back to life on stage, on CD, and particularly on screen as she’s done with this one on YouTube (as with several dozen others). Most of the songs she selects (on YouTube, at least) are quite satiric and/or ironic.

For example:



I don't think the song lyrics meant 'revamped' 80 year olds in rejuvenated and upgraded bodies like in Scalzi's "Old-Man's War"... People in the last century – many of whom were Jews, particularly in the Socialist movements, and specifically after WWI – wanted to believe, and see the future optimistically, and wrote many Utopian stories – and in this case songs.

The film can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1PS42d7RLk>

This YouTube video has a footnote, written in 2014 when she published the video:

“This song was published in 1919 which makes NOW almost 100 years in the future. Thus, you can compare life now to what was predicted in the song and see how they did! Most of the images are from two illustrators, one German and one French, who wrote on them: In the year 2000. The sheet music is available at <http://yiddishtheatersong.com> and to book performances see <http://cabaretwarsaw.com>.”

MORE:

I received the following email a while ago, and considered joining, but didn't have the time. And, although the course is probably (or just about over) – and I can't endorse something that I have no handle on, not knowing the teacher (or having experienced the course myself) – I thought it nevertheless worthy of publication.

New Course: Science Fiction and Other Forms of Imagination

Wed Nov 14, 2018 12:33 am (PST). Posted by: drkarenjoy

Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror all sell well. References to strange, wondrous futures remain popular. Connecting to one's inner child, to one's daydreams, or to one's monsters also enralls since captivating content suits both readers and writers.

Speculative Fiction and Other Forms of Imagination will help you unlock your mental wildings. To boot, this course will reinforce your knowledge of the elements of literature.

For five weeks, you will sample texts, some of which will be unassailable, others of which will be questionable, but all of which will be found on the electromagnetic spectrum. Additionally, you will learn how to generate discerning remarks about classmates' assemblages of words. You will create drafts of several speculative fiction manuscripts, too.

Unless tasered by shimmery, red-eared, two-headed fiends or by their three finned, mercury-based, alabaster associates, you will leave this course able to:

- identify and remark intelligently about rudimentary concepts in fiction, in general, and in speculative fiction, more specifically.
- differentiate among subgenres and styles of speculative fiction.
- draw upon newly fashioned plots, characters, exposition, and dialogue.
- cherish rewriting.
- offer useful feedback to other emerging writers, i.e. create responses that are helpful as well as devoid of emotional missiles.
- understand that writing is a process that takes much time and effort.

Topics:

- The Nature of Speculative Fiction
- The Craft of Speculative Fiction Plots
- The Craft of Speculative Fiction Characters
- The Craft of Speculative Fiction Descriptive Language and Dialogue
- The Business Side of Speculative Fiction

When / Cost / etc.

A reading list will be provided upon registration.

Method: online readings, critical thinking questions, and creative writing assignments. What's more, the instructor provides weekly feedback to all students.

Who: emerging and established writers, men and women.

Limited examples of the instructor's speculative fiction:

Etc.

MORE ZION'S FICTION QUICK STORY REVIEWS – NEXT TIME !

For more on the book, see the official website at <http://www.zionsfiction.com/>

Also:

https://www.amazon.com/Zions-Fiction-Treasury-Speculative-Literature/dp/1942134525/ref=sr_1_1

Sheer* Science: “Short Stuff**”

(* In memory of Aharon Sheer (ז"ל) – Founding Editor)

**LB: Sorry, I've been very busy of late (mostly trying to complete my MA thesis) so I haven't had time to concentrate on CyberCozen (and that's why it's being published already into the 2nd week of the month, when I really try my best to get it out at the top of the month – and if we're all lucky, even before the 1st of the month... However, since Sheer Science is such an important part of our publication, I want to at least contribute the following links of interest:

Ripples in Space-Time Might Indicate That We Live in a Multiverse

Strange space phenomenon may point to a multiverse.

Karla Lant - May 9th 2017

Hunting For Extra Dimensions

As important as gravity is to us here on Earth, it is actually surprisingly weak in comparison to other fundamental forces in our universe, such as electromagnetism. In fact, as researchers struggle to unite quantum effects and gravity in single theories that make sense, they find that extra dimensions, usually with gravity, are implied.

Read more here: <https://futurism.com/ripples-in-space-time-might-indicate-that-we-live-in-a-multiverse>

AND RELATED:

Scientists Assert That Hidden Dimensions Might Exist in Gravitational Waves

This could be the key to String Theory and quantum gravity.

Karla Lant - June 30th 2017

Hidden Dimensions

String theory has predicted the existence of hidden dimensions, but scientists have yet to find them. However, new work from researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics of the Albert Einstein Institute (AEI) indicates that hidden dimensions could have an influence on something that physicists can detect: gravitational waves. If this is true, studying those ripples in space-time might be the key that unlocks the mystery of hidden dimensions.

The study explores the consequences extra dimensions could have on gravitational waves, and offers predictions about whether or not we might be able to detect their effects. “Physicists have been looking for extra dimensions at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN but up to now this search has yielded no results,” second author of the study Dr. Gustavo Lucena Gómez said in a press release. “But gravitational wave detectors might be able to provide experimental evidence.”

Read more here:

<https://futurism.com/scientists-assert-that-hidden-dimensions-might-exist-in-gravitational-waves>

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the above topics and with your OK, we may publish them!

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Also (archived issues from 2014+) at: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/CyberCozen/>

And <http://efanzines.com/CyberCozen/index.htm>

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