



SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

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

החודש יתקיימו מפגשי מועדון הקריאה כמפורט להלן. לצורך היערכות למספר המשתתפים/ות וקבלת הודעות על שינויים, יש להירשם מראש דרך הדוא"ל של המנחה, המופיע בקישור הרלוונטי לכל מפגש. רצוי להביא למפגש עותק של הספר. הכניסה חופשית ואינה כרוכה בתשלום או בחברות באגודה, וכן אינה מותנית בהגעה למפגשים נוספים.

- [המועדון בגליל מערבי \(כרמיאל-משגב\)](#) יתקיים ביום שני, 28 באוקטובר 2019, בשעה 20:30. המפגש יעסוק בספר "אבק כוכבים" מאת ניל גיימן. מנחה: [ד"ר קרן פייט](#).
- [המועדון בירושלים](#) יתקיים ביום חמישי, 31 באוקטובר 2019, בשעה 20:00. המפגש יעסוק בטרילוגיית הערפילאים מאת ברנדון סנדרסון, אורח הכבוד של אייקון 2019. מרכזת המועדון: [גלי אחיטוב](#).
- [המועדון בתל אביב](#) יתקיים ביום חמישי, 31 באוקטובר 2019, בשעה 19:30. המפגש יעסוק בספר "מלך ירושלים" מאת ניר יניב (יניב, 2019). מנחה: [דפנה קירש](#).

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן [להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה](#) או [לדף האגודה בפייסבוק](#). נשמח לדאוחכן ולראותכם!

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:

- A "Science-fictional" (or is it?) Part VI to the time-space conundrums
- Finally, round VI of the Zion's Fiction review: Short stories #8, 9, 10
- As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites
- Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

From Cathy in Canada:

... There is a big issue right now in Canada about fan-run conventions. Two really big cons are in trouble, and they have been around for many years. People are being "helpful" in suggesting what needs to be done to attract memberships in the age of big ComicCons. Of course, ask two people, and get 3 conflicting responses! What is happening in Israel? Is Icon still viable?

Response from Leybl:

Our Con is growing all the time. In fact we [in Israel – not CyberCozen] run two major cons and multiple mini-cons throughout the year (during the Summer, Passover and the Sukkot holiday breaks [see above] – and other times when there is a day or two free, Like Purim – and that just might be the key too: since lots of youth are free from school; some come to participate, some come to volunteer, and some do both).

Note that the big ones are run by the main Israel SF association [[Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy](#)], but is assisted by volunteers from several other special interest groups such as Harry Potter fans, Manga fans, game playing, etc. The smaller groups, are growing too, and some, as I said, have their own mini-cons. You should come or send a representative or (a group) to come visit us. Next big one's in April 2020.

Some fun from the Websites:

<p>Was it that bad...?! Listen at your own risk ...</p> <p>HOT TAKE INTERVENTION: BLADE RUNNER Contributed by SYFY WIRE Staff Sep 19, 2019</p> <p>For over three decades, Ridley Scott's <i>Blade Runner</i> has been recognized as a cinematic masterpiece. But what if someone you loved or cared about couldn't see the genius in that film? That's what the first installment of SYFY WIRE's <i>Hot Take Intervention</i> is all about!</p> <p>Long time host and contributor, Angélique Roché, has let it be known that she doesn't like <i>Blade Runner</i> at all.</p> <p>Juan Cadavid (one of our video producers) just can't let that stand, and he's dragged Angélique on to <i>Hot Take Intervention</i> to give her side of the argument while trying to win her over.</p> <p>But the next episode of <i>Hot Take Intervention</i> may need to be held for host Jackie Jennings and her ridiculous Dr. Phil-style wig.</p> <p>Continue reading + see the video: https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/hot-take-intervention-blade-runner?_source=ns9.27.19</p>	<p>I know better ... No! I know better...!</p> <p>DEBATE CLUB: THE 5 BEST (AND SILLIEST) STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER FAN THEORIES By SYFYWire August 07, 2019</p> <p>Welcome to Debate Club, where Tim Grierson and Will Leitch, the hosts of the <i>Grierson & Leitch</i> podcast, tackle the greatest arguments in pop culture.</p> <p>We are just a few months away from the final entry of the third <i>Star Wars</i> trilogy, <i>Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker</i>, which not only has to reveal what happens after Rian Johnson's <i>Star Wars: The Last Jedi</i> but also bring this entire story to a close. What J.J. Abrams began, J.J. Abrams will finish.</p> <p>That's a big task, and it has fans and observers aflame with theories as to how this is all going to end. Thus, today at Debate Club, we rank the five best theories about <i>The Rise of Skywalker</i>. Who knows if any of these are actually correct, but let us, for a moment, pretend they will be.</p> <p>Continue reading: https://www.space.com/venus-runaway-greenhouse-effect-earth-next.html</p>
<p>Read all about it... or just buy it</p> <p><i>The best recent science fiction and fantasy – reviews roundup</i> By The Guardian book reviewers (Sep 2019)</p> <p>Here are some recent SF novels reviewed on the Guardian website. They look good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Little Hatred</i> by Joe Abercrombie; • <i>The Undoing of Arlo Knott</i> by Heather Child • <i>World Engines: Destroyer</i> by Stephen Baxter • <i>Overdrawn</i> by NJ Crosskey • <i>Cold Storage</i> by David Koepp <p>Continue reading: https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/sep/21/best-recent-science-fiction-reviews-roundup</p>	<p>Where do I buy a ticket?</p> <p><i>'Totally Nuts'? Elon Musk Aims to Put a Starship in Orbit in 6 Months. Here's SpaceX's Plan.</i> By Mike Wall October 2019 Spaceflight</p> <p>The landmark orbital flight will likely be made by the fourth or fifth full-size Starship prototype. SpaceX will soon have a whole fleet of shiny silver Starship prototypes, if all goes according to plan.</p> <p>On Saturday Sept. 28, Elon Musk gave his annual update about Starship and Super Heavy, the reusable spacecraft and rocket, respectively, that the company is building to help colonize Mars.</p> <p>Continue reading: https://www.space.com/spacex-starship-reach-orbit-six-months.html</p>

Time and Space (VI): Knock, Knock, ... – It's Me

- By Leybl Botwinik

As I'm putting together this latest issue of CyberCozen (again late. It's the 9th and I really, really wanted to get it out around the beginning of the month; In the past, I even managed to put it out before the 1st of the month) – I start getting a series of emails from an anonymous address – but it doesn't go into the SPAM because it says "CC-2019-OCT" (which is my internal emailing for the Oct 2019 CyberCozen issue).

[OK, that last sentence was rather long-winded, and I should apologize for that – more below – since shorter sentences are preferable]

I'm rather a bit curious about these emails, since the date seems to be today – and the hour, NOW – but I didn't send them, so I open the latest one:

Unknown email writer: "Hi, its me – or rather you. Pleas answer me\you."

That looked rather strange (including a typo or two, and the slash should really be a backslash, according to correct writing rules that I know about, and my writer should also be familiar with – he/she/it was really trying to impersonate me). However, since I'm the curious type, I answer.

Leybl (this is the real me, your CyberCozen editor): "You're kidding me – who are you really?"

Unknown: "I'm you, from the future"

Leybl: "Ha! Anything is possible [I've a very open mind] – but can you prove it?"

Unknown: "Yes..."

Almost immediately, this unknown writer sends me a long and rather detailed email in response, containing many personal items – include some juicy/intimate ones, which I'm not about to divulge – and I'm pretty much in shock (moreover, because few things faze me – but this was beyond pure "lucky guessing": the email contained things only I know – or even think about – that no one but me and the Creator could/should know – or maybe Professor Xavier or some other mind-reader has taped into my thoughts). In fact, some things I haven't *thought* about in ages – so this person – if a mind reader – would have had to access my thoughts many, many years ago as well or tapped into my 'historical' memories .

Leybl: "How did you know I was going to write up exactly 3 reviews of the Zion's Fiction short stories?"

Unknown: "I know, because you thought about it a few hours ago, while resting up between the prayer services"

A note I did not mention, is that today is/was Yom Kippur – the holy Day of Atonement on the Jewish calendar. A day of fasting... so maybe I'm still a bit delirious / delusional from the 25+ hours of fasting (and I also drank a cup of Wine (and not the Grape Juice kind – an alcoholic one) at the end, this evening, in the Havdala ceremony marking the end of the holy day. But NO – I'm not day-dreaming or anything. This person is keen on my thoughts and plans and experiences! WOW! – How?

I immediately thought of Heinlein's *"Farnham's Freehold"* where the protagonist meets his future (somewhat older) self, face-to-face.

Leybl: "How can you be me? When (or where) are you writing from? And to really prove that you are me – why don't you call me up or show yourself at my doorstep, for example – are you afraid to see me – or to show your true self? Or are you afraid that we might blow each other up – occupying the same space as some time-travel theorists reckon?"

Unknown: "NO, I don't think we would destroy each other or disrupt timelines, or create havoc in the time-space continuum... but then again, why take chances? In any case, I'm sorry, I can't divulge when/where I'm writing from – but I'm not from some parallel place – just your future – I know, because I remember this correspondence.

Tell you what, write something down – anything you want – and don't send it. Give me a moment, and I'll write you back what you wrote (typed or on paper – or even if you thought of it) that should prove I've already experienced these moments..."

... and he/she/it knew exactly what I 'wrote' – I didn't actually write/type it, just faked it (wrote "Hello World") – and thought of something more complex – the name of my calculus teacher in College. He/she even spelled it correctly (since I deliberately forgot one letter).

Leybl: "I still find it hard to believe that you are me – besides, if I were to write me (to myself) – I'd write in Yiddish, not English. I never write in English."

Unknown: "Technically, that's not entirely true – you/I do write a lot in English: technical and marketing writing content – and this monthly SF bulleting you are / I was working on – CyberCozen. And you/I have written both poems and stories in English, Hebrew, and even something in French... but now you're kvetching."

Leybl: "Aha – so you do know some Yiddish. But if you really knew me – or were me – you know that I avoid using Yiddish (or other languages) when I talk or write – and here you are mixing Yiddish with English."

Unknown: "That's where you are wrong – "Kvetch" is a perfectly good English word (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/kvetch>), and English – like Yiddish – is composed of and has been influenced by multiple languages"

This person was very, very sharp and well informed... but it also started to become rather confusing. Nevertheless, I wrote back:

Leybl: "OK, let's assume that you are from my future. What's so important that you needed to write me, or wanted me to know? Is something about to happen? Is this a warning?"

Unknown: "Well, since I know you are a bit behind in putting out your latest issue of CyberCozen, I thought you could use this piece of back-and-forth correspondence to fill the space (and time) of the issue – that's all. You can go on and finish up. I've nothing more to add (at this time)."

And that was it (Thanks God!). I waited a few more moments to see if "I" would write myself again – I even sent some emails to "myself" – i.e. to the unknown writer – hoping for some more correspondence (I was intrigued) but received no more responses. So, I

guess I better get back to this issue. Who knows – maybe he/she/it/I will write me again one day – or even meet me face-to-face.

Wouldn't that be something to write about in CyberCozen?

Feel free to send comments / reviews of related books & movies (or tell us about your own experiences with time-travel or alternate realities – Déjà vu is also fun to read about...).

LB: To compensate for the last few month's slowdown on the "Zion's Fiction" short story reviews (sometimes it takes longer to review a 5-30 page story than a 300+ page novel...) – we've thrown together 3 (count 'em, 3!) reviews. Enjoy!

Review: "Zion's Fiction" ed. Teitelbaum & Lottem

– Now Coming to You, From the Prime SF Nation of the World

Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik



Story #8 – In the Mirror by Rotem Baruchin

Imagine that you have been handed down a magic mirror... The protagonist, Danielle, has the ability to look into that magic mirror and see other Danielles' from multiple parallel universes, and somehow affect their lives – usually in some nasty way. She punches and cracks the mirror (on the other side) and brings the other Danielles' some level of bad luck.

But one day – a Danielle – on the other side punches and cracks her side of the mirror...

This story is short, and readable, and although not directly SF – it's more on the fantasy side – it does present parallel world issues. There is nothing particularly Jewish or Israeli in the story's text, other than the second woman's name "Liron".

The climax, is where Danielle gets hers – but maybe it would have been more interesting if she then hits back too and causes that Danielle's world to also be influenced – then they would both 'learn a lesson' that it's not nice to manipulate other people's lives... Still, it's a nice take on Mirror-world fantasies.

Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik



Story #9 – The Stern-Gerlach Mice by Mordechai Sasson

It's very much an SF story, and very Jewish/Israeli. The grandma and her friends all talk and react in very stereotypical "Yente" fashion (see: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/yenta>) including playing the poor, helpless old lady, as she manipulates and takes advantage of the robot.

These robot are called "Tin Beggars" because they work for people in return for pieces of metal. (The word "Yenta" is also used in the story).

The story has some elements of humour/satire and the style is very informal in many ways, as it's recounted by the main antagonist, the grandson (a student) at the house of his grandma and her visiting group of old ladies. A tranquil day in the very Jewish Jerusalem neighbourhood is disrupted (a day before the mourning day of "Tisha B'Av" that reminds of the destruction of Jerusalem and dispersal of all the surviving Jews into the Diaspora for almost 2000 years, by the Romans) by mutated mice who attack helpless women and children driving them from their houses. The main hero manages to mostly save the day. In reality, though, it's the robot who does. Nevertheless, in the end, it even gets manipulated by the narrator.

Although this failed 'pogrom' by the mice seems to be the focus of the story, I believe that the writer actually wanted to focus on the terrifying experiments done on the mice (and the consequences) – as well as the bungling of the security forces/municipality/those in power in dealing with them. This may be why the story is set a day before Tisha B'Av – to remind us of the consequences of not behaving correctly/compassionately.

Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik



Story #10 – A Good Place for the night by Savyon Liebrecht

At 29 pages, this is the third longest of the short stories in the collection... The story is about an Israeli woman, Gila, and several other lone survivors of some great calamity – probably a nuclear war (possibly on a global scale): an American, a young Italian nun and her old sick ward, and a baby.

... and later a Pole who is on a bike on a five hundred mile quest to find his family (Gila and the American were on a train near the Polish-Austrian border when the world stopped). According to him, everyone in the surrounding villages is dead. Later he returns and tells them that there is almost no one alive. Gila and the American discover that they have some mutated growths in their bellies – and in a desperate plan to preserve the 'future' decide to try to convince the young nun to be impregnated – and hopefully a girl child will come of it – for the baby boy to procreate with, at some future time.

In general, this is a 'light' story of survival after an apocalyptic apparently world-spanning catastrophe. There are some elements of mutual assistance – everyone of different religions, languages, and cultures thrown together in one 'boat' (so to speak) – needing to help one another to survive both physically, but mostly emotionally.

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

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

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