

חדשות האגודה – יולי 2023 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy 2023

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "ההוביט" מאת טולקין. המועדון יתקיים ביום חמישי, 20.7 ב-19:30. המועדון יתקיים בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של **דפנה קירש**. **בדף האירוע בפייסבוק**.

ירושלים: לפרטים על המפגשים של המועדון הקריאה ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק: **מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה**, או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - **גלי אחיטוב**, ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטסאפ של המועדון.

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 ל**רשימת 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:

- Star Trek vs. Star Trek vs. Star Trek – Part V: Strange New Worlds
- Sheer Science: 10 NASA inventions in your home

Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik



Starship Armada (illustrated: Jose Sanchez)

Feedback from Fans:

Leybl, I've been meaning to tell you how much I enjoyed the ending of your story in the last *CyberCozen* [LB: April 2023]. As I was reading it, I was thinking, "I bet if I could read this in Yiddish, I'd like it even better," and then suddenly I came upon something I *could* read in (transliterated) Yiddish! That song probably has a special meaning for everyone, but mine is that my grandfather brought it from Poland (or what was then Poland) and sang it to my mother, who was born here. She never taught it to me, because I didn't know Yiddish. I found this out when my mother was suffering from dementia, and my aunt and I were visiting her in a nursing home.

I had run across the song somewhere and asked her if she knew it. To my aunt's and my delight, my mother began to sing the song from memory. I was able to take down the words as she sang them, and she then translated them for me! She didn't always remember who I was, but the song had stayed with her. She explained "kometz aleph aw" to me and was generally quite lucid. We were able to have the best visit with her we'd had in some time. Your story conveys the power of that uniquely moving song. I'm not particularly emotional, but it had me in tears.

Thanks for reminding me!

Devra

LB: Thanks for this Devra. Nice of you to share this heartfelt memory.

Yes, the children's song has a special power - a special magic if you like.

It covers a lot of territory: A Jew's unique lifecycle, from tiny tots learning the Hebrew Alphabet ['alef-beys'], to an adult being weighed down by the harsh circumstances of living in the Diaspora ['goles']. Take care!

TV REVIEW: Star Trek vs. Star Trek vs. Star Trek – Part V

Reviewed by: Leybl Botwinik

Back to the future's past: Star Trek's Strange New Worlds series

Before we discuss the newest series (Season 2 has just started), it might be an idea to see where it all began... with the original pilot from 1964 *"The cage"*. You can find a very thorough breakdown here (and a short clip from one of those 1964 scenes):

<https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Recap/StarTrekS1E0TheCage>

Somehow, however, I don't seem to recall having seen that particular episode – only the follow-up one, *"Menagerie"* that takes us a bit further in time, to Captain Kirk's Enterprise, approximately ten years later, and the dying Capt. Pike.

When we look at the 1964 version of the Enterprise's bridge, and the version we see in the 2023 *"New Worlds"* series – we can perceive a significant shift (upgrade) in technology. And Pike's is the Enterprise's bridge years before the one we are used to in the 1966 Star Trek: Original Series (TOS). And if that isn't radical enough, then the Discovery's bridge is even more so – see pics for comparisons with Captain Kirk's bridge on the same Enterprise.

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| <p>Pike's "Enterprise" bridge (1964 TV version)</p> | <p>Pike's "Enterprise" bridge (2023 TV version)</p> |
| <p><small>Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock, Walter Koenig as Pavel Chekov, William Shatner as Captain James T. Kirk, Nichelle Nichols as Uhura, George Takei as Hikaru Sulu and James Doohan as Montgomery 'Scotty' Scott on the bridge of the Starship... More April 06, 2015 License</small></p> | |
| <p>Kirk's "Enterprise" bridge (1967-68 TV version)</p> | <p>"Discovery" bridge (2023 TV version)</p> |

Background to the Strange New Worlds series

The Star Trek "Discovery" series is a season-full of topical content – meaning that from episode to episode there is a running connection of events, so you can't really just pick and choose an arbitrary episode to watch as with the TOS and TNG episodes. For those not familiar with the "Discovery" series, it takes place just over a decade before the original series (so you have a young Spock in many episodes) and eventually springs out to several hundred years into

the future. The “Discovery” ship is an advanced experimental ‘toy’ of the Federation and has unique technological systems in it – and so when it jumps into the future – it is lost to Pike’s/Kirk’s era, and ‘forgotten’ ...

But not totally forgotten. The two people in the know: Spock and Capt. Pike who were involved in the adventures of the “Discovery” series remember – particularly Pike. And, without giving up too much of a spoiler – we all know that Pike will eventually catch a debilitating disease (or radiation poisoning?) – Pike himself knows it! In one of the “Discovery” episodes he witnesses that event – and from that moment on, his emotions are in a turmoil, knowing that his life has been shortened and he is going to die in a few years’ time (not knowing for sure where and when that will happen).

That’s one of the fundamental aspects of the new series – Pike’s ongoing inner struggle of whether or not and/or how to function as a Starship captain, knowing that in one of the next ‘adventures’ your life is going to virtually come to an end. Someone else would have said: “...OK, ... ‘Captain’ Pike is going to have his life shortened, so if I resign, I can cheat Death – at least in this case...”. Young Spock understands this too, having witnessed much of what Pike went through in the future.

So, complicated...? Yes, but that makes it all the more interesting. In addition, each episode is pretty much standalone – like in TOS (despite’s Pike’s on-and-off ‘elephant in the room’ thoughts about his imminent death). Rotten tomatoes has a nice overview of the series and the characters, so if you want to familiarize with what you will be getting into, before beginning your ‘trek’ into this series (I heard Season 2 is out and has started with a whopper!) – you might want to look into the following website.

But first a quote from them:

“As with the original, *Strange New Worlds* will tell episodic stories — that is, the *Enterprise* will warp into a new situation each week and solve it by the end of the hour. It is the format of the original series and later 20th century spinoffs like *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, but differs from the serialized storytelling of more recent programs like *Discovery* and Goldsman’s own *Star Trek: Picard*, in which a season-long problem is generally unresolved until the finale.”

See Rotten Tomatoes’ full article, here:

<https://editorial.rottentomatoes.com/article/star-trek-strange-new-worlds-crew-on-bringing-episodic-adventure-back-to-trek/>

Some more food for thought

One thing that always bothered me RE the Star Trek universe, is that there are no prominent robots – either as a workforce or sentient ‘creature’ – like we see in Star Wars (R2D2, C3PO, et al.). Even the space jockey ‘Buck Rogers in the 25th Century’ or “Lost in Space” had visible robots. And, of course, “Battlestar Galactica” and even the new “Orville” have an entire ‘race’ of sentient robots out to destroy Mankind. In an entire ‘Star Trek Universe’, why is there only one – in a prominent role – ‘Data’, the sentient android from ‘Star Trek: The Next Generation’ (TNG)?

Other than sentient computers (e.g., VyGER) or the BORG – the technology of AI and Robotics doesn’t seem to have really been advanced or exploited in the Star Trek universe. It would seem that Gene Rodenberry was interested in promoting the ‘human’ agenda, rather than the ‘technology’ aspect. **Sure, Science and technology are essential in each episode, but ultimately, it’s the Human angle, the Human potential that shines.**

Another thought occurred to me: Captain Pike is dying from an ‘incurable’ disease. However, his brain is active – couldn’t they have done a brain transplant (then again, I guess that TOS technology of Pike’s era wasn’t that advanced, and only later – when Spock’s brain is stolen – is some measure of medical technology able to reach a level of knowhow and skill that is able to replace Spock’s physical brain – see TOS Season 3, episode 1, 1968). Alternatively, couldn’t they have cloned Captain Pike and then retrained him – what a loss to the Federation of such a special officer – but again, there doesn’t seem to be a cloning technology in the Star Trek universe – or maybe such fields of scientific research and development are forbidden by law.

Follow-up for the previous articles RE Star Trek: The Next Generation (TNG):

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/tv/tv-news/star-trek-next-generation-25-best-episodes-1198415/>

- Do you agree? (I'm only in TNG Season 4 – so can only judge the first 3 seasons. I disagree with the choice of 'Q's' initial appearance in the 2 pilot episodes of Season 1 and in Season 3 Episode 13 as being among the 'best' 25 episodes. Every time he appears, my stomach turns. The other choices seem fair (for Seasons 1-3). I would add that the episode where they are stuck in the holodeck was one of my favorites – but then, some of the other episodes exploiting the holodeck were either poorly done or felt like they were just 'fillers' to complete that episode's hour slot, or the quota of episodes per season – or if the writers ran out of interesting material/stories.)

Follow-up for 2 other Star Trek series: Lower Decks and Discovery

<https://www.space.com/star-trek-lower-decks-and-discovery-have-ruined-original-series>

- Do you agree? (I actually enjoy/ed both series – though both are very different from the original 2 series, or the new series: "Strange New Worlds").

Sheer Science: 10 NASA inventions in your home*

*In memory of Aharon Sheer (נ"ט) – Founding Editor

10 everyday NASA inventions and spin-offs you can find in your home

By [All About Space magazine](#) – (published May 28, 2023)

**Bound by its motto "for the benefit of all" since its formation,
NASA has had an obligation to foster and transfer
its technological and scientific breakthroughs
to the public and commercial spheres.**

Many tools, machines, and facilities within your home have their origins in research undertaken by NASA over the past 50 years.

Technology originally designed to aid space exploration and land a human on [the moon](#) — an endeavor instigated by U.S. President John F. Kennedy in 1961, where he announced a series of exciting new missions including the groundbreaking [Apollo program](#), has been successfully spun off to create some of the staple day-to-day products we now take for granted.

From golf balls to gamepads and computers to crash helmets, [NASA's](#) technology has been picked up and adapted by specialist companies who have brought it into the public commercial sphere, delivering new and revolutionary products that have transformed how people live their lives and interact with their environment.

Throughout this article, we delve deep into the NASA archives to discover the innovative research and inventions that made ten of the most common everyday household products possible.

Continue reading at:

<https://www.space.com/10-everyday-nasa-inventions-spin-offs-in-you-home>










Fun from the Web

- **Satellites spy on human trafficking 'compounds'**
<https://www.space.com/human-trafficking-compound-maxar-satellite-photo>
- **Should future Mars missions have all-female crews?**
<https://www.space.com/mars-astronauts-all-female-crew>
- **New Carl Sagan documentary in the works from National Geographic and Seth MacFarlane**
<https://www.space.com/carl-sagan-documentary-national-geographic-seth-macfarlane>
- **Could the floating islands in 'The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom' exist?**
<https://www.space.com/zelda-tears-of-the-kingdom-floating-islands-in-real-life>
- **Saturn reclaims 'moon king' title with 62 newfound satellites, bringing total to 145**
<https://www.space.com/saturn-moon-king-62-newfound-satellites>
- **Robots could be new hardware of Start-up Nation**
<https://www.ipost.com/business-and-innovation/tech-and-start-ups/article-733499>
- **Swarming robots could save lives with Israeli engineering innovation**
<https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/bjihvgtk3>
- **11 Times Tech Really Did Take Our Jobs**
<https://gizmodo.com/11-times-tech-really-did-take-our-jobs-1850575895>

TV&MOVIES

- **Jedi at 40: Latest News and Features**
<https://www.starwars.com/return-of-the-jedi-40th>

Recipes Inspired by Return of the Jedi

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|  |  |  |
| Yum Num: Ewok Sushi | Yub Nub! Get the Recipe for Ewok Gingerbread | Great Pit of Carkoon Bundt Cake |
|  |  |  |
| It's Not a Trap! It's an Ackbar SnackBar. | Concentrate All Taste Buds on These Delicious Admiral Ackbar Ice Cream Sandwiches | This Pumpkin Spice Palpatine Cookie Is Your Master Now |
|  |  |  |
| Salacious Crumb Cakes | Even Han Solo Would Love This Jabbacado Toast | This Ewok Rice Bowl Will Make You Say 'Yub Nub!' |

- **40 years on, 'Return of the Jedi' is still up there with the best of 'Star Wars'**
<https://www.space.com/40-years-on-return-of-the-jedi-is-still-up-there-with-the-best-of-star-wars>
- **'Return of the Jedi' at 40: How 'Star Wars' legend Phil Tippett crafted special effects magic**
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-return-of-the-jedi-phil-tippett-interview>
- **Star Wars - What are kyber crystals?**
<https://www.space.com/what-are-kyber-crystals>
- **The Force is strong with new trailer for 'Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi' animated anthology**
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-tales-of-the-jedi-trailer-d23>
- **That's no moon! It's 2! Netflix space opera 'Rebel Moon' will come in 2 installments: report**
<https://www.space.com/netflix-rebel-moon-two-parts>
- **Doctor Who Ushers in David Tennant's Return with The Star Beast**
<https://gizmodo.com/doctor-who-david-tennant-60th-anniversary-trailer-bbc-1850435109>
- **New 'Star Trek' series 'Starfleet Academy' officially gets the green light**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-starfleet-academy-series-announced>
- **Take a sneak peek at new 'Star Trek: The Motion Picture – Echoes' comic series out**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-motion-picture-echoes-comic-evil-twins>
- **William Shatner is back in the captain's chair in wild new 'Stars on Mars' TV show**
<https://www.space.com/william-shatner-stars-on-mars-tv-show>

COMICS

- **Marvel powers up 'Star Wars: Dark Droids' miniseries with 5 new 'Scourged' covers**
<https://www.space.com/marvel-dark-droids-five-new-scourged-covers>

GAMES

- **Xenomorph outbreak on Planet Lethe in first 'Aliens: Dark Descent' tactical gameplay trailer**
<https://www.space.com/aliens-dark-descent-first-gameplay-trailer>
- **'Starfield' offers players a massive space odyssey in new gameplay footage**
<https://www.space.com/starfield-gameplay-trailer-june-2023>
- **Watch 1st trailer for new open-world 'Star Wars Outlaws' video game (video)**
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-outlaws-video-game-first-trailer>
- **'Star Trek: Resurgence' video game warps out for Trek gamers**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-resurgence-video-game-release-may-23>
- **New Lego Ideas 'Tales of the Space Age' set creates out-of-this-world displays**
<https://www.space.com/lego-ideas-tales-of-the-space-age>
- **Best Warhammer 40K games of all time**
<https://www.space.com/best-warhammer-40k-games-of-all-time>

MORE NEXT TIME!

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