

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

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר זוכה פרס גפן "מה שאחרים חושבים בי" מאת יואב בלום (הוצאת כתר). המועדון יתקיים ביום חמישי, 17.8 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 אמינוב**, 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 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:

- Star Trek vs. Star Trek vs. Star Trek – Part VI: Book review of "The Joy of Trek"
- Sheer Science: NASA Inventions and Chemistry – for the home

Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik



Close Encounters of the Third Kind Special Tribute (Illustrated: Jose Sanchez)

Feedback from Fans:

Dear Leybl,

Thank you for your continuing series about the Star Trek universe. Perhaps you will expand the review and commentary to include Lower Decks, etc.

I love that Kirk is better than Picard feature, and as an old-timer, favor ST TOS over TNG.

Note that TOS communicators gave way to TNG comm-badges.

One thing I liked about having a flip-type cellular telephone was recreating in real-life the action/motion of the TOS communicator.

I would have expected a more advanced weaponry in TNG, as well as a modified exterior ship design.

Perhaps you will someday review the various ST movies, including the one containing both Picard and Kirk?

Also:

- In Star Trek Discovery the "computer" has a female name and voice, and at some point becomes sentient. She decides not to perform a certain task because she feels that it is not in the best interest and safety of the crew! Thanks to the Federation's consultant psychologist, who is a talented actor with a great script, a compromise is worked out with the ship's AI.
- Capt. Pike developed his disability, which did not kill him as far as I know, while rescuing crew members from a radiation leak.

Gary

LB: Thanks for that, Gary. Note that the TNG ship can split off the top part – A nice idea! ... but apparently not new:

<https://www.quora.com/Could-the-saucer-section-of-earlier-versions-of-the-Enterprise-separate-like-the-TNG-Enterprise>

Take care!

TV (Book) REVIEW: "Joy of Trek" (Star Trek vs. Star Trek vs. Star Trek – Part VI) How to Enhance Your Relationship with a Star Trek Fan

(UK title: **Coping with Your Trekkie:**

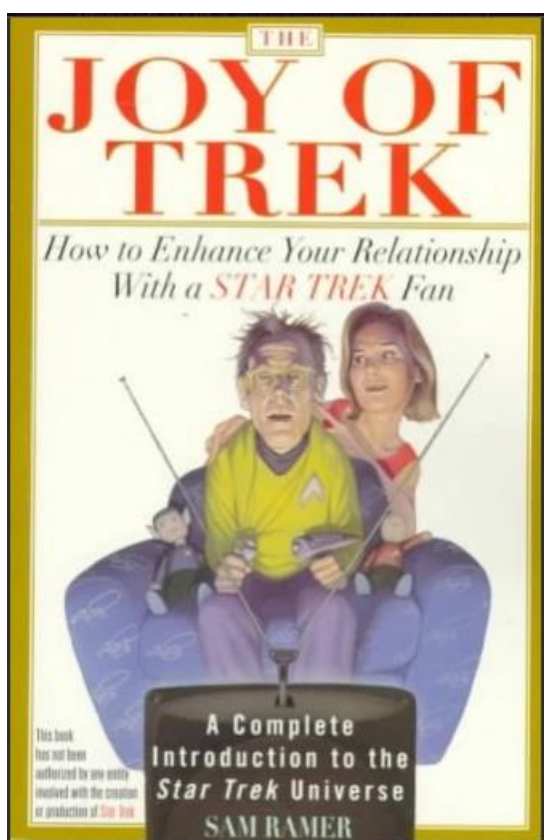
What You Need to Know to Survive a Relationship with a Star Trek Fanatic)

Reviewed by: **Leybl Botwinik**

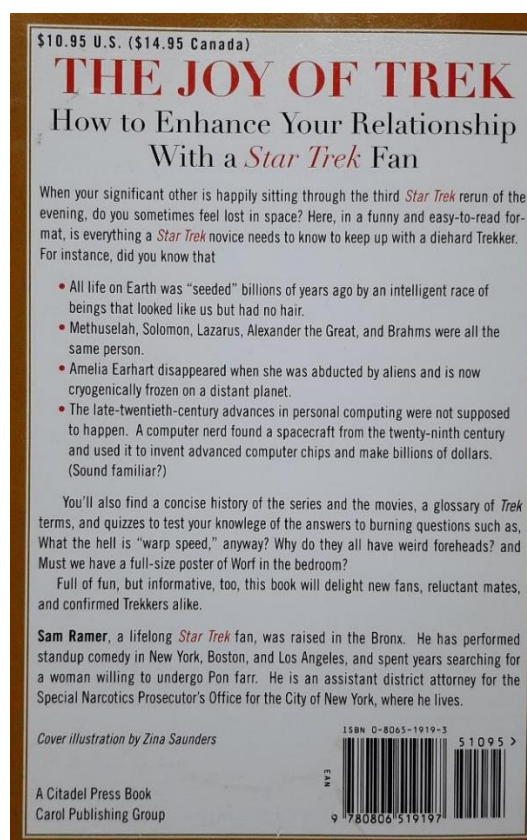
Published in 1997 and Covers Star Trek: TOS, TNG, Deep Space 9 (DS/9), and Voyager TV series

I recently gave away a SF-ish book to a friend and in return (not expecting it) I received this fantastic resource book – that I had never come across before – called "*The Joy of Trek*". The 217-page book, by Sam Ramer (published by Citadel Press), is a light and humorous reading and guide for the 'lost': anyone dating a 'Trekkie' and wants to know what they are getting into. At the same time, it's a wonderful overview of the original Star trek series (TOS), the Next Generation (TNG), and also about the Deep Space 9 (DS/9) and Voyager series (it also covers the movies) – until 1997.

Joy of Trek - Front cover:



Joy of Trek - Back cover:



Know your 'Enemy'

I believe it was in Sun Tzu's '*The Art of War*' that he emphasized the need for good research on your enemy, in order to understand how to defeat them. Similarly, this guide provides various breakdowns on how to relate to lovers / fans of Star Trek in order to better understand what a partner to such a person will be competing against, for their attention.

The book contains a very nice breakdown of the history of the various series, as well as pointers for those who want to familiarise themselves with not only what 'Star Trek' is all about, but what to expect from the various levels of fans: from the 'light' fan to the die-hard fan. As mentioned, it is light and humorous and an all-round easy read.

There is a wonderful website that talks about the book and includes the Table of Contents (see below). Apparently, the publisher was taken to court because the book was 'not authorized'. It's unclear to me what the final outcome was, but I did see that the book is still being sold on Amazon.

See: https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/The_Joy_of_Trek

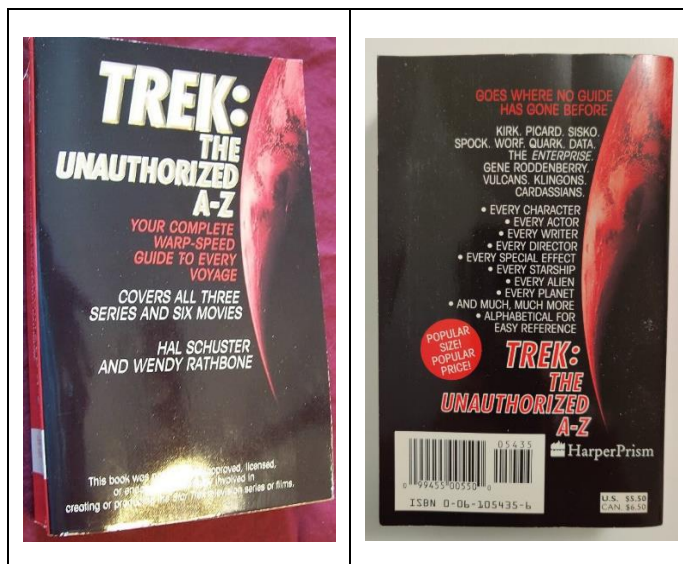
Contents

- Preface
- Acknowledgments
- The *Star Trek* Phenomenon and Where You Fit In
- How to Live With a Trekker; or, "Must We Have a Full-Size Poster of [Worf](#) in Our Bedroom?"
- The Story So Far; or, "How Did [Scotty](#) Get So Old and Fat?"
- The Characters: [Star Trek: The Original Show](#)
- The Characters: [Star Trek: The Next Generation](#)
- The Characters: [Star Trek: Deep Space Nine](#)
- The Characters: [Star Trek: Voyager](#)
- The Aliens; or, "Why Do They All Have Weird Foreheads?"
- [Technobabble](#); or, "What the hell is warp, anyway?"
- Really Cool Things to Say to Your Trekker; or, "Wow, You Watch *Star Trek* Too!"
- The *Star Trek* Convention; or, "If We Don't Leave Now, I'm Going to Start Crying"
- The Future; or, "Honey, They're Just Children. Don't Dress Them Like the Borg."
- The Greatest *Star Trek* Episodes of All Time and Why You'll Like Them

There is another slightly earlier resource for Star Trek that I have (I inherited from our late founding editor, Aharon Sheer), with the title "*Trek: The Unauthorized A-Z*" and a subheading "Your complete Warp-Speed Guide to Every Voyage". This book enables you to alphabetically look up key words from three series (TOS, TNG, DS/9, and six movies) up to 1996. The keywords can be names of characters, episode titles, and also about the writers and actors themselves.

This book is from 1996, by Wendy Rathbone and Hal Schuster (published by Harper)

(see: https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Trek:_The_The_Unauthorized_A-Z).



NOTES:

- I'm pretty sure that since 1996/7 there've been more updated books and sources, but this is what I have 😊.
- The website "MEMORY ALPHA" that I've given two links to, is a great resource too.

They list themselves as follows:

"*Memory Alpha* is a collaborative project to create the most definitive, accurate, and accessible encyclopedia and reference for everything related to *Star Trek*. The English-language *Memory Alpha* started in November 2003, and currently consists of **56,065 articles**. If this is your first visit, please read *an introduction to Memory Alpha*."

May you Live long and Prosper !

Sheer Science: More about NASA Inventions*

*In memory of Aharon Sheer (א"ר) – Founding Editor

In this follow-up, I'd like to introduce you to a friend of mine, Dr. Stephen Cohen:

A number of years ago, we collaborated on a dictionary of Scientific terminology in Yiddish – yet to be published. He is the author of several science books and runs a podcast on Chemistry – See at the end.

When last issue's article about NASA inventions in our homes came out, he reminded me that he has recently done a podcast on that very theme – about chemical products developed by NASA, that have found themselves into our homes –and sent me the following as an intro:

Bringing people and materiel to space requires a lot of energy and rocket fuel, so reducing mass of whatever goes into space is important. An early innovation that the American NASA came up with was the space blanket. The Marshall Space Flight Center invented the space blanket in 1964. This type of blanket is sometimes made of a thin film of polyethylene terephthalate, the same polymer that came to be used a decade later for plastic water bottles. For outer space usage, though, the polymer film is often a polyimide such as Kapton. Kapton was chosen because it tolerates ultraviolet radiation from the Sun, a problem in space with no ozone layer; it is stable from cryogenic temperatures to (at least briefly) oven temperatures; and there is little vaporization of solvents from manufacturing. Whatever the polymer, the plastic is then placed in a vacuum chamber, and aluminum atoms are deposited on top. The final product has a shiny, metallic appearance, and reflects 97% of heat, and is ultra-light weight. Not only can it protect people, it can shield machinery and instruments in space. Such foil protection covered the lunar module and was employed in 1973 to keep Skylab from heating up. Often you will also hear them called Mylar blankets or foil blankets.

Here's another invention to come out of the technological issues NASA had with space exploration and living. NASA was working on water purification systems on a smaller scale to bring to Skylab and other long-term space missions. All water that astronauts need has to be carried along for use, and it must be recycled. One of the NASA scientists, Ted Wydeven, was working on such water purifiers, and their membranes to catch some impurities. He put an electric arc across the membrane in an attempt to improve it with a vapor of organic compounds and created a thin polymer film. After doing some measurements, he found that the new film was highly resistant to scratches.

The US Food and Drug Administration had just issued regulations for eyeglasses in 1972 that required all lens prescriptions and sunglasses to be made shatter resistant. Glass is not, so glasses manufacturers leaned toward non-shattering polymer substitutes like polycarbonates. These polymers may be shatter-resistant, but they are not scratch-resistant. Wydeven began investigating the properties of his new polymer films as lens coatings and published his findings under such reports as "Combination Moisture Resistant and Antireflection Plasma Polymerized Thin Films for Optical Coatings," in Applied Optics in 1974, and "Antireflection coating prepared by plasma polymerization of perfluorobutene-2," in Applied Optics in 1976. Even more obvious is the 1977 article in Applied Optics, "Plasma polymerized coating for polycarbonate: single layer, abrasion resistant, and antireflection." The abstract for this last article describes the films as vinyltrimethoxysilane, which is an organosilicon polymer. By 1983, NASA licensed the process out to Foster Grant eyewear company, and now anti-scratch coatings are a popular addition to polycarbonate lenses.

LISTEN HERE: <https://thehistoryofchemistry.buzzsprout.com/1985736/13187625-76-the-final-frontier>

Dr. Stephen Cohen is the author of:

- A graphic history of chemistry, from World Scientific Publishing,
"O Mg! How Chemistry Came to Be" (<https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/12670>).
- A science-travel book, from Oxford University Press,
"America's Scientific Treasures", 2nd edition,
(<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/americas-scientific-treasures-9780197545508?cc=il&lang=en&>)
- His podcast is: **"The History of Chemistry"** <https://thehistoryofchemistry.Buzzsprout.com>

Fun from the Web

- **Best stargazing apps: AR apps and virtual star maps to help you navigate the night sky**
<https://www.space.com/best-stargazing-apps>
- **How long could you survive in space without a spacesuit?**
<https://www.space.com/how-long-could-you-survive-in-space-without-spacesuit>
- **AI vs Human Creation: A Conversation with Entertainment Lawyer Christian Simonds**
<https://scriptmag.com/career/ai-vs-human-creation-a-conversation-with-entertainment-lawyer-christian-simonds>
- **James Webb Space Telescope time travels billions of years in amazing 3D visualization (video)**
<https://www.space.com/james-webb-space-telescope-3d-video-13-billion-year-journey>
- **Boom! Watch an inflatable space habitat explode during testing (video)**
<https://www.space.com/lockheed-inflatable-habitat-burst-test-2>

TV&MOVIES

- **'Strange New Worlds' cinematographer brings 23rd-century style to 'Star Trek' (exclusive)**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-strange-new-worlds-cinematographer-interview>
- **'Strange New Worlds' trailer offers sneak peek at 1st musical episode of 'Star Trek' ever**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-strange-new-worlds-musical-episode-trailer>
- **'Star Trek: Section 31' spin-off finally set to warp onto our screens, but as a movie**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-section-31-to-go-ahead-as-a-movie>
- **New 'Foundation' Season 2 trailer teases massive spaceships and explosive combat (video)**
<https://www.space.com/foundation-season-2-extended-trailer-space-combat>
- **Babylon 5: The Road Home — Everything we know about the Babylon 5 animated movie**
<https://www.space.com/everything-we-know-about-babylon-5-the-road-home-animated-movie>
- **'Babylon 5: The Road Home' trailer for the new animated movie drops**
<https://www.space.com/babylon-5-the-road-home-trailer>
- **'Dune: Part 2' trailer offers a glimpse of Christopher Walken as Emperor of the Universe**
<https://www.space.com/dune-part-two-new-trailer-june-2023>
- **Watch a trippy trailer for 'Strange Planet,' a bizarre animated sci-fi show on Apple TV+**
<https://www.space.com/strange-planet-animated-sci-fi-show-trailer-apple-tv-plus>
- **'Star Wars' fan favorite Lando Calrissian gets his own TV series on Disney Plus**
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-lando-series-disney>

BOOKS

- **New Stephen Hawking book 'You and the universe' asks kids to save the Earth (exclusive)**
<https://www.space.com/stephen-hawking-earth-climate-change-book-kids>

MORE NEXT TIME

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