



Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

Bi-Annual Sci-Fi Convention

OLAMOT [Worlds]

<https://2024.olamot-con.org.il/about-2/>

This year's theme:

"Nedudim" [Wanderings]

APRIL 24-25 (khol-HaMoed Passover)

חדשות האגודה – אפריל 2024 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy 2024

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "מדריך הטרמפיסט לגלקסיה" מאת דאגלס אדמס. ויתקיים ביום חמישי 18.4, בשעה 19:30, בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש. בדף האירוע בפייסבוק.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1041913523811981>

ירושלים: לפרטים על המפגשים הבאים של המועדון הירושלמי ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים, גלי אחיטוב sal.maple@gmail.com ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטסאפ של המועדון.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1758700637764422/>

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:

- Special Wartime Issue (#7): Some thoughts
- Book Review: Domsday Book (1992) – by Connie Willis
- TV/Film Reviews: The Shift (2023/2017); Loki season 2 (2023); Raised by Wolves Season 1 (2020)

Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Special Wartime Issue #07

Dear Readers:

More than 185 days have passed, and Israeli soldiers are still fighting (and unfortunately falling), to keep Israeli citizens safe from the hands of the Hamas terrorist government in Gaza. The Hamas started the war, gleefully killing 1200 Israelis and many non-Israelis as well. In addition to the mayhem and brutal assault, torturing, raping, etc., they took over 250 hostages: women, children (babies), and others. AND THE HAMAS HAVE PROMISED MORE OF THE SAME!

And yet, there are politicians and others in Europe, Canada, the US, and elsewhere, that are calling for a new ceasefire (there was a ceasefire in effect before the Hamas broke it on the 7th of October, sending us into this current spiral of warfare). There are politicians and others in the US calling for sanctions against, and/or stopping all arms shipments to Israel who is trying to free the hostages and crush the terrorist regime that is also holding Gaza hostage.

One would expect these people to call for all Hamas leaders to be arrested and brought to court (e.g. those that are residing outside Gaza). You would expect the "Free World" to unite in massive demonstrations to free the hostages, and for Hamas to give up its arms and terrorist ways, so that the war will end and suffering on both sides would stop.

One would expect the UN to sanction Lebanon for letting the Hezbollah terrorists continue to fire from that territory into Northern Israel – because if they are not stopped soon, totally demilitarized, and pulled back from southern Lebanon – then Lebanon and its citizens will become the next to enter into total war with the State of Israel. Hezbollah is playing with fire, and no one seems to care – so long as they are killing Israelis (including non-Jewish Israelis).

One would expect the UN to call for a full sanctioning of Iran that is supporting the terrorists in Gaza, Lebanon, and elsewhere (e.g. Houthis, as well as in Syria and Iraq), involved in the current conflicts – as well as stopping them from their rush to create nuclear weapons. Especially, since they are calling for the destruction of Israel (and America).

I wonder how historians in the future, will look upon the ‘leaders’ of the world of 2024 – across the entire spectrum of politics – and judge them accordingly. Between the Iranian terrorist regime and Russia’s unnecessary attack of the Ukraine (and other regimes’ dangerous policies) – the world is currently in a very precarious state.

How did Einstein put it, when asked about what weapons World War III would be fought? ... He answered that he didn’t know with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.

Let’s hope we don’t go there!

Leybl Botwinik, Editor

DAYENU (1948-202?)

Although the well-known “Dayenu” (Hebrew: **דַּיְנוּ**) is a song that is part of the Jewish holiday of Passover – [see: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dayenu>] the version I have created is not for singing, because it has no rhyme or rhythm – maybe, one day when I have more time, I’ll make it more melodic and poetic... The word means “it would have been enough”, “it would have been sufficient”, or “it would have sufficed” (‘day’ in Hebrew means “enough”, and ‘-enu’ the first person plural suffix, “to/for us”). – Leybl Botwinik

- Had the world stopped the armies (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan’s), from attacking the Jewish State in ’48
- Dayenu [It would have been enough]

- Had Egypt and Jordan created ‘Arab Palestines’ under their jurisdictions (1948-‘66).
- Dayenu [It would have been enough]

- Had the PLO not been created in 1964, by the Arab League and Russia to wipe out Israel.
- Dayenu [It would have been enough]

- Had there been no more war(s) against the Jewish State of Israel (‘67, ‘73, and more).
- Dayenu [It would have been enough]

- ... etc. Lebanon War I & II
... etc. Intifada I & II
... etc. car rammings, knifings, ... etc.

- Had Hamas and Jihad not attacked [7-Oct-2023] with rockets, brutal murder, rape, and hostage taking, Gaza would not be destroyed, and thousands of lives saved.
- Dayenu [It would have been enough]

Reader's Recommendations

Dear Leybl:

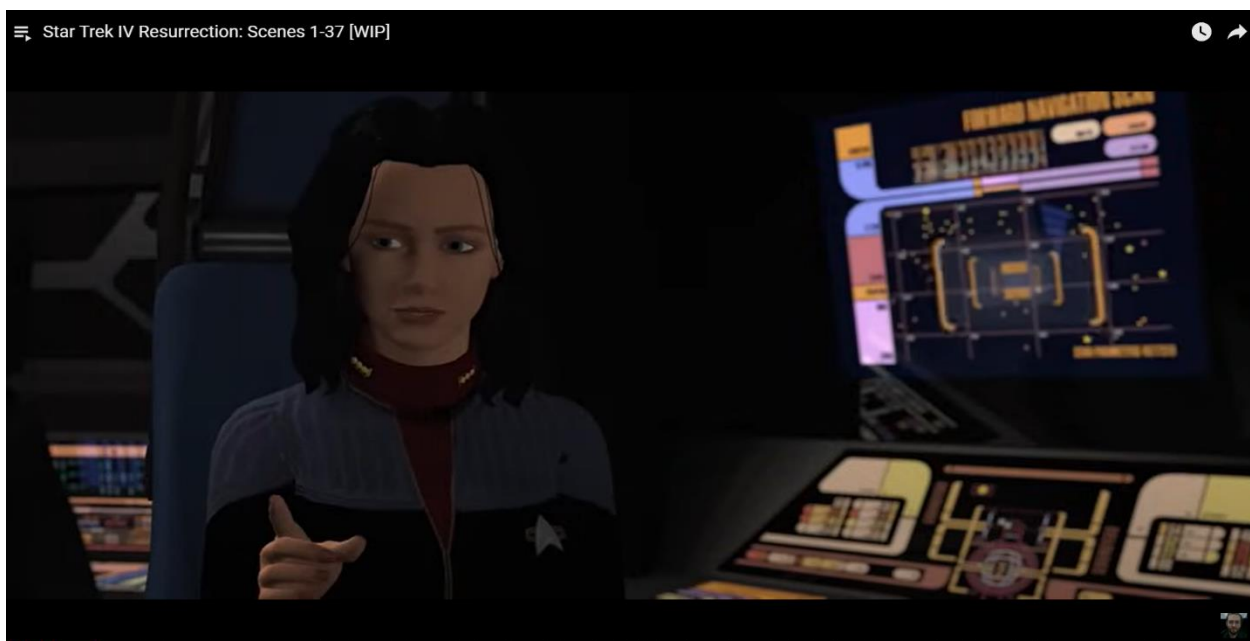
I heartily recommend the following series (the first 3 parts were mentioned to Aharon Sheer years ago):

- Star Trek I Specter of the Past
- Star Trek II Retribution
- Star Trek III Redemption

Just came out now on YouTube:

- **Star Trek IV Resurrection – Scenes 1-37 available at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5DNAITbfKQ&list=PLwjHqDZA82unfcAejBGhQPh60ZHiMIueH&index=76>



- **Scene 38b available at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJeGQuVGnDY&list=PLwjHqDZA82unfcAejBGhQPh60ZHiMIueH&index=78>

This amateur, animated series began more than a decade ago and has been improving ever since. The cast of characters are new and much of the TNG era ships are exhibited. What is unique about these movies are the various timelines that intersect and alter the future by going into the past – more than once! Also featured is a holographic physician, various mysteries, high quality graphics, nicely done plot and script, and much more.

– Gary Roth

Hello Leybl

Thank you for the good work of editing and publishing CyberCozen.

I found an article about the following series and thought that it will interest your readers:

https://hazmanhazeh.org.il/scifi/?fbclid=IwAR2LI4kXGJX2lIRKmfDF9qBfV3qFG1X4YsWb_uC08INRGs9HejwbY8qnPqk_aem_AUlb8YrhvCFv6pk1tLvMn-gz7b3QCtp_5zrdkLu0fZUstDBg4kREha7_j1aEMVCnHA0LVhGfmFLkHE6qULngomuF

Yechiel Adar

Thank you, Yechiel.

Apparently, this is the Hebrew version of the article “*The Universe is a Dark Forest*” [my translation] by Nick Richardson, about Liu Cixin’s 2008 Hugo Award winning novel (2015) “*The Three-Body Problem*”.

I haven't yet tracked down the English original of Richardson's writeup – so I'll try getting through the Hebrew and will get back to you and our readers with my comments on the article. I'll also try to get my hands on the book, or at least the TV version (8-episodes in season 1).

There are numerous hypotheses regarding numerous advanced civilizations existing in the vastness of outer space, and why Earth hasn't (yet) been contacted. Wikipedia has a balanced presentation of some of those theories, beginning with the *Fermi Paradox* (see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_forest_hypothesis).

Meantime, this article looks good too: <https://theconversation.com/3-body-problem-is-the-universe-really-a-dark-forest-full-of-hostile-aliens-in-hiding-226934>

Leybl

The 2024 Miami Bayside Alien Sighting Incident

Rumors of aliens caused the mass deployment of Miami police officers to Bayside on New Year's Day 2024. Reports were making the rounds on social media. Allegedly, aliens made a mysterious and abrupt appearance and scared off many witnesses.

So far though, there has not been any factual evidence. Only hoaxed videos and eyewitness testimonials.

Here is my take on a fictitious scene of what may have happened.

– Jose Sanchez, Artist



TV Review: Raised by Wolves Season 1 (2020)

Reviewed by: Leybl Botwinik

I only got through the first 3 episodes – having wanted to quit after the first. The storyline is convoluted and much of the background is unclear.

There are some great special effects, though. The main character, **'Mother'** – the android – is very scary (first 2 episodes directed by Ridley Scott of *'Alien'* fame) and may give you nightmares.

I wouldn't recommend this TV series, but I only saw 3 out of 10 episodes. Apparently, there is a 2nd season that *"has received critical acclaim"* (see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raised_by_Wolves_\(American_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raised_by_Wolves_(American_TV_series))).



Movie Review: *The Shift* (2017/2023)

Reviewed by: **Leybl Botwinik**

The story is about the multiverse (the existence of multiple dimensions, with multiple versions of ourselves – as applicable) and about Faith and Good and Evil. A man (Kevin Garner – played by Kristoffer Polaha) has a car accident and is helped by a stranger who calls himself ‘the Benefactor’ (excellently played by Neal McDonough). The Benefactor manages an infinite number of the multiverse people who work for him. They are NOT good people and cause chaos in the world – basically, spreading ‘Evil’.

He, as well as his minions, have a bracelet with which they can shift themselves or others, from one parallel world to another – often as a punishment. He has come to Garner’s world, to recruit that dimension’s version of him. He then shifts him out of his world into a different one. Only Garner refuses to cooperate, and instead begins to pray to God – causing the enraged Benefactor to disappear. This had never happened with any of the other versions of Garner – they had all let temptation and greed overcome any goodness in them.

However, even though the Benefactor has disappeared, bad things are still happening around the world that Garner now finds himself in.

To make a long story short – even though the world Garner now inhabits is in economic and social deterioration, his Faith keeps him strong, and he tries at every opportunity to help others. Eventually the Benefactor returns and there is a confrontation between him and Garner. Who will win: Good or Evil?

The movie, written and directed by Brock Heasley is based on clear Judeo-Christian values – similar to the story of Job in the Bible. It is a story of Faith. Not everyone will enjoy it – though I appreciated it, and it has some good actors/acting.

As I was doing some background research on the story, I discovered that in 2017, a short 22-minute film was made by Heasley – apparently, as a promo to get funding for the full movie. This can be seen for free on Youtube. In the short version, the Benefactor is called out by his real name: Satan. It covers the first chapter of the movie.

Heasley has taken Christian faith (the eternal war between Good and Evil) into the world of SF (the shifting between multiverses) and – I personally enjoyed the storyline, although in Judaism ‘Good’ and ‘Evil’ have some slightly different connotations than in Christianity.

The short film (22 minutes) can be seen here (different actors, but basically the same plotline): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OXA6BjdTeM> .



TV Review: LOKI Seasons 1&2 (2023)

Reviewed by: Leybl Botwinik

Loki is the **Norse God of Mischief** (remember this – there is a test at the end 😊) and a key character in the Marvel Universe. In the comics, his mischief led to the formation of the Avengers. In the movies, he's also caused plenty of mischief and damage. He is mostly depicted as an adversary (even a negative reflection) of his brother Thor (actually Thor's father Odin – the head of the Norse Gods – had adopted Loki).

The storyline in both Season 1 and Season 2 of the TV series is about multiple dimensions (the multiverse) AND time travel. Two for the price of one. The time travel aspect is an offshoot of the multiverse (or vice-versa). In the Marvel Universe, there is an organization called the Time Variance Authority (TVA) that manipulates, controls, and manages time travel and the multiverse to keep it stable.

The TVA is NOT a nice organization, and often carries out its work by taking draconian measures to 'fix' what it deems to be a problem (or potential issue that needs to be 'nipped in the bud').

As far as the Loki series is concerned – it's a very convoluted series of episodes that are often difficult to understand and connect to get the 'big picture'. If you manage to get to the end of the second season, it sort of all falls together – but it's a great mess getting there.

The acting is mostly good (Tom Hiddleston as Loki is good, as are the other cast members), but I don't understand the original concept of having Loki – a Norse God – play a part in all of this. Marvel could have taken just about any character in the Marvel Universe, to play the lead (some names that come to mind: Hulk, She-Hulk, Thing, an X-Man ...). I can't think of any reason that Loki should have been selected for the main role in this TVA storyline, as opposed to anyone else – even a non-super powered individual...

The character of Loki in the Marvel Universe is **almost always a negative force** – at his worst, he plots and carries out evil schemes, and at his 'best', he is a master mischief maker seeding confusion and chaos for shortsighted gain or just for the fun of it.



I'm in a dilemma of whether to recommend the show or not. The acting is quite good, the main ideas are good ... but it's one big mess that the viewer needs to plod through, to get at the key takeaways.

About the TVA (Time Variance Authority):

- Short (~3 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ySdrMM0Jbg>
- Longer and more thorough (~11 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi4RsN2SW4o>
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_Variance_Authority

Fun from the Web

- **Rare 11th-century star chart reveals history of Islamic, Jewish, and Christian astronomy**
<https://www.space.com/astrolabe-islamic-jewish-christian-astronomy-history>
- **Zoozve – The strange 'moon' of Venus that earned its name by accident**
<https://www.space.com/venus-quasi-moon-zoozve-radiolab-nasa>
- **Sneak peek at Universal's "Epic Universe's Celestial Park", coming in 2025 (images)**
<https://www.space.com/celestial-park-universal-epic-universe-2025>
- **See new trailer for NatGeo's 'The Space Race' documentary saluting Black astronauts (video)**
<https://www.space.com/natgeo-the-space-race-documentary-black-astronauts-trailer>
- **Here's what it's like taking a VR spacewalk with the Canadian Space Agency**
<https://www.space.com/vr-simulation-moon-astronauts-gateway-canadarm3>
- **How do astronauts use the bathroom in space?**
<https://www.space.com/how-do-astronauts-go-to-bathroom-in-space-toilet-guide>
- **If aliens had our life-hunting equipment, could they find us?**
<https://www.space.com/scientists-test-exoplanet-life-mission-earth>

TV&MOVIES

- **Watch terrifying aliens invade Earth in new trailer for 'A Quiet Place: Day One' (video)**
<https://www.space.com/a-quiet-place-day-one-trailer>
- **Dune: What the climate of Arrakis can tell us about the hunt for habitable exoplanets**
<https://www.space.com/dune-climate-arrakis-hunt-for-exoplanets>
- **Will the spice flow? How does new 'Dune' hold up to 1984's film and Herbert's classic novel?**
<https://www.space.com/dune-movie-remake-how-it-stacks-up>
- **Everything we know about 'Spaceman'**
<https://www.space.com/everything-we-know-about-spaceman>
- **Watch trailer - 'Space: The Longest Goodbye,' new film exploring astronaut mental health**
<https://www.space.com/space-longest-goodbye-documentary-astronaut-mental-health>
- **Watch the bittersweet trailer for 'Star Trek: Discovery's final season**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-discovery-final-season-trailer>

BOOKS

- **Star Trek's Seven of Nine returns in the new novel 'Picard: Firewall' (exclusive)**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-picard-firewall-novel-seven-of-nine>

GAMES

- **'Star Wars Battlefront Classic Collection' blasts its way into our galaxy on March 14**
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-battlefront-remastered-march-14>
- **Everything we know about Dune: Awakening (an online game)**
<https://www.space.com/everything-we-know-about-dune-awakening>

For Comments: E-mail: levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com. Tel: Leybl Botwinik +972-54-537-7729
Editor: Leybl Botwinik. Founding Editor: Aharon Sheer (א"ר). Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu (מ"ל).

For free email delivery (PDF format) write to levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com

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

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