



חדשות האגודה – פברואר 2020 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

החודש יתקיימו מפגשי מועדון הקריאה כמפורט להלן. לצורך היערכות למספר המשתתפים/ות וקבלת הדעות 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 בתל אביב יתקיים ביום חמישי, 26.03, ויעסוק באסופה "היה יהיה" (האגודה הישראלית למדע בדיוני ולפנטזיה, 2019), בשעה 19:30 בבית פרטי בתל אביב. מנחה: איילת גרשוביץ. אירוע הפייסבוק. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, במייל של מרכזת המועדון, [דפנה קרש](#).**
- **המועדון בירושלים יעסוק כנראה בספר "שירת הקוקיה" מאת פרנסס הרדינג (עוץ, 2019), בשעה 21:00. פרטים נוספים יתפרסמו בקבוצת הפייסבוק [מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה](#). ניתן גם ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - [גלי אחיטוב](#), ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטס'אפ של המועדון.**
- **המועדון בגליל מערבי (כרמיאל-משגב) יתקיים ביום שלישי, 26.03.20, בשעה 20:00, ויעסוק בספר "תחנה אחת-עשרה" מאת סבה טהיר (כתר, 2016). המועדון יתקיים בבית פרטי במשגב. כתובת תימסר לנרשמות ולנרשמים במייל של המנחה, [ד"ר קרן פייט - אירוע הפייסבוק](#).
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>**

A special message about the world Corona virus crisis – at the end of this bulletin

This month's roundup:

- Part XI of the Zion's Fiction review: Short story #15
- Part IX of the Time-Space series – Are we our own UFOs?
- Yehezkel Laing's Star Trek story – Part II [conclusion]
- As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites
- Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

A Reader Writes:

Thank you for another great edition of CC, Leybl! Isaac Asimov was my favorite in my youth -- read the Foundation trilogy books twice, read some of his robotics stories, and subscribed to his SF magazine for a while, so your publication of his biographical information was much appreciated! I really enjoyed Mr. Laing's Star Trek story "Race to the Sun, part 1" -- can't wait for the next part -- the suspense is overwhelming!
Gary

Some fun from the Websites:

So, ... how much whale pee is there in the ocean?



Life's Little Mysteries answers fascinating questions about the world around you and the stuff in it, from things in the news and on your mind, to crazy questions you didn't even know you had such as, how much whale pee is in the ocean?

Each week Live Science's Jeanna Bryner and Mindy Weisberger tackle a different theme such as strange animals, the human body, or visitors from outer space. In the first episode of Life's Little Mysteries, Jeanna and Mindy talk about the world's seas and oceans and ask: Why is the sea salty? Could global warming boil away our oceans? And is the Dead Sea really dead?

And you can even ask us questions directly! Join the Live Science forum or follow us on Twitter, tell us what mystifies you and we'll answer the most interesting questions in future podcasts.

We hope you'll join us on this exciting voyage of discovery and often downright weirdness as we solve... Life's Little Mysteries.

Listen here:

<https://www.livescience.com/lifes-little-mysteries-podcast.html>

Here's another Audio

Threats Mars Colonizers Will Face In Outer Space

[SPACE NEWS POD](#)



<https://search.audioburst.com/burst/AKXDB3rr6AGN/2019/5/6/Threats Mars Colonizers Will Face In Outer Space>

Seeing Stars I:

New 'Star Trek' series 'Section 31' to start filming when 'Discovery' season 3 wraps

Get ready for the return of her most Imperial Majesty, Mother of the Fatherland, Overlord of Vulcan, Dominus of Kronos, Regina Andor, Emperor Philippa Georgiou Augustus Iaponius Centarius

By Scott Snowden February 2020

The first episodes of "[Star Trek: Picard](#)" have aired and are now being scrutinized on social media and countless threads across the internet.

But let's not forget about [Season 3 of "Star Trek: Discovery"](#) and the new spin-off show, which may or may not officially be called "Section 31" — although that title does seem likely.

Continue reading at:

<https://www.space.com/star-trek-section-31-discovery-filming-schedules.html>

Seeing Stars II:

'Star Wars: Underworld' test footage reveals what George Lucas' TV show could have looked like

By George Marston February 03, 2020

Purported test footage from George Lucas' scrapped "[Star Wars](#)" TV show has surfaced online courtesy of Stargate Studios, who created some of the special effects for the clip.

Titled "[Star Wars: Underworld](#)," the show would have taken place in the Rebellion era visiting such locations as Coruscant, [as seen in this clip](#),

Continue reading at:

<https://www.space.com/star-wars-underworld-tv-show-test-footage.html>

Do you agree ...?

Why Ridley Scott is Sci-Fi's Most Important Director

Ridley Scott remains one of the most influential sci-fi directors. As an innovative director and producer, **Ridley Scott** remains one of the most influential creative minds in sci-fi filmmaking. He has launched enormously successful franchises (like *Alien* in the late 70s) which are still lauded and carry weight to this day.

Like other successful and cutting-edge directors, Ridley Scott has carved out a niche for himself in his filmmaking capabilities, setting a standard for future movies in the sci-fi genre. Without his novel ideas and design, movies about space and futuristic societies would be an entirely different domain.

Continue reading at:

<https://screenrant.com/ridley-scott-sci-fi-science-fiction-movies-important-director-why/>

Food for thought: Where SF takes us to the socio-moral edge, and beyond
(NOTE: This may not be everyone's cup of tea)

How an experimental story about gender and warfare shook the sci-fi community

Isabel fall's story raised questions about how we read online

By M.L. Clark, January 2020

In early January, the influential science fiction and fantasy (SFF) magazine *Clarkesworld* published a story by an unknown author named Isabel Fall. The story was titled “*I Sexually Identify as an Attack Helicopter*,” which describes the premise: it’s about a woman who becomes a weapon of war. But it’s also the origin of a cruel cypasta used to harass trans people, an internet meme similar to the hyperbolic slur that if queer people were “allowed” to marry, we’d be marrying dogs next.

Part of *Clarkesworld*’s audience absolutely loved the story, viewing it as an ambitious and beautifully written exploration of gender. But others saw something insidious. Nobody knew who Isabel Fall was. Maybe she was a trans woman reclaiming an ugly meme, or maybe *Clarkesworld* had just elevated the work of a hateful troll. The result was a panicked dispute that saw the story taken offline at the author’s request, the SFF community grappling with the line between making provocative art and ignoring real-life trauma, and when to take anything on the internet in good faith.

It’s dangerous to talk about any community as a cohesive whole. And people — across all communities — read differently. Most of us read to be affirmed, to see what we long for more of in the world. If we didn’t, we wouldn’t live within such significant online information silos. Sometimes we read to be unsettled or to have our world views challenged, but this is rarer. When we come across unsettling work about real, vulnerable groups, there’s also a strong tendency to be on alert for potential fallout — like a risk of reinforcing stereotypes or giving rhetorical ammunition to bigots.

Continue reading here:

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/1/22/21076981/isabel-fall-clarkesworld-attack-helicopter-short-story-gender-art-controversy>

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Not to brag, but I thought about this years ago – as have others

Time and Space (IX) - Aliens from Space or Time?

Are the aliens us?

UFOs may be piloted by time-traveling humans, book argues

The great distances covered by visiting "aliens" may be ones of time rather than space, a recent book argues.
By Leonard David January 2020

Unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have captured the public's attention over the decades. As exoplanet detection is on the rise, why not consider that star-hopping visitors from afar might be buzzing through our friendly skies by taking an interstellar off-ramp to Earth?

On the other hand, could those piloting UFOs be us — our future progeny that have mastered the landscape of time and space? Perhaps those reports of people coming into contact with strange beings represent our distant human descendants, returning from the future to study us in their own evolutionary past.

Identified Flying Objects



A Multidisciplinary Scientific Approach to the UFO Phenomenon



See more at:

<https://www.space.com/aliens-time-traveling-humans-ufo-hypothesis.html>

The idea of us being them has been advanced before. But a recent book, "[Identified Flying Objects: A Multidisciplinary Scientific Approach to the UFO Phenomenon](#)" (Masters Creative LLC, 2019), takes a fresh look at this prospect, offering some thought-provoking proposals.

Multidisciplinary approach

The book was written by Michael Masters, a professor of biological anthropology at Montana Technological University in Butte. Masters thinks that – given the accelerating pace of change in science, technology, and engineering – it is likely that humans of the distant future could develop the knowledge and machinery necessary to return to the past.

LB: Here's Part II that concludes the story that was started last issue

Race to the Sun (Part II - conclusion)

A Star Trek Story by Yehezkel Laing

Getting Hotter

Kirk to Chekov – What is the Avagar's distance from the sun and the estimated time of impact?

Distance 250,000 km. At its current velocity 22.5 hours to impact sir.

Thanks heavens! More than enough time for interception!

I'm afraid not Mr. President. Within a quarter of that time the Avagar will be too close to the sun for us to reach it. We must take urgent action now.

Kirk to transporter room, beam Mr. Spock and me up immediately.

Beaming up sir!

Mr. Sulu plot an interception course for the Avatar – full impulse speed.

Plotting and initiating Captain.

Kirk to Engineering. We are heading towards the Mehgah system's sun. I need full shields to protect the Enterprise from its rays.

Shields going up Captain.

Oh and Scotty – I need you to get your hands on anything you have regarding Thermal String Decapulators. You have one hour to become an expert.

Never much liked crammin' for an exam sir. But if I must—I will.

Good man. You are to join Mr. Spock and myself in the transporter room in one hour. We will be in need of your services when we board the Avagar.

Later... Kirk, Scotty and Spock materialize on the Avagar.

As expected Captain, there are no signs of life.

Thermal string readings coming from aft sir.

Scotty no!

Scotty crosses a barely visible, thin red ray and a bomb detonates ripping a hole in the hull.

Booby trapped!

Scotty is sucked by the vacuum of space towards the hole created in the spaceship's bulkhead.

Spock lunges for Scotty grabbing his hand just before he is sucked out into space. Then Kirk grabs Spock's hand as he too is sucked towards the hole.

Must.....let.....go!
Captain no!

Kirk releases hold of the two men, who immediately fly towards the gaping cavity and outer space. At the same time he leaps for a nearby button. A panel quickly slides forward sealing the space created by the blast.

Self-sealing bulkheads – they are mandatory on all experimental space craft.

That's as close as me hopes I ever get to doing a spacewalk Captain!

The thermal readings Scotty.

Still coming from aft sir – but they appear weak.

Let's go...

After an intensive search, the party rests.

There's nothing here captain – she's been gutted. The readings must be residual. At any rate they're much too low for the real thing.

Are you certain!

Unless he managed to shrink the Decapulator down to the size of a thimble, it's not something you're likely to miss. It's bigger than an Earth elephant!

I was afraid of this Captain. The Avagar was merely a decoy. I doubt the bomb would have had sufficient impact on the sun to cause the required chain reaction. The bomb itself must be on one of the planets. A single planet knocked out of orbit could have catastrophic results on the entire system.

There are 103 planets in the Mehgah system and only 12 hours left. How in the world will we find it in time?

While on the Enterprise I took the liberty of making a few calculations:

23% of Mehgah planets are in the system's outer orbits and their reconfiguration would cause

minimal damage. 15% are too large to be moved from their present trajectories, 24% are gaseous and 17% would break up upon detonation. That leaves 21% or only 22 planets.

We have 10 shuttles - 8 of which are functional and two which are under repair. In the time remaining each shuttle can cover two planets. The Enterprises itself can cover three. That still leaves three planets unchecked.

Then let's hope to God we choose wisely... Kirk to transporter room – beam us up.

An Explosive Situation

An hour later in the hangar of the USS Enterprise eight teams of three crewmen are briefed on the operation by Captain Kirk.

A massive thermal string bomb is located on one of 21 planets. Only six hours remain until it explodes. Each shuttle has been outfitted with a thermal string radiation detector capable of identifying the Decapulator within a distance of 1000 km – more than enough for orbital detection.

Each crew is to encircle the two planets listed on their manifest. The Enterprise herself will check out three more planets. If you locate the bomb you are to immediately radio Mr. Spock on the Enterprise who will then walk you through the disarmament process. That's it. Good luck to you all and God speed.

A tense hour passes before the first reports begin to trickle in.

Delta team report.

Planet 12 negative – continuing on to planet 13.

Roger that

Zeta Team report.

Our progress is being hindered by a massive terrestrial exodus cramming the space corridors. We are barely at our first destination point.

Your problem has become a common one for all shuttle teams throughout the system. You are to reach your terminus points on time despite the added difficulty. I don't care how many stellar traffic laws you have to break to do it! Is that clear Sargent?

Yes Captain.

Kirk out.

So far 13 planets surveyed all with negative results, and only half an hour remains. I'm beginning to get worried.

I estimate a 41.3% chance of success Captain.

Are you sure Spock – .3%? I would have thought at least .4%.

Well, rounding off to the nearest integer, sir.

I was kidding Spock.

Hangar to bridge – there appears to be a problem.

What is it?

Well...one of the shuttles is missing!

What do you mean? I thought the remaining two were disabled.

They were sir. That is, they are – at least I thought so!

Which one?

The UX8 sir.

Lieutenant Uhura – flag the UX8 immediately.

Flagging sir...contact established.

UX8 - this is Captain James T. Kirk of the USS Enterprise. Who are you and why have you commandeered a Federation shuttle?

Sorry Captain – there was simply no time to explain.

Matthews? Corporal Matthews is that you?

Yes Captain – when I heard we didn't have enough shuttles for the mission I checked out the UX8 and saw I could make some quick alterations which would make her viable. There was no time to explain.

A stooped, hunched back figure emerges from the rocks with a large wrench in his hand and reaches up to club Matthews in the head. He crumples to the ground.

Matthews? Matthews! What's happening!?!

Matthews is gone and soon, in about one minute, so will the entire Mehgah system!

No you mustn't! Whoever you are – no matter how much pain you are in – you must not do this! It's genocide on an apocalyptic scale!

No less than what was done to own my people!

What was done to your people was wrong, but killing countless billions won't bring them back!

It will bring justice!

Billions of men, women, and children who had nothing to do with the death of your people? They're innocent! Don't distort the memory of your people, the Ugadi, into the cause of genocide! They wouldn't want this!

Silence.

..... Matthews here. The danger is over Captain. The Ugadi that knocked me out has repented and disarmed the bomb. Fortunately, it was a glancing blow, because he couldn't reach high enough.

Thank God.

Corporal you are to turn that shuttle around and return to the Enterprise immediately – that's an order!

Sorry sir – I can't do that. I am beginning my orbit around Minerva.

Matthews! Matthews!

He cut the line sir.

Beta Team reporting – planets 16 and 17 both negative.

That's 20 planets so far.

We're running out of time.

15 minutes till detonation sir.

UX8 to Enterprise I have located the Decapulator on Minerva. I am taking the UX8 planet side.

Good work son!

Matthews lands his shuttle in a canyon next to a large mechanical device and exits the ship.

Matthews to Enterprise – I am in sight of the bomb. How do I disarm it?

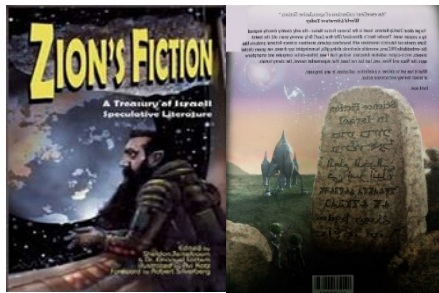
Spock to Matthews – There is red panel on the right side of the device marked AGRT-7. Do you see it?

Wait...yes! I see it!

Open it.

Noooooooooo! I won't let you!

**“Zion’s Fiction” ed. Teitelbaum & Lottem - Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik
(Coming to you, from the world’s prime SF nation)**



Story #15 – My Crappy Autumn by Nitay Peretz

This story is about Ido, a modern and secular Israeli who tells us of his sometimes normal and more often than not weird experiences during a period of about a month, during the summer month of August.

Told in the first person, he describes his feelings as he lives through a series of events that include his girlfriend of four years leaving him, a donkey that begins to talk and becomes

the spokesperson for a new cult, and a visit by some mysterious UFO. The entire 32 page short story feels like it’s some manifestation of the marijuana that Ido likes to smoke. In fact it is probably the most “Israeli” SF&F story in Zion’s Fiction’s collection of 16 short stories – with multiple references to “classic” Israeli images, events, and symbols (such as soccer teams, TV channels, etc.) – including iconoclastic thoughts and activities on the part of Ido and others. Even the language and style Ido uses often reminds one of Israeli-like expressions or ways of saying things (including syntax) that don’t always come out right in English – but are very typical of Israelis. This all makes the story very authentic.

Overall, however, I didn’t really connect to this story as much as I did to the other ones in the Zion’s Fiction. In fact, regardless of the ‘weirdness’ and random UFO appearances, I didn’t feel that the story was one I would have selected for this collection.

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

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...).

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

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A Word About the World Corona Virus Crisis – From the Editor:

Is this the pandemic/apocalyptic event we’ve all been fearing? I don’t think so.

People are getting sick – in the tens of thousands – but most are thankfully recovering. Our main global problems concern the economy of most countries and how to support each other and help each other overcome fear and, of course, the health risks themselves.

My hope is that this world crisis will have at least one positive outcome: the understanding that we are all in one ‘boat’ – regardless of race, colour, sex, or religion. Our tiny and overtaxed world needs good people to work together to solve this health crisis, as well as all other local and global issues including environmental, social, and economic ones. I hope that we’ll pass over this crisis with the minimum damage, and with the maximum coordination and aid among nations and peoples.

Until we meet again, I wish you all to safely and healthily survive these trying times.

As we traditionally say in Yiddish when departing (i.e. in other languages you say: good-bye/so-long/godspeed/au-revoir/auf wiedersehen/etc.):

זײַט געזונט [=be healthy] זײַט געזונט