

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

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "מכשפות בחוץ-לארץ" מאת טרי פראצ'ט. המועדון יתקיים ביום חמישי, 18.5.23 בשעה 19:30 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 לרשימת התפוצה או בדף האגודה בפייסבוק.

Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

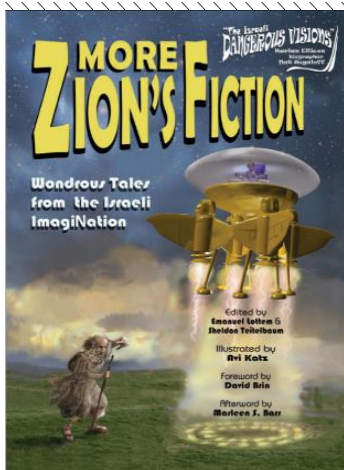
This month's roundup:

- Star Trek vs. Star Trek vs. Star Trek – Next time (sorry ...)
- Book review: "More Zion's Fiction" – Wrap-up
- Israel's SpaceIL lunar lander project 'Beresheet 2' update

Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

TV REVIEW: Star Trek vs. Star Trek vs. Star Trek – Next time



<http://zionfiction.com/>

MORE ZION's FICTION – Wrap-up Review

The book ends with:

- A 3-page essay by Ehud Maimon: "My Life as an Israeli Science Fiction Fan" (not just as a reader, but also as reviewer and editor)
- A 9-page "Afterword" by Marleen S. Barr, with its sub-heading: "The Language of Israeli Science Fiction: Or, The Cities Are Alive with the Sound of Hebrew"
- A 3-page biography of the editors

All-in-all, the book contains a nice and varied set of short stories. My main concern was that several of the stories – when reading them as stand-alone texts – did not seem to reflect any 'Israeli' or 'Jewish' content. Marleen Barr – in her essay – would seem to disagree. Maybe her 'Afterword' would have best been deployed as a 'Foreword'.

Jewish Fantasy Worldwide: Trends in Speculative Stories from Australia to Chile (Jewish Science Fiction and Fantasy)

I'm excited to inform you that the new publication, edited by Valerie Estelle Frankel, contains a 20-page chapter on my 1982 Yiddish novel "Di Geheime Shlikhes". – After reading the review by Stephen Cohen, I decided to reread my book (... did I really write all that, back then ...? 😊).

<https://www.amazon.com/Jewish-Fantasy-Worldwide-Speculative-Australia/dp/1666926604>

My Recent Recommendations

Evenings – after work (and when I'm not busy with family/friends or tinkering with one of my several projects or dabbling in some creative writing) – I try to keep up with (or catch up on) SF-related films or TV series. For example, the Star Trek universe's new and old series that I've been writing about (* this is just a plug for you to read my past and upcoming related articles 😊).

Recently, I came across some fascinating stuff that I'd like to recommend:

• **Moonfall (2022 movie)**



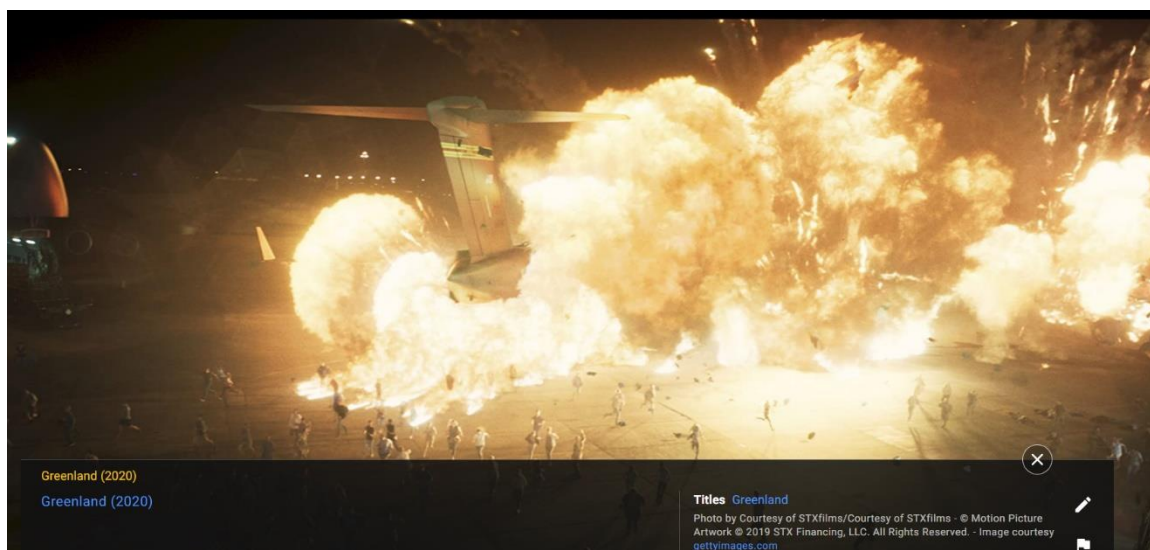
- Another world-is-about-to-end story of the Moon leaving its orbit and about to crash into the Earth. Some very impressive special effects. Entertaining. Some of the theories seem a bit far-fetched, but then a lot of science seems fantastic to most people.

- Good story (though I didn't particularly like the reason for the pending doom), and there is a good team of actors.

- Also, some light humour (considering the seriousness of the situation...)

[See also "[The moon's heart of iron revealed for the 1st time](#)", in "[Fun from the Web](#)", below]

• **Greenland (2020 movie)**



- Another world-is-about-to-end story and how one family (and some friends) are planning to survive. Feels quite realistic – and scary... Entertaining. This one is about an enormous comet heading to Earth that will cause mass destruction and probably kill off 90% of all flora and fauna.

Good special effects. However, some of the scenes or action felt too much like I had seen the same thing or similar in other disaster films. In other words, fun, but nothing spectacular.

- [See also "[This is what would happen if scientists found an asteroid heading to Earth](#)" & "[What would happen if the asteroid Ryugu hit Earth?](#)", in "[Fun from the Web](#)", below]

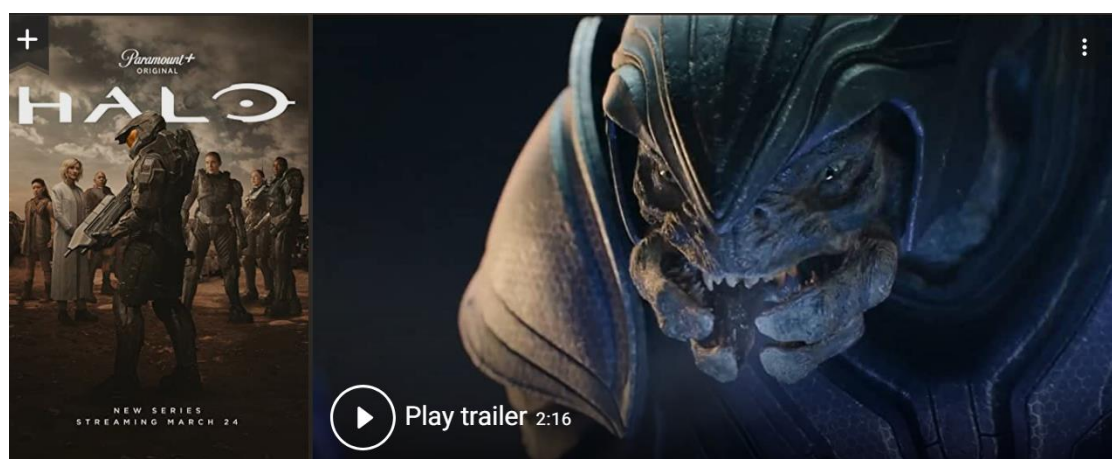
- **Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022 movie)**



- Fascinating SciFi movie dealing with multiple dimensions and timelines.
- Lots of fun and bizarre things happen in the life of an overworked coin laundry owner, a Chinese woman played by actress Michelle Yeoh. For authenticity, much of the film dialogue is a mixture of English and Chinese.
- The movie has garnered much praise and multiple awards — and deserves a separate analysis and breakdown.

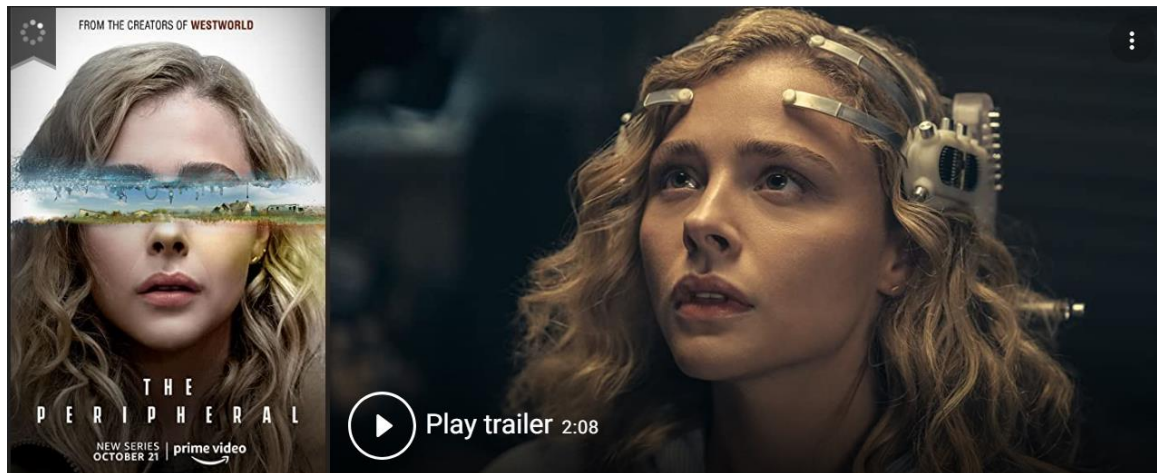
[See also “[Everything Everywhere All At Once: Judaism and the Multiverse](#)” in “[Fun from the Web](#)”, below]

- **Halo (2022, season 1: 9 episodes)**



- The year is 2552. Some of planet Madrigal’s inhabitants want independence from Earth and are willing to fight for it. Earth has a superior military technology, in particular due to super soldiers called ‘Spartans’.
- To add to the intricate and intriguing story, humanity (i.e., Earth in particular) is also busy fighting a powerful alien species bent on destroying mankind. In the storyline, the aliens are also in a race with our ‘heroes’ to locate a secret and hidden powerful weapon.
- Apparently, the characters in the series are based on the Halo franchise toys, but the storyline is anything but a kids’ pastime/toy.
- The story is well outlined, and there are some interesting and colourful characters and scenes that hold your attention. If you like outer space, AI, Aliens, ‘David-fighting-Goliath’ for independence, etc. – this one has it all and then some.

- **The Peripheral (2022, season 1: 8 episodes)**



- Just a few years into our future (2030?): Put on your headset, plug in to the computer/network/cloud – and enter the world of a virtual reality video game – only this ‘game’ is Real! Good acting. Good storyline. Great effects.
- There are various rough spots and side-tracking scenes and sub-plots that I would have eliminated, but all-in-all it’s got some fascinating concepts that include time travel and multiverses. In short: plenty of excellent food for thought and/or discussion.

- **Love, Death & Robots (2019, 3 seasons: 36 episodes)**



- IMDB writes: “A collection of animated short stories that span various genres including science fiction, fantasy, horror and comedy.” These shorts are 2-to-12-minute animations of different styles and techniques, as well as short video clips with special effects.
- I enjoyed almost all of them, with my favorites being two shorts of 3 robots visiting Earth from a world run only by robots, and how they explain to each other what they witness or know about humans: social, technical, and political.

Fun from the Web

- Skylab, the First U.S. Space Station, Changed What We Thought Was Possible in Orbit
<https://gizmodo.com/skylab-50-anniversary-first-space-station-nasa-1850408459>
- Should Robots Have Rights?
<https://aish.com/should-robots-have-rights/>
- 8 Signs That the AI 'Revolution' Is Spinning Out of Control
<https://gizmodo.com/ai-chatgpt-bing-google-8-sign-revolution-out-of-control-1850076241>
- Four for the moon! NASA names Artemis 2 astronaut crew for 1st lunar mission since Apollo
<https://www.space.com/nasa-names-artemis-2-moon-crew>



Artemis 2's Canadian astronaut got their moon mission seat with 'potato salad'
<https://www.space.com/artemis-2-moon-mission-canadian-astronaut-seat-negotiations>

- Launch of private moon rover this year will kick off lunar Bitcoin treasure hunt
<https://www.space.com/bitcoin-treasure-hunt-moon-lunar-rover>
- This is what would happen if scientists found an asteroid heading to Earth
<https://www.space.com/nasa-models-hypothetical-asteroid-impact-scenario>
- What would happen if the asteroid Ryugu hit Earth?
<https://www.space.com/if-asteroid-ryugu-were-to-hit-earth>
- The moon's heart of iron revealed for the 1st time
<https://www.space.com/moon-core-heart-of-iron-1st-look>

MOVIES / TV

- Tour Every 'Star Trek' Enterprise Bridge from Your Browser
<https://www.reviewgeek.com/152237/tour-every-star-trek-enterprise-bridge-from-your-browser>
- Best Star Trek: Deep Space Nine episodes
<https://www.space.com/best-star-trek-deep-space-nine-episodes>
- Everything Everywhere All At Once: Judaism and the Multiverse
<https://aish.com/judaism-and-the-multiverse/?src=ac>
- Robert Rodriguez's Sci-Fi Movies, Ranked
<https://gizmodo.com/robert-rodriguez-movies-sin-city-dusk-till-dawn-spy-kid-1850428596>
- 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>
- Everything we know about Star Wars Skeleton Crew: Plot, release window, cast & crew
<https://www.space.com/everything-we-know-about-star-wars-skeleton-crew>
- Everything we know about Transformers: Rise of the Beasts
<https://www.space.com/transformers-rise-of-the-beasts-release-date-how-to-watch>
- 'Lost In Space' at 25: How this big-budget sci-fi reboot in 1998 steered wildly off course
<https://www.space.com/lost-in-space-movie-25th-anniversary>
- Watch DC's 'Blue Beetle' blast into space in epic 1st trailer (video)
<https://www.space.com/blue-beetle-flies-in-space-first-trailer>

- **Guardians of the Galaxy 3 Starts Theatrical Run with Perfectly Balanced Box Office**
<https://qizmodo.com/guardians-of-the-galaxy-vol-3-mcu-box-office-1850413200>
- **3 bittersweet 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3' teasers promise one last space ride (videos)**
<https://www.space.com/guardians-of-the-galaxy-vol-3-final-promo-videos>

Games

- **11 Games To Play After Star Wars Jedi: Survivor**
<https://kotaku.com/star-wars-jedi-survivor-fallen-order-games-like-similar-1850426511>

Books

- **'Autobiography of Benjamin Sisko' [from Star Trek: Deep Space Nine] reveals untold history**
<https://www.space.com/autobiography-benjamin-sisko-star-trek-book-exclusive>
- **'Return of the Jedi' 40th anniversary: Lando and Stormtroopers get own 'Star Wars' comics**
<https://www.space.com/return-of-the-jedi-lando-stormtroopers-40th-anniversary-comics>

MORE NEXT TIME!

From: SpaceIL – Space Events & Beresheet2 Mission Update

In honor of the 4th anniversary of the **Beresheet** spacecraft and the 75th anniversary of Israel, we joined the **Israeli Space Agency** and the **Israel Aerospace Industries** for the "Space events" that took place across the country.

During the week, we met with over **6000 children from more than 100 locations across the country**, and they enjoyed lectures, workshops, and space-related activities. The science centers and observatories featured sky observations with telescopes, model building of missile launches, satellites and Beresheet2 spacecraft lander models.

SpaceIL volunteers and Israel Aerospace Industries delivered presentations about the future of space exploration and the space industry at schools, kindergartens, and community centers.

Together with the **Schneider Children's Medical Center** we've organized a space festival for the children who couldn't attend the events that took place throughout the country. These events are an additional step in raising awareness and connecting more children to space and science.

The Beresheet project has always been a symbol of hope and unity, and this week we were delighted to meet Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druze, religious and not religious, from the north to the south of Israel allowing them to dream big together.

Engineering Updates

The Beresheet2 project is nearing the stage of lander production, and additional component purchases are being made for the landers and the orbiter. The engineering team is making progress in the software writing process, and we are approaching the release of the first version of the lander simulator.

As part of the planning process for the Beresheet2 lander production, a prototype of the lander structure in a one-to-one scale is at our office in Yehud. The mechanical engineering team is conducting tests for the lander legs deployment.

The former NASA astronaut **Jeffrey Hoffman**, who visited our offices has shown interest in the progress of the Beresheet2 mission and got a demonstration of the legs deployment as it would occur in space, accompanied by a detailed explanation of the landing process.

For Comments: E-mail: leybl_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 leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com

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

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