

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

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "חנות הספרים ללא הפסקה של מר פנומברה" מאת רובין סלואן. ויתקיים ביום חמישי 15.8, בשעה 19:30, בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש. בדף האירוע בפייסבוק. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1718606225633449>

ירושלים: מועדון הקריאה בירושלים יתקיים ביום רביעי, 29.8, בשעה 20:00, ויעסוק בספר "בני אנאסי" מאת ניל גיימן. 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/events/7983149338445821/>

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 (#11): Some thoughts
- In memory of Emanuel Lottem (ז"ל) – who passed away in January, 2024

Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Special Wartime Issue #11

Dear Readers:

Last issue, I was going to introduce an idea from a fellow SF enthusiast in Sweden – Ahrvid Engholm – who publishes his own SF-related fanzine "Intermission" and in particular, he also researches Swedish and other European SF history (see the "HISTORY CORNER" starting on page 7). In the "Intermission" issue where he brought up the notion (we'll get to that in a minute) he discusses the recent Eurovision (2024) song fest – perhaps the world's single biggest music event this year – that took place in the city of Malmö Sweden in May.

In addition to the general coverage of the event, he discusses the Anti-Israel protests and the blindness of the protestors and media who are supporting Hamas terrorists who destroyed the Israel music fest on October 7th, 2023, murdering and maiming thousands of young innocent music enthusiasts, and then going on to rape and murder, torture and take hostages hundreds more including babies and elderly, destroying entire families.

The 16-page issue is attached with this one – with Ahrvid's permission – and includes his coverage of the antisemitism at the Eurovision music festival is on pages 2-3.

In his email, he asked me what I thought of the idea he expressed in *Intermission*. He begins with (3rd paragraph p.3):

*In my and the opinion of many, the Middle East situation can in the long run only be disarmed by a two-state solution, but Hamas won't accept that and sabotages any movement towards it through violence.**

And the "*" is a footnote that may be found at the very bottom of page 3:

**It's said Israel occupies "Palestinian land". Do they? Before WWI it was Turkish (the Ottomans), who then lost it to the British. At the time it was considered legitimate to conquer land in war. The British handed it over to the League of Nations, and they bounced it back to them to administer as a mandate. The League of Nations dissolved in 1946 but handed all their responsibilities and mandates over to the newly founded United Nations. So, the territory is UN's! There has never been a Palestine state. UN has jurisdiction. Israel is ready to work with the UN and make any reasonable deal, as long as threats of violence are disavowed. Hamas (and allies, like Iran) aren't. Their aim is to destroy Israel, beginning with indiscriminate murders of civilians.*

First, I would like to thank Ahrvid for his forthrightness in his coverage of the protests at the Eurovision festival. If only more people would open their eyes and see the truth about how evil the Hamas, Jihad, and other terrorists are. We may, of course include the Hezbollah and Yemenite Houthis – and their Iranian puppet masters, the Ayatollahs and their stormtroopers – the Iranian fanatic *Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)*.

So, let's get to the point:

- 1) "There has never been a Palestine state" – We both seem to agree on that.
If so, why would a 'two-state solution' be a good idea? The Arab/Islamic world has been occupying all of North Africa for centuries. Why give them more land? All the 'anti-colonialists' should logically protest (except when it comes to Israel trying to stay alive in its own natural and historical homeland).
- 2) "...So, the territory is UN's!" – If the UN has indeed inherited the League of Nations' mandate, and this seems to be your key point, then we should just allow ourselves (I.e. Israel / Jews) to trust their judgement, sense of justice, etc. Well, as we all know, the UN is one of the most corrupt and useless international bodies in the world. Especially concerning Israel: so many resolutions against this one tiny state, when there are so many wars and disasters and inhumanity, etc. happening around the world – but those are virtually ignored.

Just a few examples regarding Israel and Jews:

- There is a permanent UN body to deal with refugees anywhere in the world (**UNHCR** – also known as the UN Refugee Agency), except for a second one that is ONLY for Arabs of this region (**UNRWA**. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) – that seems discriminatory, particularly given the fact that when around 700,000 Arabs were 'displaced' from Israeli territory in 1947-48, an approximate number of Jews were 'displaced' from Arab countries – but the Jews never received an 'UNRWA' equivalent to help them.
 - Every time Israel tries to defend itself from hundreds to thousands of missiles shot at civilians, the security council is called together to see how to stop Israel from defending itself, and the US steps in (often but not always) to veto or tone down resolutions against Israel.
- 3) "Israel is ready to work with the UN and make any reasonable deal"
From past experience we can't expect much from the UN (other than anti-Israel resolutions). Case in point:

"**United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701** is a resolution that was intended to resolve the **2006 Lebanon War**. The resolution calls for a full cessation of hostilities between **Israel** and **Hezbollah**, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon to be replaced by Lebanese and **UNIFIL** forces deploying to southern Lebanon, **and the disarmament of armed groups including Hezbollah**"

In other words, there is no accountability and no justification or logic to sign anything with the UN.

Leybl Botwinik, Editor

Where Will We Be in Space in 2049?

A Look at Spaceflight Over the Next 25 years

Spaceflight and exploration have changed tremendously over the past 25 years.

Since 1999, we've seen the birth of a vibrant private spaceflight sector, led by Elon Musk's SpaceX, and the rise of an ambitious and increasingly accomplished new space power: China. (India has made great strides as well.)

The next quarter-century promises to be action-packed as well, with humanity taking ever-greater leaps into the final frontier — perhaps all the way to the moon and Mars. Predicting the future is a fool's errand, but let's do so anyway. Here's a look at a few of the big-picture spaceflight trends that seem set to unfold between now and 2049.

Continue reading at: <https://www.space.com/spaceflight-evolution-next-25-years-moon-mars>"

Belated Memorial for Emanuel Lottem (ז"ל)

Last month, I published a celebratory announcement that the anthology, *Zion's Fiction* (in German translation) won Germany's *Kurd Lasswitz Prize* for 2024 under the category: **Special Achievement award: Critical, Committed, Intersectional**. I had received the happy notification from one of the editors, Sheldon Teitelbaum, but did not know – until Sheldon mentioned it after the July publication – that the co-editor, Emanuel Lottem had passed away.

I was stunned. Somehow, I missed that sad news. It has been and continues to be a very stressful year. So, I went back through the **Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy (ISSFF)** monthly bulletins until I found the one that mentioned the passing away of Emanuel Lottem (ע"ה), January 7th of this year (2024). He was one of the founders of the society in 1996, and its first president.

It is customary, when talking or writing about a person who has (recently) passed away – particularly a prominent person – to add the initials "ע"ה" (may peace be on him/her) or "ז"ל" (of blessed memory).

Below, I have reproduced the announcement in the February issue that did not have it (so that may be why I missed it – I don't read everything) and added my own "ע"ה".

I can't say that I knew Emanuel personally – having met him face-to face on only 2 or three occasions – but I greatly respected him and his life achievements (over 400 SF translation!), and always seriously considered the few emails I received from him. There was never any doubt of his greatness.

Following the original announcement in Hebrew, there is a memorial note by Lottem's friend and co-editor of the *Zion's Fiction* anthologies, Sheldon Teitelbaum, originally published in "Foundation" magazine (no date was provided, p83-84) that he has kindly permitted me to reprint. It is actually a translation from the Hebrew.

There is also a note in Lotus magazine by Israeli SF writer Lavie Tidhar:

<https://locusmag.com/2024/01/emanuel-lottem-1944-2024> .

May Emanuel Lottem, "ז"ל" (of blessed memory) be an inspiration to us all.

יהי זיכרו ברוך – May his memory be a blessing for us



לזכרו של עמנואל לוטם, ע"ה

האגודה הישראלית למדע בדיוני ולפנטסיה מתאבלת ומשתתפת בצער המשפחה על לכתו של ד"ר עמנואל לוטם.

עמנואל היה אחד מהאבות המייסדים של הקהילה הישראלית. כאחד ממקימי האגודה וכיו"ר שלה, הוא שם לו למטרה את הפצת המדע הבדיוני והפנטסיה ואת ייסוד הכנסים וההרצאות. גם לאחר שפרש מתפקידו הרשמי, עמנואל היה נוכח תמיד לתת אוזן קשבת, דחיפה בכיוון הנכון או מילה עוקצנית ומדויקת, תמיד מתוך אהבה לעולם התוכן ולקהילה שנוצרה סביבו. עמנואל היה מרצה בקביעות בכנסים, פוגש את החובבים הצעירים והמבוגרים שהקיפו אותו, ומחזיר את האהבה שהקהילה רחשה לו.

עמנואל היה מחשובי המתרגמים של סוגות המדע הבדיוני והפנטסיה לעברית. תרגומיו הביאו לקהל הישראלי את גדולי הסופרים וטובי הספרים בארץ במשך יותר מ-45 שנה. עבור רבים, תרגומיו היו המפגש הראשון עם המדע הבדיוני. תרגומיו ל"חולית" ול"שר הטבעות" המחישו היטב שעמנואל ראה בתפקיד המתרגם ייעוד, ודרך להעשיר את העולם הספרותי דרך דיאלוג זהיר עם היצירה. רוחב ידיעותיו ובקיאותו העצומה בנושאים רבים הפכו את תרגומיו לאמנות. עמנואל דחף לתרגום והוצאה לאור של מדע בדיוני בתקופה שבה העיסוק בז'אנר היה מעשה חתרני, והיה לגורם משמעותי בפריחת התחום. רבים מאיתנו חייבים לו את כניסתנו לעולם זה, ולרבים עוד יותר מאיתנו הוא יחסר.

"עת חורף בא וזמר תם ובאה אפילה\ עת הענף נשבר עירום והאורה נפלה\ אבקשך, אמתין לך, עד זה אל זה נחזור\ נצא יחדיו לדרך תחת שמי מרוך;"
(מתוך שר הטבעות: שני הצריחים, תרגום: עמנואל לוטם)

In Memoriam: Emanuel Lottem (1944-2024)

– Sheldon Teitelbaum



I met Emanuel Lottem in the early 1980s, when I took advantage of a visit to IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv, to pop into the offices of the much-lauded Israeli SF magazine *Fantasia* 2000. There I found Emanuel talking to *Fantasia* editor Aharon Hauptman and Viktor Ostrovsky, who later became infamous for revealing Mossad secrets and fleeing Israel (but at that time he was a naval officer and illustrator for the magazine). A little later I ran into him again, this time at the home of Amos Geffen, SF/F maven, graphic designer, and publisher. I was there to give Amos the latest issue of *New Outlook* magazine, but instead the three of us found ourselves munching on Chinese food and chatting for hours about science fiction.

Many years later, I read a copy of *Once Upon a Future*, the Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy's annual collection of stories, and it occurred to me that some of them deserved to be known to readers who don't speak Hebrew. Thus, the idea to publish *Zion's Fiction* (2018) was born. But I knew I couldn't do it alone, and Emanuel was the obvious partner, a translator of the highest order with an in-depth understanding of the genre. I would never have been able to get the project off the ground without him.

First, we collected possible stories and began discussing their merits. The first story on the list was 'The Smell of Orange Groves' by Lavie Tidhar, because it was both hard science fiction and entirely Israeli. Then I suggested Gail Hareven's 'The Slows', which had already been published in *The New Yorker*. From thereon, we progressed using the 'another dunam, another goat' method, of digging through the available materials in search of worthy tales. We didn't always agree on every story, but except for one case, we always came to an understanding in the end. The real difficulty was writing the introduction. It really was a nightmare although Emanuel allowed himself a slight artistic freedom in describing things. In practice, we didn't delete sentences for each other – we turned on Track Changes and reasoned at great length. In the end, we both had to agree on everything. Most of the time, we were both on the same wavelength, and I know we appreciated each other deeply. When two science fiction fans meet, they will always find themselves talking about their favourite stories and the ones they hate. So, in that sense we were simultaneously a couple of fans and a pair of professional editors. For me, our WhatsApp calls were the highlights of the entire week.

When the first book was published, we were both very proud of it. But on the way to the second, everything got complicated. Our agents weren't happy with the sales, and left, but reappeared when the Germans and Japanese asked for translation rights. We also split with our publisher and realized that we would have to publish the second volume ourselves. And it was already a whole new Pandora's box. The bottom line is that I'm proud of what we accomplished. The writers in these collections deserved to be published and English readers deserved to read them.

All along Emanuel was charming: always cordial, never anxious, always brimming with ideas, ready to change his mind. He was a wonderful friend, a source of inexhaustible wisdom, and now I miss him so much.

**This is a translation from the webzine, Bli Panika, with kind permission of the editor Rami Shalheveth
– and published in English in *Foundation* magazine.**

Fun from the Web

- **Jumping on an asteroid: How VR is being used to visit worlds we can never reach**
<https://www.space.com/asteroid-ryugu-virtual-reality-exploration>
- **Hear the real stories behind the private space race in new documentary 'Wild Wild Space'**
<https://www.space.com/wild-wild-space-hbo-documentary-trailer>
- **HBO's 'Wild Wild Space' provides an inside look at the private space race (review)**
<https://www.space.com/wild-wild-space-hbo-documentary-review>
- **Space: The Final Frontier for Cyberattacks**
<https://www.itprotoday.com/vulnerabilities-threats/space-the-final-frontier-for-cyberattacks>
- **Canada begins work on new Canadarm3 robotic arm for upcoming Gateway lunar outpost**
<https://www.space.com/canadarm3-robotic-arm-nasa-moon-missions-gateway-design-testing-contract>
- **I Gave the Same Creative Prompt to 3 Different Chatbots: Which One Did It Best?**
<https://www.makeuseof.com/ai-chatbot-creative-prompt-comparison>
- **Why is Earth's weather getting weirder?**
<https://www.space.com/earth-weather-getting-weirder-climate-scientist>
- **Where will we be in space in 2049? A look at spaceflight over the next 25 years**
<https://www.space.com/spaceflight-evolution-next-25-years-moon-mars>
- **Where to? Space: Tripadvisor publishes 1st off-Earth travel review**
<https://www.space.com/tripadvisor-destination-space-tourism-reviews>

TV&MOVIES

- **'Futurama' Season 12 trailer teases fresh new interplanetary antics (video)**
<https://www.space.com/futurama-season-12-trailer-hulu>
- **'A Quiet Place's' alien monsters explained**
<https://www.space.com/a-quiet-place-aliens-explained>
- **'The Last Starfighter' at 40: Director Nick Castle on making his sci-fi fantasy classic (exclusive)**
<https://www.space.com/last-starfighter-40th-anniversary>
- **'There's something in the water!' Shocking final 'Alien: Romulus' trailer goes for the gore**
<https://www.space.com/alien-romulus-final-trailer-video>
- **Everything We Know About 'Star Trek: Section 31'**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-section-31-everything-we-know>
- **First teaser trailer for 'Star Trek: Section 31' shows Michelle Yeoh as a 'lively' secret agent Emperor Georgiou (video)**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-section-31-first-teaser-trailer-michelle-yeoh>

BOOKS

- **New 'Star Trek' novel calls back Dr. Gillian Taylor of 'Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home'**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-novel-voyage-home>

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