

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

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "די זמן לאהבה" מאת רוברט הינליין. ויתקיים ביום חמישי 25.7, 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 (#10): Some thoughts
- Zion's Fiction receives award in Germany
- Book/Movie Review: *Time Traveler's Wife*

Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Special Wartime Issue #10

Dear Readers:

In the previous issue, we discussed time travel loops. In this issue I review the popular "The Time-Traveler's Wife".

As we all know, time travel is still considered fictional – a dream and not reality. Well, it would seem that some individuals' hopes of time travel are shaped from nightmares. Recently, a Hamas official said that the terror group 'would [repeat] the Oct. 7 attack again' if it were possible to go back in time.

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2024/06/19/hamas-official-says-terror-group-would-do-oct-7-attack-again-possible-go-back-time/>

However, if there really was the possibility of using a time machine, it would be so simple to show people, that there never was a people called 'Palestinians', nor a country 'Palestine' (they are Arabs whose ancestral country of origin is – Saudi Arabia – who invaded and occupied all of North Africa, and other lands in the Middle East).

Furthermore, wherever the term 'Palestine' appeared before 1964 (when the Palestine Liberation Organization – PLO – was founded), it either referred to the place where the Jewish people lived about 2000 years ago and the Roman Empire's occupation renamed the territory from Judea to Palestine – or the 'Palestine' mandate of the British, from 1918/20-1947/48.

Someone sent me a photo image of the "Flag of Palestine" that was published in a Larousse French dictionary in 1939.

What did the French know then that they don't know today?

More than 280 days have passed, since October 7, 2023, and there are still about 120 hostages being held by terrorists in Gaza – many, tragically, no longer alive.

Leybl Botwinik, Editor



Book/Movie Review: Time Traveler's Wife

Reviewed by: **Leybl Botwinik**

I just finished reading about half-way through the 2003 book "*The Time Traveler's Wife*" by Audrey Niffenegger. And then I watched the 2009 movie based on the book (apparently, there is a remake of the movie from 2020, and also 1 season of an HBO TV series).

The reason I stopped half-way was that the book is very long – at 518 pages – and Romance novels are not my usual 'go-to' reading genre. I have read and expect to read romantic stories (may even write some, sometime in the future) – but this isn't my normal reading material.

That having been said, the time-travel aspect was what intrigued me in the first place. The plot centres on 2 individuals simultaneously, as is clear from the title: The time traveler, Henry, and his wife Clare.

Henry has a unique mutated gene that causes him to unexpectedly disappear from the normal timeline and pop up in different times (and locations), but within a limited range of time, and never before his own 'coming of age' when he first began travelling in time at age 5. We also are not witness, in the book, whether he can move forward in time, beyond Clare's lifespan – because she is one of the narrators, and basically central to the tale. In addition to having no control over his random disappearances, he also travels 'light', leaving his own clothes behind, and arriving at his next time and location, totally naked.

There does not seem to be any pattern as to when a disappearance occurs, how long he will stay in that past/future time, nor why he also travels to certain destinations that are within a not-too-distant space from his origin. Although the destinations are usually close to where Clare is, he has no control over time or space. He always appears on land, naked, and initially disoriented.

Clare first meets Henry, who is an adult, when she is only about 6 years old, and continues to meet him as she grows up – but each time he is of a different age. Sometimes younger, sometimes older. In the book – unlike the movie (except in one instance when an adult Henry meets himself the very first time that he travels in time at age 5), Henry meets and spends time with himself at different ages (including when he is his own age, just a few weeks apart). No time-paradox dangers here, as described in other time travel stories.

The book switches from one narrator to the other. Sometimes Henry is telling the story and sometimes Clare tells her side of a particular point in time. There is an urge to keep reading for two reasons. One is to find out what comes next, and two because Niffenegger writes well and builds an interesting storyline.

However, although the book has fascinating time travel moments, described with both intelligence and some wit by the author, it still reads like a romance novel. So, as mentioned, after about 250 pages, I put the book down and switched over to the movie made in 2009 (I haven't seen the more recent 2020 version yet).

The movie was interesting in itself, because it brings to life the characters, and you can then picture them more easily. Of course, in the 107 minutes, you can't show everything. So, between the movie and the first 250 pages and my sneakily skipping to the end of the book, I got a good picture of the story. For those who like romance novels – go for the 518 pager. For those who don't (but maybe also need to impress a spouse or partner about your love of Sci-Fi), watching the movie should do it for you and bring you up to speed on romancing in the age of time travel. And as the saying goes – Love is eternal.

More:

- Amazon has several "Get to know the book" blurbs that frame the contents very succinctly: https://www.amazon.com/Time-Travelers-Wife-Audrey-Niffenegger/dp/0099464462/ref=monarch_sidesheet_image
- Wikipedia has a good overview of the book, the 2009 film, and the TV series: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Time_Traveler%27s_Wife
- More about the 2009 film: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Time_Traveler%27s_Wife_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Time_Traveler%27s_Wife_(film))

Congrats to “Zion’s Fiction” (ZF)

The first anthology, *Zion’s Fiction* (in German translation) won Germany’s *Kurd Lasswitz Prize* for 2024 under the category: **Special Achievement award: Critical, Committed, Intersectional.**

WINNER: The Hirnkost Publishing House team for publishing *Zion’s Fiction*, edited by Sheldon Teitelbaum & Emanuel Lottem

Also: listed as one of the runners up, in the category for

Best Non-German SF Work translated first time in 2023.

The story in question is: “*Das perfekte Mädchen [The Perfect Girl]*”, by Guy Hasson.

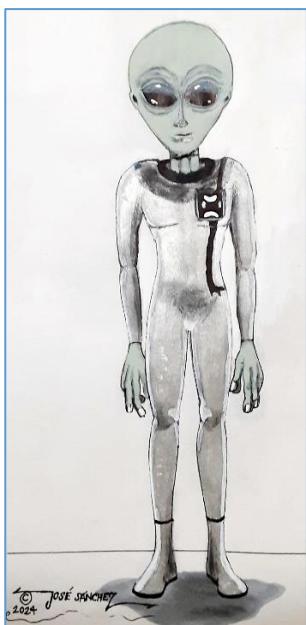
All the above was reported on June 4, on the LOCUS magazine website:

<https://locusmag.com/2024/06/2024-kurd-laswitz-preis-winners/>

Well done, gentlemen!

(Unrelated to article on the right)

Jose Sanchez?
The Return of the Visitor



LB: Interesting article by Etgar Keret – about AI and his own literary works. Following is an excerpt from an online “Forwards” piece:

Etgar Keret: AI thinks I wrote a number of novels that don’t exist So I tried to

By [Etgar Keret](#) — June 14, 2024

This piece originally appeared in Etgar Keret’s newsletter, [Alphabet Soup](#), and was translated from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen.

Can you remember what the first question you ever asked AI was?

Did you ask it what to do about global warming? Or how the universe was created? Perhaps you wanted it to count every freckle on the planet for you? Or were you simply after the ultimate recipe for the best [cheesecake](#) ever?

The first question I asked [ChatGPT](#) was both predictable and selfish. When I typed in the query, “Who is Etgar Keret?” I was hoping the answer would include some generalized praise of my writing, the kind of profound compliments that only a brilliant super-intelligence could produce. To my surprise, the response was extremely specific and businesslike, detailing my most important works. This was exciting yet also confusing, because these very important works in my oeuvre were ones I’d never heard of. Here’s what ChatGPT told me about me:

Continue reading here:

<https://forward.com/culture/623533/etgar-keret-novels-artificial-intelligence>

Fun from the Web

- **Ilan Ramon's diary found among fallen Columbia space shuttle debris added to National Library of Israel**
<https://www.space.com/sts-107-columbia-astronaut-ilan-ramon-diary-israel-library>



- **Russian space weapon ban shot down by UN Security Council**
<https://www.space.com/russian-space-weapon-ban-un-security-council>
- **How can space travel lead to medical breakthroughs? Veteran astronaut explains**
<https://www.space.com/spaceflight-medical-advances-sierra-space-tom-marshburn>

TV&MOVIES

- **'The first time I read the script ... I sobbed.' 'Atlas' stars Jennifer Lopez and Sterling K. Brown on AI paranoia and their film's emotional core' (exclusive)**
<https://www.space.com/netflix-atlas-jennifer-lopez-sterling-brown-interview>
- **Netflix's new sci-fi flick 'Atlas' charms with old-school heroics and rousing mech fights**
<https://www.space.com/netflix-atlas-science-fiction-film-review>
- **Watch Jedi battle hand-to-hand in new clip for Disney+'s 'The Acolyte' (video)**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/watch-jedi-battle-hand-to-hand-in-new-clip-for-disneys-the-acolyte-video>
- **Doctor Who 'Dot and Bubble': Why are space slugs eating influencers in Finetime?**
<https://www.space.com/doctor-who-dot-and-bubble-space-slugs-explained>

BOOKS

- **Take a deep dive into UFO history in 'After the Flying Saucers Came' by Greg Eghigian**
<https://www.space.com/after-the-flying-saucers-came-greg-eghigian>

COMICS

- **Sandworms rise from the sands of Arrakis - Sneak peek at 'Dune: The Graphic Novel, Book 3'**
<https://www.space.com/dune-graphic-novel-book-three-preview>

GAMES

- **'Star Trek Online' Season 32 arrives today, starring Denise Crosby as Romulan baddie Sela**
<https://www.space.com/star-trek-online-season-32-preview>
- **New 'Exodus Green Worlds' trailer highlights hunt for habitable planets (video)**
<https://www.space.com/exodus-green-worlds-trailer-evil-exoplanets>
- **'We awaken to take what is ours:' Haunting new trailer for 'Warhammer 40K: Mechanicus 2'**
<https://www.space.com/warhammer-40k-mechanicus-2>

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