



SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

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חדשות האגודה – מאי 2015 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy**Don't miss:****Bidyon-Tel Aviv 11 May 2015 – see: <http://bidyon.sf-f.org.il/bidyon2015>**

בדיון הוא כנס המוקדש לספרות ספקולטיבית, שמנוהל זה 11 שנה בידי אגודה ישראלית למדע בדיוני ולפנטסיה. הכנס יוקדש לזכרה של קרן אמבר, יו"ר האגודה לשעבר, מנהלת כנסים ופעילה מרכזית בקהילה. הכנס יתקיים כחלק מאירועי התרבות בשבוע הספר העברי, ביום חמישי, ה-11 ביוני, 2015 ב"בית בדב הוז", דב הוז 30, תל אביב.



מועדון הקריאה של חודש מאי יתקיים ביום חמישי 21/5, ב-19:30, ב"קפה גרג", ויצמן 2, ת"א. מנחה: **דפנה קירש**. יעסוק בספרה זוכה פרס גפן של גבריאלה אביגור-רותם "כל סיפור הוא חתול פתאום" הוצאת כנרת זמורה ביתן, 2013. הכניסה חופשית ואינה כרוכה בתשלום או בחברות באגודה, ואינה מותנית בהגעה למפגשים קודמים או עתידיים. **מועדון חודש יוני** יעסוק בספרם של ניל גיימן ומייקל ריבס **בין עולם**. עותקים של הספר יוגרלו בין הנוכחים במועדון הקריאה של חודש מאי.

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים ב**לוח האירועים** (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף ל**רשימת התפוצה** או ל**דף האגודה**

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

In Memorium: Aharon Sheer, ז"ל (1936-2015) זכרנו לברכה

On the 16th of April, we received the tragic news that CyberCozen Founding Editor, Aharon Sheer is no longer with us. With deep sorrow, we immediately informed our readership about this and the funeral and mourning arrangements ... and there was an immediate feedback from friends – many of whom had never even met Aharon personally – of their most heartfelt condolences to the family.

Aharon Sheer has left this world for a better one. For almost 3 decades, he was the editor, preparer, deliverer, and (too) often the sole contributor of over 300 issues of the CyberCozen fanzine.

In his honour and memory, we will be preparing a special issue of CyberCozen with contributions from his friends and family, including relevant reminiscences and excerpts from past correspondence and past issues.

We are calling on all friends and family to join us in this effort – hopefully for a publication date of mid- to end-of-May.

In the meantime, you can read some Internet postings here:

- 1) In Hebrew on the **Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy** website:
<http://www.sf-f.org.il/archives/757>
<http://www.sf-f.org.il/archives/757#comment-1772>
- 2) In English on the **LinkedIn** website:
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-science-fiction-stops-sky-from-falling-botwinik?trk=object-title>

In this issue:

- 1) A few words in memory of Aharon Sheer (א"ר)
- 2) The future of CyberCozen
- 3) "Sheer Science" must go on...
- 4) "Terry-Tech" a new series of articles about Terry Pratchett's "science and technology"
- 5) Final installment on Zombies (part II) – again put off for a future day.

— **Leybl Botwinik (CyberCozen acting editor).**

The Future of CyberCozen

Although this may sound like the name of a new SF book, film, or TV show – it is in fact the most current and pressing topic for us, since Aharon Sheer's passing away.

When Aharon (א"ר) contacted me last year to assist him in preparing and distributing CyberCozen, I was sure that he would soon recover from his stroke and that my **direct** help would be temporary, and that there would be a steady transition back for him to retake the reigns of CyberCozen that was his 'baby' for 27 years (that's almost 3 decades!).

Unfortunately this was not to be. I did my best to continue his tradition of offering short reviews, a "science" section, and updates of the ISSF&F (in Hebrew) – but now, I feel that there is a tremendous weight on my shoulders, and I don't know if I can (or should) carry that weight all on my own... and at this moment – now that Aharon is no longer around – I have no one to consult with.

Even preparing this current issue leaves me with butterflies in my stomach, knowing that Aharon (א"ר) is no longer with us. I had indeed made certain commitments to the readership (see below) and to Aharon himself –in the past several issues – and I plan to uphold those promises and fulfill my obligations. Preparing today's issue of CyberCozen, however has not been easy, not because there isn't any material – it's because of not knowing how tomorrow will play out...

That having been said, here are my current plans for the near future:

- 1) Preparing a special issue in memory of Aharon Sheer (א"ר) – as promised.
This takes Highest priority.
- 2) Preparing a special issue in memory of Leonard Nimoy (ל"ר) – as promised.
This takes Secondary priority.
- 3) I will be preparing a special survey and appeal to our readers to try to formulate the future of CyberCozen and hopefully to set up an editorial board and get more contributions from more people.
- 4) I will continue to prepare CyberCozen in its current format and hopefully with the assistance of others, until an editorial board can decide on its ongoing form, and until...

... until Well, only the future will tell.

— **Leybl Botwinik (CyberCozen acting editor).**

Sheer Science

- In memory of Aharon Sheer (7"ט) – Founding Editor

*Originally dubbed “**Quote of the Month**”, Aharon would try to bring interesting facts and ‘food-for-thought’ to the reading audience (we’ll touch on this particular aspect of Aharon’s in the special issue coming up). Until the last, even though he was not capable to prepare CyberCozen as he wanted to, he continued to forward me interesting articles or direct me to topics and websites he felt would both interest and be beneficial to the readership. Unfortunately, the installment for this current issue never arrived.*

Instead, what I have here, is one of several backup ‘fillers’ that I had kept – as most journalists do – for the rainy day that eventually comes... Here is the installment that, in fact, was supposed to appear last issue, but got pushed off for a later date. That date is now, in particular since – as you will soon see – there is a certain relevance and connection to Aharon’s new heavenly state. He is now much closer to the source of the observations in the article, and I’m sure he would appreciate this.

Forget dark matter, STRANGE matter could be lurking somewhere in the universe – and there may be entire stars made of it

- **Scientists at the National Institute for Space Research in Brazil say an undiscovered type of matter could be found in neutron stars**
- **Here matter is so dense that it could be 'squashed' into strange matter**
- **This would create an entire 'strange star' - unlike anything we have seen**
- **However, the exact properties of strange matter are unknown**

If it exists, though, it could help scientists discover ripples in space-time known as gravitational waves

The text in the frame above is taken from an article by Jonathan O'Callaghan for UK's daily “MAILONLINE”, and the full article can be found here:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2903181/Forget-dark-matter-STRANGE-matter-lurking-universe-entire-stars-it.html>

The article, written in January, 2015, touches on possibilities of Neutron stars and matter that they may be producing as a result of the extreme physical properties and energies in play. The importance of the theories and possible

repercussions being discussed by scientists, is such that they feel that **“observing so-called strange stars could unlock some of the secrets of the universe.”**

In addition to the article and theories on “Strange Matter” that are discussed, there are several small info-boxes dealing with specific related topics. These short descriptive include on “Quarks”, “Subatomic Physics” and one on “Neutron Stars”.

The article is further enhanced with related links to other articles, including

- [Now THAT'S a monster black hole: Incredible images reveals...](#)
- ['We'll find an exact Earth replica in 15 years': Nasa planet...](#)
- [Andromeda has a history of violence: Turbulent past of our...](#)
- [A star's SPIN can reveal its age: 'Stellar clock' predicts...](#)

Terry-Tech

- Terry Pratchett's takes on Science, Technology, and related issues

We're going to begin a new series of short articles on Terry Pratchett's view(s) on, and creative take-offs of science and technology in his DiscWorld books. We will also take into account the human factors such as the 'technologists' or consumers of such 'technology'.

The subject matter in question will range from 'mechanical', 'chemical', and even 'electronic' (such as his creatively thinking machine "HEX"), to the 'gadgets' like cameras and interactive memos. Of course the creators, mechanics, scientists, etc. (for example, the Academicals of the Unseen University) are fair game, as are the consumers, – both 'victims' and exploiters – of said "advances" in human experience.

Although I've just mentioned several of my favorites, we'll surely discover more fascinating topics and how Terry takes them apart and puts them back together in his very unique way, in his very unique Discworld.

To start us off, here's a short video of him discussing some of the various related subjects. His viewpoint here, however, is more on the personal level than what we will explore in the upcoming issues of CyberCozen, where we'll actually delve deep into the hidden corners of Discworld, unravel his riddles, cavort with his characters, and generally cry out "EUREKA!" (sometimes in 'pain', and sometimes in 'pleasure') with examples and quotes from his books.

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/video/2013/may/02/terry-pratchett-science-discworld-video>

Our readers are heartily welcome and strongly encouraged to contribute with some of their own favorite observations of Discworld's hi- and low-tech. Of course other Pratchett takes on SF-ish topics such as astronomy and space, or time travel, etc. are also most welcome.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on any of the above subjects and we may publish some of them!

Don't forget:

BIDYON – Tel Aviv 11 June 2015 –

see: <http://bidyon.sf-f.org.il/bidyon2015/>

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Also (archived issues from 2014+) at: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/CyberCozen/>

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