CyberCozen

SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine **Vol. XXX, No. 04; April 2018**

The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy חדשות האגודה – אפריל 2018

- המועדון בירושלים יעסוק בספר "כל לב הוא דלת" מאת שונן מגווייר (נובה, 2017), ויתקיים ביום שלישי 24.04, ב-20:00 ב"חליטת'ה", בית תה ירושלמי, רחוב הלל 6, ירושלים. מנחה: גלי אחישוב.

- המועדון בת"א: כמחווה לנושא כנס עולמות, "פרידות", יעסוק בספר "משקפת הענבר" מאת פיליפ פולמן (כתר, 2004) - ניפרד מטרילוגיית "חומריו האפלים" ומגיבוריה. המועדון יתקיים בתחילת מאי - יום חמישי, 3.5, בשעה 19:30, בבית פרטי בת"א, באיזור כיכר הבימה. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון.מנחה: דפנה קירש

***** חדש: - מועדון בחיפה: המפגש הראשון של המועדון יהיה על הספר "עקורה" מאת נעמי נוביק (נובה, 2016). המועדון יתקיים בשבוע האחרון של אפריל - מיקום ומועד מדויק ימסרו בהמשך, באתר האגודה. מנחה: טניה חייקין.**

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

או לדף האגודה בפייסבוק. לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה

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

This month's roundup:

- **NO reviews: since we're overflowing with interesting stuff from various sources and websites, we're leaving the book and TV/movie reviews for next month**
- **For our "Sheer Science" section – Isaac Asimov is challenged about Science by no less that a Lit major**

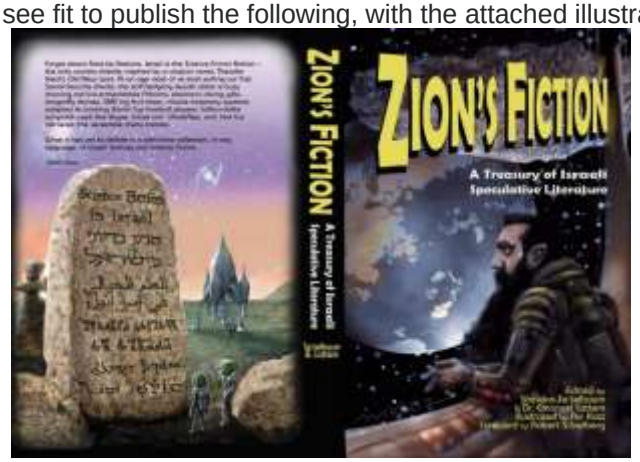
– As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Great news for SciFi in Israel (and this universe)!

Zion's Fiction is a go – launch date is September 2018

Leybl hi,
I'd appreciate it if you'll see fit to publish the following, with the attached illustration if possible:



An English-language anthology of Israeli science fiction stories, titled Zion's Fiction, edited by Sheldon Teitelbaum and Emanuel Lottem and illustrated by Avi Katz, is due to be published in the USA by the Mandel Vilar Press publishing house.

The anthology includes a Foreword by Robert Silverberg (!), an Introduction on the history of SF&F in Israel by the editors, and an Afterword by Aharon Hauptman. The authors featured are (in

alphabetical order): Shimon Adaf, Pesach Amnuel. Rotem Baruchin, Yael Furman, Elana Gomel, Gail Hareven, Guy Hasson, Keren Landsman, Savyon Liebrecht, Nitay Peretz, the late Mordechai Sasson, the late Nava Semel, Gur Shomron, Eyal Teler, Lavie Tidhar, and Nir Yaniv.

The publication date is set for 25th September which, as it happens, will be the first day of Icon. A launch party is planned.

Thanks,
Emanuel Lottem

Real Reader Rebounds:

LB: About last month's review of "The Orville"

I'm reminded of my cousin's observation, back when we were kids, that the Enterprise looked like "a toilet seat on skis." I was never able to see it any other way after that.
Devra

LB: About the last 2 month's references to the NY exhibition "Jews in Space"

Me again---
Just now, while looking for a Web site for Jews in Space, I encountered this article from the *Forward*:
https://forward.com/culture/106664/jews-in-space/. Perhaps they'd let you reprint?
Zay gezunt, Devra

So, Leybl---
I forwarded information on the *Jews in Space* exhibit to a friend, who replied: "I wonder if they know about my grandmother's sister's son, who was killed in orbit in Russia.

Needless to say, that launch got no press. Don't know if anyone knows about it now."
I pressed for details, but all she could tell me was, "I don't have information. It was before Sputnik, and the vessel exploded. We have a picture of the relative. His last name was probably Gross. That's it. Now you know what I know."

And now you know what I know. Not much, but perhaps an interesting footnote.
Devra

LB: More comments on "Orville" and "Discovery"

Orville vs *Discovery* seems to be an ongoing discussion/argument. I generally like Seth McFarlane's work, and since I originally got into fandom via *Star Trek*, I appreciate what's basically an *homage* to the original series. With fart jokes. I'm very much into *Discovery*, and while many commentators contend that it isn't *Star Trek*, I'd counter that it's the *Star Trek* we've been waiting for that finally and brutally shakes off the dead hand of Roddenberry in several ways. However...
My old friend, author and critic Ian Sales complained that the show seemed very right-wing, whereas I saw it more as morally ambiguous until the final episode of the season, which in no uncertain terms tacks back hard to the unicorns & rainbows Roddenberry concept of the Federation as a morally centered force for good, personified by the redemption of Michael Burnham (not really a spoiler).
Season 2 is going to be interesting to see where they go with it.

Nic

PS - I do hope you'll consider voting in the FAAn awards! (Details in the Corflu section atop efanzines); voting deadline is March 15
LB: Thanks, Nic – but sorry. I missed the deadline...

Here are a few follow-ups on last month's review of "Valerian":

Aliens/Monsters galore:

Sneak Peak: 8 Cool Aliens From 'Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets'

LB: The site shows 8 pictures, with data on each 'alien'. For example, my 2nd favorite:

See the rest of the pics here:
https://www.8days.sg/sceneandheard/entertainment/sneak-peak-8-cool-aliens-from-valerian-and-the-city-of-a-9028524

LB: I particularly liked this title, since it matched my viewpoint, that the movie plot wasn't all that great, but it's worth watching just for the FX and scenery:

Forget The Plot And Just Watch 'Valerian And The City Of A Thousand Planets' For Its Awesome Visuals

The real stars of Luc Besson's enjoyable (and very expensive) sci-fi romp aren't Dane Dehaan and Cara Delevingne but the hundreds of artisans responsible for bringing the menagerie of alien species (including Rihanna's Bubbles, a shape-shifting cabaret dancer) and vistas (a bustling intra-dimensional bazaar should be made into a 4D theme park ride) to life.

FROM:
https://www.8days.sg/seeanddo/moviereviews/forget-the-plot-and-just-watch-valerian-and-the-city-of-a-9044188

And a 'must see – Rihanna's "Bubble" here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBf118bdeEc):

Some more fun from the Websites:

Double or nothing?

NASA Twins Study Verifies Long-Term Health Effects of Space Travel

By Elizabeth Howell, Space.com Contributor | March 12, 2018

NASA's Twins Study just hit another major milestone. The long-term investigation of Scott Kelly's health after nearly a year in space shows that the early findings from 2017 were valid — with some new insights into possible health issues for future Mars travelers.

The astronaut spent 340 days on the International Space Station in 2015 to 2016, along with Russian crewmate Mikhail Kornienko. The milestone flight was the longest single flight of any American, providing investigators an opportunity to see how human health changes in nearly a year.

But there was another advantage to using Scott as a test subject; he has a twin brother, Mark, who flew as an astronaut during the space shuttle program. So while Scott flew on the International Space Station, investigators collected data from him and from Mark, who remained on the ground

To read more, see:
https://www.space.com/39952-nasa-twin-study-spaceflight-health-effects.html

Star Wars?

Trump Says US May Need a 'Space Force'

By Mike Wall, Space.com Senior Writer | March 13, 2018

The U.S. military may add another branch, this one devoted to defending the ultimate high ground, President Donald Trump said today (March 13).

"My new national strategy for space recognizes that space is a war-fighting domain, just like the land, air and sea," the president said during a speech to service members today in San Diego. "We may even have a Space Force."

Trump said he was musing "the other day" about the possibility of adding a Space Force to the military, which currently consists of five branches: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. [The Most Dangerous Space Weapons Concepts]

"I said, 'Maybe we need a new force. We'll call it the Space Force,'" he said. "And I was not really serious. And then I said, 'What a great idea. Maybe we'll have to do that. That could happen. That could be the big breaking story.'" …

So, it's unclear whether a Space Force will actually happen. But the idea does align with a seemingly intensified focus within the U.S. military on maintaining U.S. dominance in space.

To read more, see:
https://www.space.com/39966-trump-space-force-for-us.html#
and:
https://www.space.com/36246-united-states-prepare-space-war.html

Seen it, done it … Let's do it again!

Kirk or Picard? Jeff Bezos Picks His Favorite 'Star Trek' Captain

By Tariq Malik, Space.com Managing Editor | March 12, 2018

Captain Jean-Luc Picard rules. So says Jeff Bezos.

The Blue Origin founder apparently sides firmly with Sir Patrick Stewart's portrayal of Picard from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" when picking the best starship captain from the "Star Trek" franchise. Of course, that may be because Bezos hung out with Stewart at a recent event.

To read more, see:
https://www.space.com/39956-jeff-bezos-picard-best-star-trek-captain.html#

One of the most important projects EVER!

3 Incredible Inventions That Are Cleaning Our Oceans

These projects are helping take out the trash.
By Carla Herreria

The research is clear: Man-made pollution is choking the oceans. From plastics that swirl around the world trashing beaches and killing marine animals, to chemical and oil spills that poison the sea, humans are to blame for much of the oceans' deteriorating health.

To read more, see:
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/inventions-that-clean-the-ocean_us_5938be94e4b0b13f2c66ee01
And:
https://www.theoceancleanup.com/

Cars of the future

This could be the future of hovering car design

MICHELLE YAN OCT 05, 2017

The Float is a concept car by Yunchen Chai. It won the design competition hosted by Renault and Central Saint Martins. The participants of the competition had to design a car that emphasized electric power, autonomous driving, and connected technology.

This car uses Meglev technology, is non-directional, and a magnetic belt to attach multiple pods. The Float would even come with an app. This could be the future of car design.

See:
https://mashable.com/2017/10/05/the-float-car-concept/#3qf8q24TdaqC

More future …

The Future Machines of the Year 2100

Space elevators, tiny machine "swarms," flying cars, and human/machine mind melds are just the beginning of the future.
By Matt Blitz Feb 16, 2018

In the year 1900, the world was in the midst of a machine revolution. As electrical power became more ubiquitous, tasks once done by hand were now completed quickly and efficiently by machine. Sewing machines replaced needle and thread. Tractors replaced hoes. Typewriters replaced pens. Automobiles replaced horse-drawn carriages.

A hundred years later, in the year 2000, machines were again pushing the boundaries of what was possible. Humans could now work in space, thanks to the International Space Station. We were finding out the composition of life thanks to the DNA sequencer. Computers and the world wide web changed the way we learn, read, communicate, or start political revolutions.

So what will be the game-changing machines in the year 2100? How will they make our lives better, cleaner, safer, more efficient, and more exciting?

See:
https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/infrastructure/a18198479/future-machines-2100/

Here's an interesting selection of SCi-Fi movies that are generally written off, and the writer's take on why you should see them – interesting viewpoints. What do OUR readers think?

Sci-Fi films with terrible Rotten Tomatoes scores that you should watch anyway

The website Rotten Tomatoes aggregates movie reviews and uses them to give every movie a percentage rating indicating their agreed-upon quality. So for example, the 2017 smash hit Wonder Woman gets a 92 percent, whereas Adam Sandler's Jack and Jill sits at 3 percent. You get the idea. But just because something has a low rating on Rotten Tomatoes doesn't mean you shouldn't watch it (although don't get me wrong, you definitely shouldn't watch Jack and Jill). This is especially true for genres like science fiction, that tend to get reviewed especially harshly.

We've put together a list of sci-fi movies that are rated quite low (40 percent or under) on Rotten Tomatoes, but are still worth watching. Some of them are good but misunderstood, and some of them are bad but interesting. Either way, don't let the critics dissuade you from giving these movies a look.
See here:
http://www.looper.com/88078/sci-fi-films-terrible-rotten-tomatoes-scores-watch-anyway/

And here's an interesting write-up:

Sheer* Science:
To be(lieve) or not to be(lieve) – That is the question!

(* In memory of Aharon Sheer (ז״ל) – Founding Editor)

When an English Lit Major Tried to School Isaac Asimov

By Ross Pomeroy March 12, 2018

Celebrated science fiction author Isaac Asimov is as legendary as the stories he crafted. His numerous books sparkled with riveting characters, engrossing worlds, and thought-provoking themes, crafted from the raw ingredients of intellect and experience, and welded together with immense dedication.

This dedication extended beyond his books and biochemistry lessons (Asimov was a professor at Boston University) to the great many people who reached out to him in some fashion.

"My estimate is that Isaac received about 100,000 letters in his professional career," his brother Stanley wrote in 1996. "And with the compulsiveness that has to be a character trait of a writer of almost 500 books, he answered 90 percent of them."

One of these correspondences was with a self-described "English Lit major" who challenged what he perceived as Asimov's intellectually superior ignorance for expressing "a certain gladness at living in a century in which we finally got the basis of the universe straight."

Read more here:

https://www.realclearscience.com/blog/2018/03/12/when_an_english_lit_major_tried_to_school_isaac_asimov.html

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

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