

# Cyber Cozen

SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

Vol. XXX, No. 09; September 2018

**GET READY FOR ISRAEL'S ANNUAL SF&F ICON FEST: SEPT 25-27**



**אייקון 2018-אהבה**

הפסטיבל ה-22 למדע בדיוני, פנטזיה ומשחקי תפקידים  
חוג"מ סוכות, 27-25 בספטמבר 2018, סינמטק תל אביב ומתחם אשכול פיס

**AND the GRAND LAUNCHING OF ZION'S FICTION**

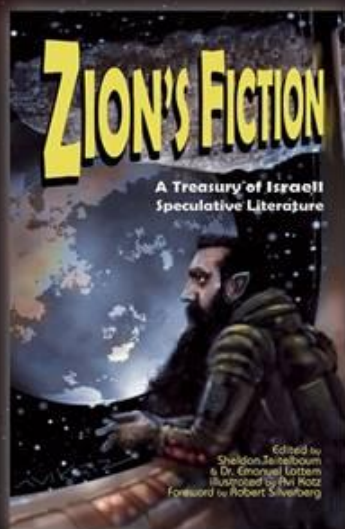
**[Isn't this exciting ?]**

**(25-Sep-2018):**

**Sheldon Teitelbaum  
Emanuel Lottem  
Avi Katz**

Are happy to invite you  
to the launching of

**שלדון טייטלבוים  
עמנואל לוטם  
אבי כץ**  
שמחים להזמין אתכם  
לאירוע ההשקה של



**ZION'S FICTION:  
A TREASURY OF ISRAELI SPECULATIVE LITERATURE**

**ביום שלישי, 25 בספטמבר 2018 שעה 18:00  
באולם אשכול 4, אשכול פיס  
רח' הארבעה פינת רח' שפרינצק, תל אביב**

**On Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 6 P.M.**

At the Eshkol 4 room, Eshkol Pais  
Ha'Arba'a and Sprintsak Sts.  
Tel Aviv



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

- המועדון בירושלים יעסוק בספר "פיקניק בשולי הדרך" מאת ארקדי ובוריס סטרוגאצקי (כנרת-זמורה-ביתן, 1999). המועדון יתקיים ביום שלישי, 28.8, בשעה 20:30. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון ([ובפייסבוק](#)). מנחה: אלה גורדון חן.

- המועדון בת"א יתקיימו מפגשים של המועדון במסגרת פסטיבל אייקון בת"א: מפגש על הספר "אשתו של הנוסע בזמן", מאת אודרי ניפנר (כנרת זמורה ביתן, 2003), לכבוד נושא הפסטיבל "אהבות". ביום רביעי 26.9

בשעה 20:00. מנחה: דפנה קורש. מפגש על הספר "יושרה שניונית" מאת אן לקי, אורחת הכבוד של אייקון (סיאל, 2015), ביום המישי.

27.9 בשעה 10:00. מנחה: שירה אבנת. שני המפגשים יתקיימו בחדר המפגשים, במתחם פסטיבל אייקון, אשכול פיס ועירוני א' ת"א.

הכניסה מרחוב הארבעה. למיקום מדויק של חדר המפגשים ניתן לפנות לדוכן המודיעין במתחם המועדון בחיפה: טניה חייקין.

המועדון הגליל מערבי בכרמיאל-משגב: קרן פייט

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

או לדר 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:

- Sorry for this rather 'dry' issue – didn't have time to come up with some original stuff (e.g. book/movie reviews – though I have 4 books in front of me I need to review for you + some TV/movies)
- However, we do have an interesting "Sheer Science" this month – something that Aharon (ז"ל) would probably have appreciated

– As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

### Missed Momentous Messages (should have been in the July issue ... sorry):

Dear Lebyl

LB: He must have been tired...

BTW, I still think you're doing a SUPER Job!

Okay, that said, please accept the following letter (read that, "rant"), for an upcoming issue:

On **Breakthrough Listen** a "new" \$100 million project mentioned in the June '18 issue:

Oy, vey! and {HEAVY SIGH}

Here we go again. Whether it's Breakthrough Listen, or the old reliable and much more so **Boring** SETI, it's just more of the same.

Are humans *really* that chicken? Or Maybe we should be?

The best and most reliable way to establish contact with extra-terrestrials is **not** to listen. It's to **broadcast!** [I seem to be very emphatic about this.]

A race advanced enough to establish contact surely has the technology to "hear" us.

They just as assuredly broadcast their own signals but the realistic question and doubt is: Do we have the technology to detect them?

It's certainly not scientists and almost certainly IS politicians and the military that has made the cowardly choice to passively listen. We want to make our presence known to those capable of detecting our signal, which is far more likely (given the ETs ability to hear), than our chance of detecting a signal we probably have no wherewithal to do.

I don't figure that a petition or letter-writing campaign is going to do it here, and have no confidence in seeing any change in policy, perhaps even in my lifetime.

But, then, I didn't count on seeing computer-driven cars, either.

Anyway, that's my rant of 2.0 times 10 to the fifth microDollars.

What sayeth we all?

Humbly, but assertively,

-Reuven F

J-m. IL

LB: Thanks Reuven – I appreciate your sharing this with us. Although we did send out the Voyager gold record (see: <https://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/golden-record/>) – we really haven't been very pro-active about trying to contact others in the universe. Maybe it's time we did.

## New Noticeable Notices:

Well, you guys get the honor (?) of informing me of the death of Harlan Ellison. I've been away from fandom for a long time and have only been seeing some fanzines in e-mails from N3F (which I was in for a long time in a galaxy far, far away).

Ellison was one tough SOB, and I remember so much of his work. We were in the Cult together when we were both young (he was 5 years older than I) and we were a couple of the few fans living in the great FAPA desert (known as the Midwest), the only thing I remember between us was a conversation when I commented to him that I really liked his screenplay for "The Man with the Glass Hand" (was that really the name?) and he commented back that it was nice I liked it ... and he added it had won some TV award. I'm afraid my memory's details are all slipping away now (I'm 79 at the moment) and all my contemporaries are dying off. Goodbye to Harlan. He was a great writer.

Your comments on Star Trek and their "foretelling" of technical items is amusing to me. So many things in stf\* over the years have come true that it's hard sometimes to remember when any one of many ideas was actually in a story here or there. Communication devices were all over the place (on the wrist, on the chest, in the hand, and even built in) and the Internet was even interstellar in many stories. Asimov had a conference TV system in one story (about the Penny that grew to be a huge corporation that owned a huge chunk of the multiplanetary business; naturally I can't remember the name), so I see so many things that have come to pass.

It was actually the early rocket launches that eased me out of reading stf\*. The wonder and itching to dream faded out for me when it was REAL! I remember seeing a NASA promotional film at one of the Philcons and thinking to myself that stf\* was all over with. It was then real. I always knew it would be since I participated in upper atmosphere research (during the International Geophysical Year) and was a member of the American Rocket Society, so I don't think I was alone in the feeling; A lot of the published works were turning to fantasy instead of hard science. Gosh, wow, boy oh boy was gone.

Of course, by the 50's stf\* had shifted a lot from the amazement over weird science to human and robot personal interactions (like the fairly unsuccessful "Made in USA") and the effects of technology on individuals and society was taking over as a main theme.

Anyway, the thought crossed my mind while reading your musings about who thought up what first: you might be able to make a case that Israel had them all first! At least you could say it. I was designing a system of computer-controlled cars long before there were cell phone towers, and IBM was working on a system of traffic light control by radio control based on optimizing traffic flow with sensors feeding computers that programmed the best traffic speeds and routes. Using GPS to do this might be ready to be tried, if some corporation is up to it by the old rule that after 7 years without trying to implement an idea you lose the right to claim it / you wouldn't be entitled to get anything out of it. At least that's what I heard why Arthur C. Clarke didn't get credit for geostationary satellites for world wide coverage and communication.

Gadzooks! this quick note is turning into a novella!

Thanks for the issue.

Gary L

LB: Thanks Gary – I appreciate your sharing this with us. \*STF: Scientifiction (Early name for SF)

### Some fun from the Websites:

**Now you tell me ... (great article)**

**Classic Sci-Fi Star Systems Keep Getting Ruined by Science**

By James Davis Nicoll Mon Jul 23, 2018

Having recently discussed [some possible SF solutions](#) to the vexing problems posed by red dwarf stars, it makes a certain amount of sense to consider the various star systems that *have* served as popular settings for some

**... (and another great one)**

**Science Fiction Cities: How our future visions influence the cities we build**

By Rich Haridy July 28th, 2018

For over a century, science fiction filmmaking has presented us with depictions of our future cities. Some have been bright, shiny and positive, while others have been dark, dirty and rough. As we look forward to a 21st century filled with massive mega-

classic science fiction—even if science has more or less put the kibosh on any real hope of finding a habitable planet in the bunch.

In olden days, back before we had anything like the wealth of information about exoplanets we have now, SF authors playing it safe often decided to exclude the systems of pesky low-mass stars (M class) and short lived high-mass stars (O, B, and A) as potential abodes of life. A list of promising nearby stars might have looked a bit like this:

| Star System     | To Sol (lt-yrs) | Class         |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Sol             | 0               | G2V           |
| Alpha Centauri  | 4.3             | G2V & K1V     |
| Epsilon Eridani | 10.5            | K2V           |
| Procyon A & B   | 11.4            | F5V - IV & DA |
| 61 Cygni A&B    | 11.4            | K5V & K7V     |
| Epsilon Indi    | 11.8            | K5V           |
| Tau Ceti        | 11.9            | G8V           |

To read more, see:

<https://www.tor.com/2018/07/23/classic-sci-fi-star-systems-keep-getting-ruined-by-science/>

cities, and extraordinary technological innovation, we must ask how are our science fiction visions influencing the cities we build, and what can we learn from some of these prescient fictional texts?

### In the Beginning, There Was Metropolis

The grand-daddy of all futuristic urban visions is inarguably Fritz Lang's towering work, *Metropolis*. While the film itself, both aesthetically and thematically, wasn't particularly novel at the time, its holistic vision of a future city with no middle class, where the super-rich live high above the poor workers who toil in the depths, has gone on to influence a century of cinema and architecture.

At the time, the film was not at all well received, by both critics and audiences. Famed sci-fi author H.G Wells even penned an infamous critique of the film suggesting it plagiarized his 30-year-old story, *The Sleeper Awakes*.

To read more, see:

<https://newatlas.com/science-fiction-cities-future-urban-visions-architecture/55569/>

### Who'da thunk it?

## 6 sci-fi prophecies that are already here

by REUBEN JACKSON, August 4, 2018

One of the reasons we love sci-fi so much is that it has an amazing ability to make the most impossible concepts actually feel possible. Well, it turns out that some of these concepts are much closer to reality than we might think. In fact, some of them are already a reality.

In this article, we'll take a look at six of the most popular sci-fi prophecies that are already here in 2018.

- Virtual reality
- Augmented reality
- Contact lenses that record experiences
- The electronic tablet
- Smart home devices
- Autonomous cars

To read more, see:

<https://bigthink.com/reuben-jackson/6-sci-fi-prophecies-that-are-already-here>

### Do people think at all?

## Do We Have Free Will? And Does It Matter?

by Pini Dunner

One of the major topics tackled by Greek philosophy is the existence of free will. Are human beings capable of making choices, or are their choices determined by forces beyond their control?

Thousands of years may have elapsed since the first Greek philosophers posed this question, but we are no closer to a definitive answer than they were.

To the layman, it all appears quite obvious. We are constantly faced with countless choices as we engage with the world around us, and we instinctively believe that our choices are not determined in advance.

After all, how is it possible for "determinism" to accurately forecast how we are going to behave or react in any given situation?

To read more, see:

<http://www.algemeiner.com/2018/08/10/do-we-have-free-will-and-does-it-matter/>

