

### חדשות האגודה – אוגוסט 2021 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

## **Sadly – due to the Pandemic – ICON 2021 is cancelled ... ☹**

### **עדכון: פסטיבל אייקון 2021 בוטל**

קיוונו שהרגע הזה לא יגיע, אבל הגל הנוכחי של מגפת הקורונה לא מאפשר לנו להמשיך בתכנון פסטיבל אייקון השנה מבלי לסכן את הסגל, המתנדבים, מעבירות ומעבירי התוכן ואתכם - הקהל האהוב שלנו. אנחנו נאלצים לבשר שפסטיבל אייקון 2021 לא יתקיים השנה במתכונת שכולנו קיוונו לה, אלא במתכונת היברידית. לצערנו עדיין לא הגיעה העת לחזור לשגרה.

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "שורדים על מאדים" מאת סופיה מקדוגל (עוז, 2016), ביום חמישי, 26.8, בשעה 19:30. מנחה: דפנה קירש. הקישור יתפרסם בדף [האירוע בפייסבוק](#).

ירושלים: לפרטים על המפגשים של המועדון הקריאה ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק: [מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה](#), או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - [גלי אחיטוב](#), ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטסאפ של המועדון.

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:

– Important announcement about the upcoming "More Zion's Fiction" the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume anthology of Israeli SF&F

Our usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.

**\*\* In case you missed it, one of our links in last month's issue was faulty – caught by Emanuel Lottem (thanks EM).**

It should be:

<https://unitedwithisrael.org/will-humans-ever-fly-israelis-discovery-may-hold-the-answer/>

[Will Humans Ever Fly? Israeli's Discovery May Hold the Answer | United with Israel](#)

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

## **More Zion's Fiction – MAZL TOV!**

Emanuel Lottem and Sheldon Teitelbaum will be publishing

*More Zion's Fiction: Wondrous Tales from the Israeli ImagiNation* in September.

The book will include a foreword by David Brin, a short essay by Ehud Maimon, an afterword by Marleen S. Barr, an intro by the editors, illustrations by Avi Katz, and stories by Keren Landsman, Guy Hasson, Hila Benyovitz-Hoffman, Avram Davidson, Elana Gomel, Rami Shalheveth, Lili Daie, Pesach Amnuel, Hamutal Levin, Yivsam Azgad, Gail Hareven, Assaf Gavron, Galit Dahan Carlibach, Yael Furman, Daphne Feldman, and Rotem Baruchin.

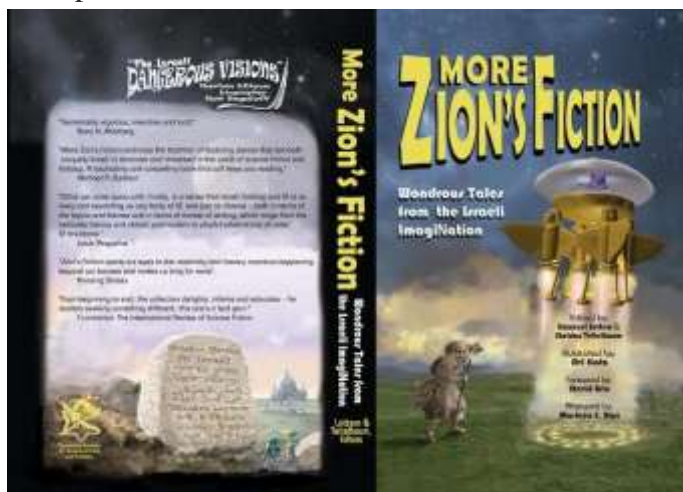
The book will be available for pre-order via Amazon in August. We don't yet have the exact date of publication, but it was planned to be out by Sept. 23, at a special panel at ICON 2021 [which was – as we mentioned earlier – unfortunately cancelled due to the Pandemic].

The panel was to be:

**אוסף מדע בדיוני ופנטזיה ישראליים:**

**"More Zion's Fiction"**

**– שובץ ביום חמישי ה-23.9**



We will keep you updated, as new information beams in.

## Fun from the Web

- **WATCH (01:06): Israeli Harvard researcher launches effort to find aliens**  
<https://worldisraelnews.com/watch-israeli-harvard-researcher-launches-effort-to-find-aliens/>
- **Finding life on alien worlds? PBS Nova's Exoplanet Lab game tells you how!**  
<https://www.space.com/exoplanet-lab-pbs-nova-game>

Trivia question:

In time travel stories, something that appears in multiple time-periods is known as a ...?

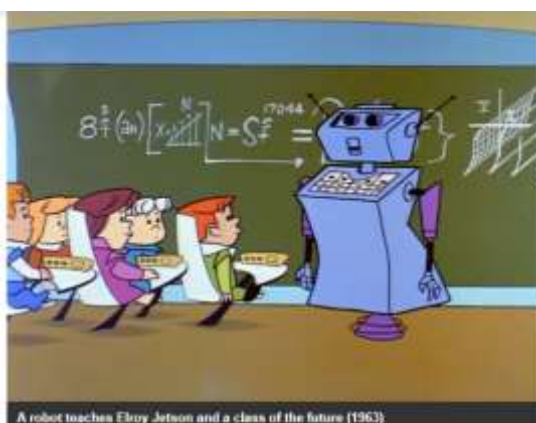
Example (remember this?):



20th Television/The Walt Disney Company

<https://www.mindbounce.com/trivia/in-time-travel-stories-something-that-appears-in-multiple-times-is-known-as-a/>

- **10 wild theories about the universe**  
<https://www.space.com/strange-theories-about-the-universe>
- **Our universe might be a giant three-dimensional donut, really!**  
<https://www.space.com/universe-three-dimensional-donut>
- **Isaac Asimov's 'Foundation': Apple TV+ delivers new trailer for sci-fi TV series**  
<https://www.space.com/apple-tv-2nd-foundation-trailer-teaser>
- **China wants to launch asteroid-deflecting rockets to save Earth from Armageddon**  
<https://www.space.com/china-rocket-fleet-divert-asteroid-bennu>
- **The Jetsons Get Schooled: Robot Teachers in the 21st Century Classroom**  
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-jetsons-get-schooled-robot-teachers-in-the-21st-century-classroom-11797516>



A robot teaches Elroy Jetson and a class of the future (1963)

- Aviation pioneer Wally Funk, the oldest person to fly in space, can't wait to go back

['Mercury 13' pilot Wally Funk on Blue Origin flight](#)



Aviation pioneer Wally Funk, the oldest person to fly in space

<https://www.space.com/wally-funk-blue-origin-new-shepard-launch-reaction>  
<https://www.space.com/wally-funk-mercury-13-astronaut-history>

- FAA Changed Its Definition of 'Astronaut' on the Same Day Jeff Bezos Went to Space  
<https://gizmodo.com/the-faa-changed-its-definition-of-astronaut-on-the-same-1847349971>
- Jeff Bezos: 'We Need to Move All Polluting Industry Into Space'  
<https://gizmodo.com/jeff-bezos-we-need-to-move-all-polluting-industry-into-1847328711>
- SpaceX's Starship will soon be made of different stuff  
<https://www.space.com/spacex-starship-new-stainless-steel-alloy.html>
- Virgin Galactic is selling tickets to space again, now for \$450,000 per seat  
<https://www.space.com/virgin-galactic-raises-space-ticket-price>
- Rise of space tourism could affect earth's climate in unforeseen ways, scientists worry  
<https://www.space.com/environmental-impact-space-tourism-flights>
- Israel \$70 Million Closer to 2nd Moon Mission | United with Israel  
<https://unitedwithisrael.org/israel-70-million-closer-to-2nd-moon-mission/>
- Jewish spiritual video(03:15): Why we marvel: behind our fascination with super heroes  
<https://www.aish.com/sp/pq/Why-We-Marvel-Whats-Behind-Our-Fascination-with-Super-Heroes.html>
- 'Apollo 13' author Jeffrey Kluger crafts a harrowing new space thriller in 'Holdout'  
<https://www.space.com/jeffrey-kluger-holdout-book-interview>
- A brief look at up-and-coming SF&F movies, TV series, etc.:  
<https://gizmodo.com/io9/movies>
- M. Night Shyamalan's Sci-Fi and Fantasy Films, Ranked  
<https://gizmodo.com/m-night-shyamalan-s-sci-fi-and-fantasy-films-ranked-1847302259>
- Star Trek (about 6 links) + other fun stuff  
<https://www.space.com/entertainment>

also: New 'Star Trek' movie slated for 2023

<https://www.space.com/new-star-trek-movie-2023-gets-director>

- **Flat Earth: 8 ways life would get weird**  
<https://www.space.com/flat-earth-weird-effects>

- **LB: I subscribe to "OZY" and recently received the following interesting space stuff:**

Are Aliens Already Here? See: <https://www.ozy.com/the-new-and-the-next/knock-knock-universe-anybody-out-there/438378/>

## 1. Age-Old Search

Some 2,500 years ago, two [Greek philosophers](#) looked to the sky and wondered if humans were alone in the universe. Today, many scientists believe the question is a no-brainer. For decades, one of the fundamental laws of physics formed the basis of our understanding of life on Earth. The [law of increasing entropy](#) insists that energy tends to dissipate instead of coming together: pour ink in water and watch it diffuse. If that's true for the universe, then the sublime marriage of millions of cells and molecules for the creation of life on Earth could be a low-probability fluke that needn't repeat itself. But some researchers now believe that the existence of extraterrestrial life doesn't necessarily violate that basic law: In fact, they argue, it could be what drives the creation of living beings.

## 2. Count the Stars

And then there's simple math to consider. There are [billions of galaxies in the universe](#), each one home to tens of billions of stars circled by at least a planet each. See where I'm going? From the first astronomer eager to catch audio [signals](#) using radio in the early 1900s to the [rovers currently exploring Mars](#), our fascination with outer space has always in part had to do with the hunt for potential neighbors beyond our planet. Sophisticated new tools, including the soon-to-be-deployed [largest telescope in history](#), are capable of exploring the atmosphere of planets trillions of miles away, potentially bringing us within reach of an answer.

## 5. Wait, Are They Already Here?

What if we're the aliens on Earth? While a recently declassified [report](#) on alleged UFO sightings by U.S. navy pilots raised more questions than it provided answers, some prominent scientists have been positing a much more interesting theory: that life on Earth could have [actually originated on Mars](#), making us, well, Martians. How? Life forms when planets cool down and liquid water eventually emerges. Evidence is increasingly pointing to the fact [that Mars formed and cooled down before Earth](#), and that it had methane (an ingredient for the birth of life). Add that to the theory that various forms of [life travel across the universe](#) through [asteroids and other debris](#), and you have a hypothesis more credible than distant sightings by pilots that could be explained in part by [optical illusions](#).

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

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