

חדשות האגודה – יולי 2022 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy 2022

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "תחנה אחת-עשרה" מאת אמילי סנט ג'ון מנדל. המועדון יתקיים ביום חמישי, 28.7 ב-19:30. המועדון יתקיים באופן היברידי, בדירה בדירה במרכז ת"א (איזור כיכר הבימה) וכן בזום. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של **דפנה קירש**. קישור לזום יתפרסם סמוך לאירוע **בדף האירוע בפייסבוק**. מנחה: איילת גרשוביץ.

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 הוואטס'אפ 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:

- More Yiddish-related SF material dedicated to my dear departed father, David Botwinik (ע"ה – ה'תש"ח):
 - Kadye Molodovsky's "Ale Fenster Tsu der Zun" – a quasi-SF fantasy children's play with English subtitles
 - Velvl Chernin's book "Faktazie" of Yiddish SF short stories – Part II
- Book review: "More Zion's Fiction" Part 6: Avram Davidson's "Help! I am Dr. Morris Goldpepper"

Our usual, interesting tidbits from the Web.
– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

More Yiddish-related SF material

אַלע פֿענצטער צו דער זון

Ale Fenster tsu der Zun (All the Windows Face/[Towards] the Sun)

– 1930's Children's play by poetess/playwright Kadye Molodovsky

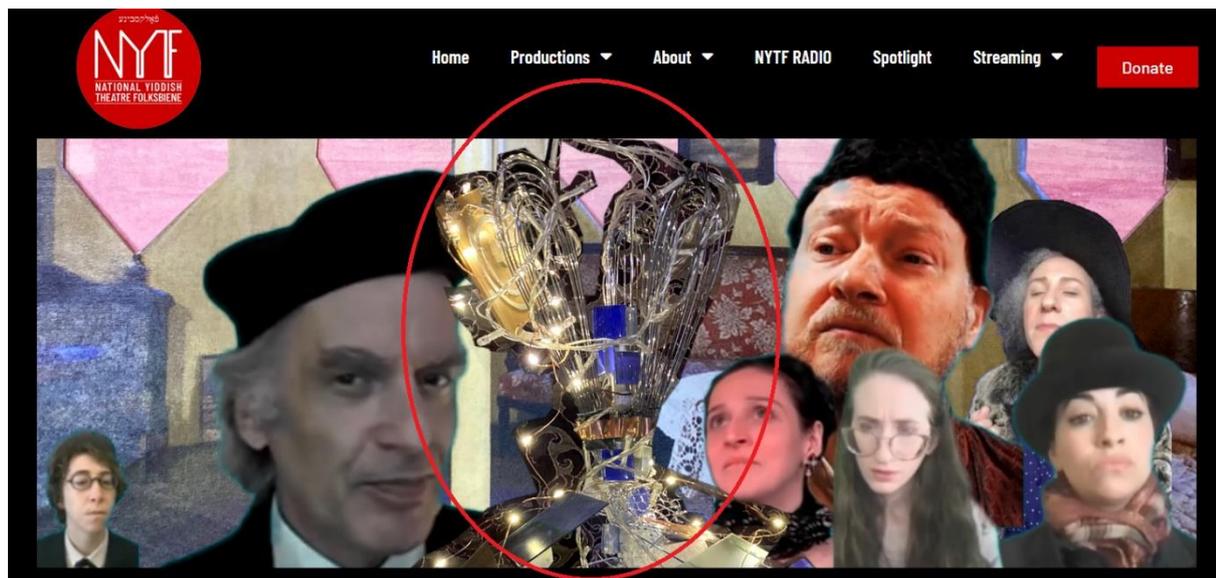
A few weeks ago, I discovered an intriguing online video in Yiddish with English narrations and subtitles (translated by Sabina Brukner and Faith Jones) – it's about 1 hour long.

It was recently produced by the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene (New York). This is a nice example of the types of children's Utopian stories produced in the early 1900's, although this particular story was written in Warsaw in the 1930's. Even though it is a fantasy, there is a certain amount of 'science' in the fictional tale – probably because by the 1930's, electrical devices, radio transmission, etc., were coming into their own.

[On a side note: My father, who passed away this year, told me that as a teenager in Vilna – circa 1937-8 – he worked part-time in the "Elektrit" radio factory (founded by Jews) as a junior technician, helping to put together the circuit boards. The Soviets – when they came to 'liberate' Vilna from Poland at the outbreak of WWII – emptied the factory of the engineers and all the equipment, and 'liberated' it all to Russia (the Vilna factory was more advanced than anything they had). He was not one of the evacuees, but several of his friends were. This was before the Germans invaded in June 1941. See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elektrit> and especially <https://www.galerija555.lt/en/about-us/>

The Folksbiene website explains the plot as follows:

"All Windows Face the Sun" is about a young man, Binyumen [LB: "Bum", pronounced "boom"], an optimistic builder's apprentice who creates a **magical tower that allows listeners to hear the past** — hoping that looking back will help the world to move forward. But when the tower shares some unpleasant truths, the people in power must choose between the convenience of forgetting and facing the ugly realities of human history head-on."



The 'magical tower' electrical/radio elements are circled in the center of the picture

The 'science' in the fantasy is with regards to the 'magical tower'. The 'professor' (in the picture, young Bum is to his left) explains to the crowd on the right, that he will demonstrate the magical prototype of a large tower that he expects them to invest in and build. It seems to be a prototype of a kind of electronic radio that broadcasts sound snippets of the past. When the professor turns it on, we hear people in Rome, circa 1540 at the trial of Copernicus (in the video – starting at minute 34:00). Thus, bringing back to life (i.e. exposing) **true comments** that people would rather not remember... The invited guests (on the right, in the above picture) are not very enthusiastic, to say the least, of past truths being revealed – and so the project never gets funded.

Although a children's play – it seems more directed at adults, or older children. The narrative and dialogue is mostly in rhymes – that Kadye Molodovsky was famous for.

See the production for free: https://nytf.org/women/?mc_cid=c0a1643bfa&mc_eid=21eeb47f70

Velvl Chernin's Yiddish SF book "Faktazye" (2022) – Part II

- Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik

Having read the 5th short story, I must first go back to the 4th one, that I wrote about in the June issue. I forgot to mention two things. The first, an important element of the 4th story, and the second thing – an element related to story #5.

I was a bit rushed to release the last issue (late as usual), so I forgot to mention, that Chernin is an accomplished Yiddish poet. His 4th story also contains 3 poems: 2 in Yiddish, and 1 in Hebrew.

Here is the first one, with my translation. It is the national anthem, if you like, of the planet Ceres, in the story:

Let eternally swim in Space Ceres, our world. She is in reality a dream, In the desert – a tent.	זאל אייביק שווימען אינעם רוים צערעס, אונדזער וועלט. זי איז איז אין ווירקלעכקייט א טרוים, אין מידבר – א געצעלט.
They are truly friends, a lion and a lamb There, where the golden peacock flies over the black sea.	עס זיינען אויפריכטיקע פריינד א לייב מיט א לאם דארט, וואו די גאלדענע פאווע פליט איבערן שווארצן ים.
On Ceres, freely resounds The Yiddish word. We are true to our dream, And this is our place.	עס קלינגט אויף צערעס פראנק און פריי דאס יידישע ווארט. מיר זיינען אונדזער טרוים געטריי, און דאס איז אונדזער ארט.
They are truly friends, a lion and a lamb There, where the golden peacock flies over the black sea.	עס זיינען אויפריכטיקע פריינד א לייב מיט א לאם דארט, וואו די גאלדענע פאווע פליט איבערן שווארצן ים.

What is important to point out here is, that there are almost no original SF-related poems/songs in Yiddish. As mentioned previously, Chernin embeds references to Yiddish literature and Jewish themes in his stories. In this poem, he reminds us of the biblical Isaiah who prophesized that wild beasts would lie in peace and friendship with weaker animals like the lamb (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_lamb_and_lion). The "golden peacock flies over the black sea" is a direct quote from Itsik Manger's beautiful Yiddish satirical song "Rabeynu Tam" [In Yiddish with English narration, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODfZd4IGjz0>]

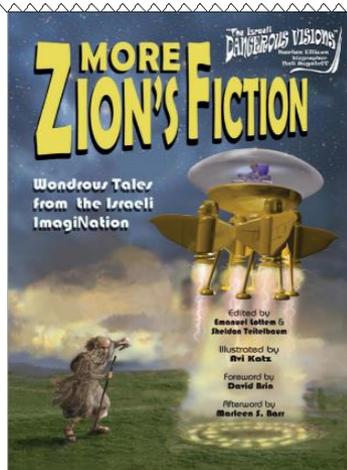
The golden peacock is also in Manger's other song "dos lid fun der goldener pave" [nice rendition with English translation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0lhMcmNs8w>].

Chernin's first poem deals with 'Space', his second one mentions a time machine. The only other Yiddish poem that mentions a time machine – that I know of – was written by my teacher and friend, the Yiddish poet and linguist, M.M. Shaffir, soon after I published my SF book "Di Gegheyme Shlihes" in 1980 (a time-machine SF novel). [On a side-note, Shaffir also wrote a poem about the prophet Isaiah, to which my father wrote an award-winning melody.] This makes Chernin's SF poetry quite rare.

The second thing that I didn't mention about the 4th story, was that the 'planet' Ceres was terraformed by – according to Chernin – the "Akum Ltd." (עבו"מ בע"מ) company. In the 4th story – it's mentioned in passing, that Ceres is an asteroid. I didn't think it was important to point that out, or about the Akum company. However, the 5th story is slightly related to the 4th, and we find out that Ceres has a diameter of only 960 kilometers with an artificial gravity and atmosphere.

The 5th story is only 6 and a bit pages long. It has a Hebrew title (like a good Jew, Chernin mixes-and-matches Hebrew with his Yiddish): "מה נורא המקום הזה" (How terrible/scary is this place). It seems almost an addendum to the 4th story, and it's about a resident of Ceres who has set up house as a 'planet-sitter' and watches over a second asteroid, Sedne – and is its only resident. The former asteroid and now 'planet' Sedne is almost the same size as Ceres – also terraformed by the Akum company. The young man is bored out of his skull – having taken the job against his mother's wishes – and dreams of going back home. Unfortunately, as an SF story, it has no great merit, other than the various scientific/astronomy descriptions in Yiddish.

More next time.



MORE ZION'S FICTION – Review #06

Help! I am Dr. Morris Goldpepper – by Avram Davidson
(e-Book: p141-160)

This is the first Davidson story I've ever read. It recounts the meeting of a group of high-ranking members – an executive board – of a dental association, deliberating on a very important situation: the emergency meeting has been called to discuss the kidnapping of one of their members by a race of blue-mouthed, toothless aliens that are bent on invading the USA.

Davidson's story is very humorous and reminded me of meetings I had been present at, of pompous gentlemen (mostly elderly) of various communal and social, as well as of cultural associations.

<http://zionfiction.com/>

As much as I enjoyed reading it – I don't see how this story fits into the "Zion's Fiction" anthology. It's about an invasion of the US, written by an American Jew. True, he did live in Israel for a while and also served in the Israel Defense Forces in the 1948 War of Independence, and also worked in an Israeli hospital – but I don't believe that this makes his story 'Zion's Fiction'.

I'm not familiar with Davidson's writing, but I'm wondering if there might not be some SF that is more related to Israel than to the US, that could have been showcased in the anthology. Although there are a few Jewish-sounding family names, there is nothing inherently Jewish or Israeli in the entire story.

**Look forward to more short reviews of "More Zion's Fiction"
in our upcoming issues**

Fun from the Web

- What was the space race? Origins, events, and timeline
<https://www.space.com/space-race.html>
- 'The Color of Space': NASA's documentary celebrating Black space explorers
<https://www.space.com/nasa-documentary-black-space-explorers-juneteenth>
- Watch an exclusive clip from new Tubi special, 'Aliens, Abductions, and UFOs: Roswell at 75'
<https://www.space.com/ufo-roswell-75th-anniversary-documentary-tubi>
- Can we time travel? A theoretical physicist provides some answers
<https://www.space.com/can-we-time-travel-physicist-explains>

TV&MOVIES

- Disney Pixar movie Lightyear: time gets bendy. Is time travel real, or just science fiction?
<https://www.space.com/lightyear-movie-time-travel-explained>
- The best sci-fi movies and TV shows to stream on Netflix in July
<https://www.space.com/best-netflix-sci-fi-movies-shows.html>
- 11 Movies and Shows About Robots to Watch Instead of the New Season of 'Westworld'
<https://gizmodo.com/westworld-new-season-11-robot-movies-watch-instead-1849073837>
- The 11 Best (and Worst) Sentient Robots From Sci-Fi
<https://gizmodo.com/sentient-bots-2001-blade-runner-wall-e-terminator-blade-1849071420>

BOOKS

- Luke and Lando land on Exegol in Adam Christopher's 'Star Wars: Shadow of the Sith' novel
<https://www.space.com/star-wars-shadow-of-the-sith-book>



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

For Comments: E-mail: leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com. Tel: Leybl Botwinik +972-54-537-7729
 Editor: Leybl Botwinik. Founding Editor: Aharon Sheer (א"ר). Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu (מ"ל).
 For free email delivery (PDF format) write to leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com
 Copyright © 2022 — Archives at: <http://www.kulichki.com/antimiry/cybercozen>
 Also (archived issues from 2014+) at: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/CyberCozen/>
 And <http://efanzines.com/CyberCozen/index.htm>

All rights reserved to specified authors and artists © כל הזכויות שמורות למחברים וליוצרים