



Science-Fiction Fanzine

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The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

כנס פאוקון 2005

כנס **פאוקון** יערך השנה בפעם הרביעית – אבל הפעם, במתכונת מיוחדת וקהילתית במיוחד. הכנס משלב בתוכו את האגודה, מועדון סטארבייס 972, העמותה לקידום משחקי תפקידים, שגרירות סאנידייל, קהילת טולקין וארגון הקומיקס אוק"י, כל זאת במטרה אידיאלוגית נעלה: לעבוד למען קהילה גדולה, מגובשת ותוססת וליצור שפה משותפת בין החובבים. בתוכנית מגוון אירועים קהילתיים, החל מ"אייקון זאת בעצמך" – אירוע היתולי על ארגון כנסים (בהנחיית מיכאל גורודין), דרך שירת פילקים – בעברית ובתוך אולם, ועד שלל פעילויות אינטראקטיביות נוסח משחקי "הברון" ו"החוליה החלשה".

הכנס יערך ביום שני, 25/7, במרכז "רוחין" ברמת אביב לאורך כל היום. פרטים נוספים יפורסמו בהמשך. לשאלות דחופות, הצעות, טענות ומענות ניתן לפנות למנהלת הכנס: נעמי וינר בטלפון 054-6706898 או

בדוא"ל astronomi23@yahoo.com

מסיבאפי

המסיבאפי הינה האירוע המרכזי השנתי של שגרירות סאנידייל בישראל, עמותה ללא מטרת רווח ששמה לה למטרה לקדם את הסדרה "באפי קוטלת הערפדים" ויצירותיו הנוספות של ג'וס ווידון. במסיבה נהנים המשתתפים ממגוון רב של פעילויות: ריקודים, הקרנות פרקים נבחרים וידאו קליפים, תחרויות נושאות פרטים ופעילויות נוספות. המסיבאפי מהווה הזדמנות לכל חובבי הסדרות מכל הארץ בכל גיל שהוא, גם אם אינם גולשים באינטרנט ומעורבים בפורומים השונים, להיפגש עם מעריצים כמותם ולחלוק את געגועיהם ואהבתם לסדרות באווירה מהנה וחברית.

השנה מתקיימת המסיבאפי במועדון "גת רימון" בתל אביב, בסימן חזרה לעבר, עם הקרנות מיוחדות של פרקי פלשבק אהובים, תחרות תחפושות נושאת פרטים ועיצוב ברוח המאות הקודמות, כיאה לסדרה העוסקת בערפדים.

המסיבה תיערך ב-3.8.05, יום רביעי, החל מהשעה 21:00 ועד אור הבוקר, במועדון גת רימון, רח' גת רימון 16, ת"א.

עשרת חברי האגודה הראשונים שיגיעו למסיבאפי ייהנו מהנחה משמעותית בדמי הכניסה, עם הצגת כרטיס חבר בתוקף.

לפרטים נוספים ניתן לפנות <http://www.sunnydale-embassy.co.il/messibuffy2005> או לדוברת

"השגרירות" - שירי ישועה בטלפון 0506666141

כנס האנימה והמנגה הראשון בישראל יערך בגני התערוכה באולם 6, ביתן 10, ב-31 ביולי 2005 מתשע בבוקר ועד חצות. בכנס יתקיימו פעילויות רבות ומגוונות: תחרות תחפושות, משחקי תפקידים, דוכני מוצרי אנימה, לייב אקשן, טורנירי קונסולות משחקים ועוד ועוד. פרטים נוספים ניתן למצוא באתר הכנס: <http://www.animecon.pokemon.org.il/?p=main>, בו ניתן גם להזמין מקומות מראש. לחברי האגודה תינתן הנחה בדמי הכניסה: 25 ש"ח (במקום 35) בהרשמה מראש ו-30 ש"ח (במקום 40) ביום הכנס עצמו.

חוג מדע בדיוני ברחובות – SFIR - Rehovot Science Fiction Club

פעילויות התא מתקיימות בימי א' בשעה 20:00 בפקולטה לחקלאות ברחובות, חדר 2, בבניין ליד הבריכה. הפעילויות ללא תשלום.

24.7 - הרצאה- אנימה

31.7 - הרצאה- באפי קוטלת הערפדים

מידע נוסף ניתן לקבל באתר התא (<http://sfir.tk/>) או בדוא"ל sfir42@yahoo.com

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

ISRAELI SF AND FANTASY IN THE YEAR 2004: A SURVEY

By Eli Eshed

In Israel at the beginning of 2005 there seem to be hopeful signs that perhaps the hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians are lessening and maybe will temporarily cease.

In the year 2004 and at the beginning of 2005 two major Israeli writers died and the final literary work of each one was connected to fantastic literature.

Moshe Shamir, who had become famous as one of the major Israeli writers as a result of novels about the Israeli War of Independence and historical novels, published before his death the beginning of what was supposed to be his new novel *The Visit From Mercury* which apparently was supposed to deal with the question of extraterrestrial life and intelligence visiting Earth with the background of Israel in the middle of the 20 century. Unfortunately the novel wasn't finished.

Another major writer who died was world famous humorist Ephraim Kishon. His last book published just several weeks before his death at the beginning of 2005 *Mishpat Ha-abahut Shel Hanagar Yosef [The Fatherhood Process Of the Carpenter Joseph]* (Yediot Acharonot 2005) was a satire in which the carpenter Joseph the father of Jesus puts God on trial for his adulterous affair with Mary.

Israeli original sf magazine *Chalomot Beaspamaia* succeeded in publishing 13 issues, and is continuing despite various problems, a kind of record.

Its site:

<http://www.aspamia.co.il/index.htm>

Original sf writing continues to be found in web sites and in various projects like the *Zodiac* project in which various writers wrote a story for each sign of the zodiac. See the *Bli Panika* site.

<http://space.ort.org.il/sci/scripts/default.asp?pc=480741661>

The year 2004 winner of The Gefen Award which is presented by the Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy in the category of Best Original SF/Fantasy Short Story was "*Dragon Checkpoint*" by Rami Shalheveth (*The Tenth Dimension*, issue 18). Shalheveth is better known in Israeli sf circles as the editor of the sf site *Bli Panika (Don't Panic!)* and as a critic, and not AS A writer, and his winning was something of a surprise.

Shalheveth also recently published a big article in the Israeli sf magazine *The Tenth Dimension*, issue 23, in which he surveyed the current state of original Hebrew sf writing. He has come to the unsurprising conclusion that original sf writing cannot for economic reasons prosper today in Israel though there is a strong sf sub-culture here. But he finishes with a cautious hope for future unique voices in Israeli sf which will be inspired both by Jewish-Hebrew culture and Israeli current culture.

A new publishing house **Yanshuf** was created this year by sf fan and editor Eli Herstein and while it will deal with general literature there will be some emphasis on sf and fantasy works, and particularly on original Hebrew works in the genres.

Three particularly interesting books

An important original sf and fantasy book which won much attention by the mainstream critics was:

Ofir Thouch Gafla *Olam Hasof [End`s World]* (Keter 2004)

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/UsedItems/UsedItemsFocus.asp?UID=300886>

A book by a new unknown writer received much critical acclaim for its description of a strange technological after-life world:

Lea Ini *Anak Malca VeOman Hamischakim [Giant, Queen and The Master Of Games]* (Hakibbutz Hameuchad 2004), a story about a virtual world in the hero discovers that our world is the creation of a mad being. Ini is considered as one of the best young Israeli writers.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=146017&PopupID=0>

A quite nice historical fantasy is Yaki Menschenfreund *Hacovesh VeHakelev [The Conqueror And The Dog]* (Bavel 2004) which describes the adventures of Alexander the Great alongside the philosopher Diagnose in the fantastic Far East and is based on the ancient fantasy *Alexander Romance*.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=144255&PopupID=0>

Political sf

As usual there appeared several works which deal with political subjects about the war with the Arabs:

Gill Illutowich *Yesh Kan Mishehu? [Is There Anybody Out There?]* (Yedioth Acharonot, 2004) describes an Israeli waking into a reality in which and he and a Palestinian woman are the only living beings. Illutowich some years ago wrote an sf novel *Tikun* in which it was discovered that the Jewish people are the creation of a secret and illegal experiment of an alien race.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=145151&PopupID=0>

Yehudit Shemer *Baruach Uvadam [With Wind And Blood]* (Tzivonim 2004) in which the Arabs try to destroy Israel in the year 2037 after decades of peaceful co-existence.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=144673&PopupID=0>

Political sf about the near future relationship of Jews and Arabs is a regular subject in Israeli sf for obvious reasons, but what was quite unusual this year was a book from the other side's viewpoint. It was written by Arab Israeli journalist Seyed Kashua. *Vayehi Boker [Let It Be Morning]* (Keter 2004) describes the deteriorating relationship

between Jews and Arabs in the future from the Arab point of view of a young Arab in an Israeli Arab village which is cut off from the world by the Israeli army. The book became a best seller in Israel and Kashua got the prime minister's award.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=143315&PopupID=0>

Another political sf book but this time about future relationships of the Jews among themselves was Chaim Chaimoff *Hakadachat Hashchora Umot Hachiloni Haacharon* [**THE BLACK FEVER AND THE DEATH OF THE LAST NON-BELIEVER**] (Am Oved, 2003). It is an anti religious sf novel in which all non religious Jews are killed in a future Israel and only the fanatic Orthodox are left.

The book site :

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=143777&PopupID=0>

Fantasy

Alona Kimchi *Lili La Tigresse* (Keter 2004) is a book by a well known young woman writer about the experiences of a woman who periodically becomes a tigress.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=143860&PopupID=0>

David Travai *Stalker* (published by Am Oved 2004) is a surrealistic work about the fantastic adventures of a boy in a surrealistic East European country, partly inspired by the famous movie with the same name by Russian director Tarkovsky. It was published simultaneously in Hebrew and Hungarian.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=143871&PopupID=0>

Hagar Yanay *Mechonat Hanetzach Shel Alex* [*Alex's Perpetuum Mobile*] (Keter 2004) is another novel by a mystically oriented young woman writer about the attempt of a young obsessed scientist to find a solution to the final theory in physics.

The book site is :

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=145840&PopupID=0>

Children's fantasy

Tamar Weiss *Inana Bocheret Melekh* [*Inana Chooses the King*] (Keter, 2004). The writer, who had formerly collaborated with her husband on a retelling of ancient Mesopotamian myths, retells for children several of the most ancient of those about the first kings of Sumer (those that had come before the world famous Gilgamesh) and does this with great success and fidelity to the originals.

The book site:

<http://www.mitos.co.il/Book/BookFocus.asp?ID=145839&PopupID=0>

Yael Inbar *Tashe Omed Al Harosh* [*Upside Down Time*] (Sifryat Hapoalim 2004) is a good fantasy about a woman dislocated in time who found herself in the body of her younger self.

Comics

Etgar Keret and Assaf Hanuka *Pizzeria Kamikaze* (Kineret 2004)
 Comics artist Hanuka took a story by well known fantasy writer Keret about a very gray after-life and remade it as comics. While the art was generally lauded the story itself was a bad one.

Keret's English site is
<http://etgarkeret.com/>

Cinema

And finally the most interesting news in cinema from Israel is from the cinema of the Ultra Orthodox. They have a very thriving industry in the last few years which includes many adventure movies. Very recently enterprising actor Nissim Varta began to experiment with supernatural and horror movies for this audience, and with great success. Perhaps the Orthodox directors will become the equivalents of American directors like Roger Corman as the providers of ultra low budget movies about supernatural subjects relevant to the religious Jewish audience like Dybbuks and Golems.

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 כל הזכויות שמורות למחברים וליוצרים, כפי שצוינו.

Film Review: *Star Wars III* – reviewed by Ted Henderson

I enjoyed it for the most part, but I did not think *Star Wars III* compared to the first three episodes (Episodes IV-VI). It was dark and gloomy with many long light-saber duels and space battles. I don't understand how one or two persons armed only with light sabers can overcome a multitude of droid soldiers armed with ray guns. Episode IV (the first one released) seemed to be more innocent, whimsical, and light hearted. The new one does not have anything like the bar scene at the Mos Easley Space Port. That would have been too much fun. Fortunately, Jar Jar Binks is only visible for two fleeting moments. The technology shown in the new film is more advanced than that in that first one (Episode IV), although the action in *Star Wars III* supposedly precedes that of the first film and one would think that in the times of that film, the technology would have been more advanced. So much for trying to apply logic. Maybe Lucas should have stopped after three episodes, but he is making too much money.