



The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

תחרות הסיפורים של "עולמות"

תחרות הסיפורים של כנס "עולמות" נפתחת, ואנחנו מזמינים אתכם לשנס מותניים, לחדד מוחות ועטים ולכתוב לנו על נושא הכנס: "מנהיגים ומורדים". [באתר האגודה](#) ניתן למצוא את כל הפרטים, יחד עם תקנון התחרות.

אתר "היה יהיה" ממשיך להתחדש, ומקבל כתובת חדשה!

אתר "היה יהיה" עבר דירה, ועכשיו תוכלו למצוא אותו בכתובת: annual.sf-f.org.il בימים אלו עובר אתר השנתון מקצה סיפורים וכעת ניתן למצוא בו מידע על האסופות, הסיפורים והסופרים, קישורים לסיפורים מהאסופות שהתפרסמו ברשת ופרטים בנוגע להגשת סיפורים. בקרוב אף יהיה ניתן לקנות את האסופות ישירות דרך האתר.

מועדון הקריאה של חודש ינואר יעסוק ב-**התלקחות** מאת סוזן קולינס (כנרת זמורה ביתן, 2011), זוכה פרס גפן לשנת 2012. מועדון הקריאה בת"א יתקיים ביום ראשון, 27.1.13, בשעה 19:30 ב"קפה גרג", ויצמן 2 (פינת שאול המלך, מול בית המשפט). המקום כשר. מנחה: [ליאת שחר](#). ב-20.1.13 יתקיים מועדון קריאה גם בירושלים, בהנחיית מריה ציבלין, פרטים מדויקים (מקום ושעה) יפורסמו בהמשך באתר האגודה. לפרטים והרשמה אפשר לפנות ל**מנחת המועדון בירושלים**. לצורך היערכות למספר המשתתפים, יש להירשם מראש דרך הדוא"ל של המנחה. כמו כן, רצוי להביא למפגש עותק של הספר. הכניסה חופשית ואינה כרוכה בתשלום, בחברות באגודה, או בהגעה למפגשים נוספים. מועדון חודש פברואר יעסוק בספרו של טד צ'יאנג **סיפורי חיך ואחרים**. המעוניינים להנחות מועדוני קריאה במרכז או בכל רחבי הארץ, על ספרים לפי בחירתם, מוזמנים לפנות בדוא"ל למרכזת הפרויקט, [דפנה קירש](#). לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ, ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה של מועדון הקריאה בדוא"ל, או לעשות "לייק" ל**דף האגודה בפייסבוק**.

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

All-Time Reader Poll for Best Novels, from *Locus* Magazine:

(Reprinted without permission)

<http://www.locusmag.com/Roundtable/2012/12/all-time-novel-results-2012/>

20th Century SF Novel:

Rank	Author: Title (Year)	Points
1	Herbert, Frank: <i>Dune</i> (1965)	3930
2	Card, Orson Scott: <i>Ender's Game</i> (1985)	2235
3	Asimov, Isaac: <i>The Foundation Trilogy</i> (1953)	2054
4	Simmons, Dan: <i>Hyperion</i> (1989)	1836
5	Le Guin, Ursula K.: <i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i> (1969)	1750
6	Adams, Douglas: <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> (1979)	1631

7	Orwell, George: <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> (1949)	1493
8	Gibson, William: <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984)	1384
9	Bester, Alfred: <i>The Stars My Destination</i> (1957)	1311
10	Bradbury, Ray: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> (1953)	1275
11	Heinlein, Robert A.: <i>Stranger in a Strange Land</i> (1961)	1121
12	Heinlein, Robert A.: <i>The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress</i> (1966)	1107
13	Haldeman, Joe: <i>The Forever War</i> (1974)	1090
14	Clarke, Arthur C.: <i>Childhood's End</i> (1953)	987
15	Niven, Larry: <i>Ringworld</i> (1970)	955

20th Century Fantasy Novel:

Rank	Author: Title (Year)	Points
1	Tolkien, J. R. R.: <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> (1955)	5675
2	Martin, George R. R.: <i>A Game of Thrones</i> (1996)	2182
3	Tolkien, J. R. R.: <i>The Hobbit</i> (1937)	2040
4	Le Guin, Ursula K.: <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> (1968)	1613
5	Zelazny, Roger: <i>Nine Princes in Amber</i> (1970)	971
6	Lewis, C. S.: <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> (1950)	821
7	Mieville, China: <i>Perdido Street Station</i> (2000)	757
8	Rowling, J. K.: <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i> (1997)	657
9	Crowley, John: <i>Little, Big</i> (1981)	645
10	Adams, Richard: <i>Watership Down</i> (1972)	632
11	Goldman, William: <i>The Princess Bride</i> (1973)	604
12	Martin, George R. R.: <i>A Storm of Swords</i> (2000)	602
13	Beagle, Peter S.: <i>The Last Unicorn</i> (1968)	597
14	White, T. H.: <i>The Once and Future King</i> (1958)	589
15	Pratchett, Terry (& Gaiman, Neil): <i>Good Omens</i> (1990)	523

21st Century SF Novel:

Rank	Author: Title (Year)	Points
1	Scalzi, John: <i>Old Man's War</i> (2005)	674
2	Stephenson, Neal: <i>Anathem</i> (2008)	432
3	Bacigalupi, Paolo: <i>The Windup Girl</i> (2009)	367
4	Wilson, Robert Charles: <i>Spin</i> (2005)	305
5	Watts, Peter: <i>Blindsight</i> (2006)	251
6	Morgan, Richard: <i>Altered Carbon</i> (2002)	238
7	Collins, Suzanne: <i>The Hunger Games</i> (2008)	199

8	Gibson, William: <i>Pattern Recognition</i> (2003)	197
9	Mieville, China: <i>The City & the City</i> (2009)	193
10	Stross, Charles: <i>Accelerando</i> (2005)	187
11	Mitchell, David: <i>Cloud Atlas</i> (2004)	185
12	McDonald, Ian: <i>River of Gods</i> (2004)	181
13	McCarthy, Cormac: <i>The Road</i> (2006)	151
14	Harrison, M. John: <i>Light</i> (2002)	147
15*	Willis, Connie: <i>Black Out/All Clear</i> (2010)	142
15*	Chabon, Michael: <i>The Yiddish Policemen's Union</i> (2007)	142

21st Century Fantasy Novel:

Rank	Author: Title (Year)	Points
1	Gaiman, Neil: <i>American Gods</i> (2001)	721
2	Clarke, Susanna: <i>Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell</i> (2004)	609
3	Rothfuss, Patrick: <i>The Name of the Wind</i> (2007)	422
4	Mieville, China: <i>The Scar</i> (2002)	221
5	Martin, George R. R.: <i>A Feast for Crows</i> (2005)	213
6	Rowling, J. K.: <i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</i> (2007)	211
7	Bujold, Lois McMaster: <i>The Curse of Chalion</i> (2001)	177
8	Mieville, China: <i>The City & the City</i> (2009)	170
9	Fforde, Jasper: <i>The Eyre Affair</i> (2001)	160
10*	Bujold, Lois McMaster: <i>Paladin of Souls</i> (2003)	150
10*	Pratchett, Terry: <i>Night Watch</i> (2002)	150
12	Gaiman, Neil: <i>Coraline</i> (2002)	144
13	Wolfe, Gene: <i>The Wizard Knight</i> (2004)	141
14	Pratchett, Terry: <i>Going Postal</i> (2004)	137
15*	Gaiman, Neil: <i>The Graveyard Book</i> (2008)	136
15*	Lynch, Scott: <i>The Lies of Locke Lamora</i> (2006)	136

Book review by Aharon Sheer

The Death of Wisdom by Paul Brunette (1995), 351 pages.

This novel is set in the universe of **Traveller®: The New Era**, a science-fiction role-playing game. This is Book one of three.

I don't know how a role-playing game can become a novel. Maybe someone would like to write to *CyberCozen* and explain it. This is a war novel in a future with many star systems with many planets. "Once there

was an Empire but now there is desolate ruin, the silence of a trillion unburied dead on a thousand worlds, and a handful of people [humans] who will not let the dream of star-spanning civilization die." There is a Reformation

Coalition (an interstellar alliance of 22 worlds) which is trying to help planets rebuild. And there are aliens called Hivers, who seem to be helping mankind to rebuild its civilization. They are acting as high-tech mentors for mankind.

But there are also evil people who do not want to see mankind rebuild. Some of them have created a virus which attacks Hivers (but not human beings). The virus first starts on one planet where there is cooperation between Hivers and man. Infected Hivers soon die. This is bad enough, but a ship full of Hivers has left the planet to go elsewhere. Perhaps they are carrying the virus and will infect other Hivers on other planets?

There are other nasty things going on in this universe. There is a business of slavery. Both Hivers and humans may be enslaved by evil beings. There is also a great business in capturing and selling unusual animals for the pleasure of others. Some of these animals may be sentient.

One of the things that makes this novel hard to read is that all of the characters are called by nicknames. Red Sun, Coeur, Physic (a doctor), Bonzo, Whiz Bang, Drop Kick.

Another thing that makes it hard to read is the pseudo-military jargon. (There is a glossary at the end with definitions, and that is useful.) Here is an example. There are pages and pages of this kind of writing:

“Excuse me, sir. Are you talking to me?”

“Yes, sir. I was saying what a fine looking tank you have there.”

“Despite his best attempt at a serious expression, Drop Kick had to chuckle.

“Sir,” he said, ‘it may be a fine looking *vehicle*, but it sure isn't a tank. By the way, try to keep from kicking the side armor -- you might dent it.’

“Drop Kick then intensified the contra-grav [*see definition below*] left of his AFV [*not explained in the Glossary*] until the vehicle was two meters off the ground, and then steered it gently into Hornet's forward hatch on a flare of plasma thrust. After it was completely inside, Crowbar jogged up the forward ramp after the craft, looking for the safest way to lash it down for travel.

“Physic, meanwhile, stood off at the edge of Berth 57 beside Coeur, scratching her head.

“‘What's he mean, it's not a tank? Looks like a tank to me.’

“‘Marines like precision,’ Coeur said. ‘That vehicle doesn't have the gun or the armor to fight with real tanks, so it's actually a support sled. Anyway, if it was a real tank, the Marine Corps wouldn't be sending it off to Ra.’” [p. 60]

Another example of military jargon:

“The lead proved to be dead-on. Not 10 minutes later they found the desiccated corpse of a Hiver near the shore of Lake Kolima, whose western bank lay well below the horizon. This time Coeur sat her vehicle down just meters from the objective, settling a half a meter into the peaty earth at the edge of the water.

“‘Must've been dead at least a week,’ Bonzo reported, joining Drop Kick for a close inspection of the body. ‘But his gear's intact. Looks like a Hiver laser pistol, a personal computer, and some kind of sample case.’

“‘Uh-oh,’ Drop Kick suddenly announced.

“‘What's up?’ Coeur asked from inside the AFV.

“‘Bootprints,’ Drop Kick explained. ‘Two pairs, fairly fresh, right around the body.’

“They headed anywhere in particular?”

“Looks like a lot of prints, now that I look closely. The human prints head back into the trees in a different direction from the way the Hiver came.”

“Good work, Drop Kick,” Coeur said, “and Bonzo. Take some shots of the body with your holovid, then put the body and gear in the

cargo bay and scout around to see if you can follow those prints.”

“Roger that,” Drop Kick replied. “Bonzo, you're the sensor tech, you take the pictures.”

“Yes, sir.” [p. 165]

Although all the jargon gets tiresome, I did manage to finish the book. Maybe the slavery made me happy.

From the Glossary: Contra-grav: (noun, adj.) lifter technology used in high-technology ‘grav’ vehicles, also referred to as ‘CG.’ Contra-grav lifters negate the gravitational force acting on an object, allowing it to be buoyant in most atmospheres. Contra-grav cannot provide thrust, however. This must be provided by jets or HEPlAR (cf) thrusters.

Quote of the Month:

The science quote below is from the magazine *Science*, Editors' Choice: Highlights of the recent literature

Wikipedia Goes to Grad School by Melissa McCartney

Very few graduate-level science curricula include training in communicating advanced concepts to a general audience. Moy *et al.* report a class project that addressed this by having chemistry students edit an entry in Wikipedia.org collaboratively. Students selected topics that were related to the course and were minimally covered on Wikipedia. Student entries contained references, an introduction aimed at the general public, and figures to enhance the explanation of the topic. Student feedback collected at the end of the project revealed increased knowledge of their topic. A specialist in writing and rhetoric concluded that the students' entries were more engaging to general readers because of the attention to real-world applications and clear explanations of vocabulary. Course professors noted that students appeared to assess the material they added to the entry more critically than when they were simply studying for the class, which is consistent with the notion of students' developing a higher level of explanatory knowledge when teaching the material is a goal.

J. Chem. Educ. **87**, 1159 (2010).

For Comments: 13 Pinsker St., Rehovot 76308. Email: asheer@netvision.net.il. Tel: Aharon Sheer 08-947-1225

Editor: Aharon Sheer. Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu

For free email delivery write to asheer@netvision.net.il (PDF format).

Copyright © 2013

כל הזכויות שמורות למחברים וליוצרים, כפי שצוינו. All rights reserved specified authors and artis