

The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

ערוץ המוזיקה של האגודה מתעדכן

בימים האחרונים עלה לאוויר שידור חדש בערוץ המוזיקה "Music Television Sci-Fi" – הלהיטים הגדולים מהסרטים הגדולים: "באטמן", "אווטאר", "מכסחי השדים", "גברים בשחור 3", "הנוקמים", "אקס-מן", "אירון-מן" ועוד. וגם – חידה נושאת פרסים המוקדשת לסדרת "מסע בין כוכבים", עדכונים על הכנסים הבאים בתחום המד"ב, הפנטזיה ומשחקי התפקידים וחדשות חמות מהוליווד ומתעשיית הטלוויזיה. בקרו ב-www.scifimusic.tv וצפו!

מועדון הקריאה של חודש יוני יעסוק באסופת הסיפורים "היה יהיה 3".

המועדון בירושלים יתקיים ביום ראשון, 16.6, בשעה 19:30 בבית הקפה "קופי בין" ברחוב יפו 34, ירושלים, ותנחה אותו [מריה](#).

המועדון בתל-אביב יתקיים ביום חמישי, 27.6, בשעה 19:30 ב"קפה גרג" ברחוב ויצמן 2, ת"א, ותנחה אותו [דפנה קירש](#).

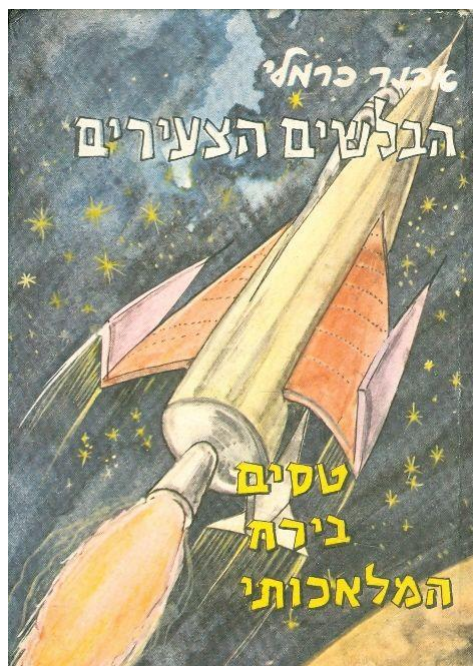
לצורך היערכות למספר המשתתפים, יש להירשם מראש דרך הדוא"ל של המנחה. כמו כן, רצוי להביא למפגש עותק של הספר. הכניסה חופשית ואינה כרוכה בתשלום, בחברות באגודה, או בהגעה למפגשים נוספים.

מועדון חודש יולי יעסוק בספרו של ג'ורג' ר"ד מרטין "חלום קדחת".

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או לדף האגודה בפייסבוק.

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

The Good Old Days (thanks to Eli Eshed):



The Israeli Air force, 1957 (after Sputnik):



Quote of the Month:

"There is always an easy solution to every human problem -- neat, plausible, and wrong."

H. L. Mencken, 1917

In the modern age of extremely large and complex software systems, Mencken's aphorism has been rephrased as follows:

"For every complex problem, there is a solution that is clear, simple --- and wrong."

Movie review by Ted Henderson

האויב בתוכנו - סטאר טרק

This Monday I saw the latest *Star Trek* film, *Star Trek Into Darkness* which is set in the time of the *Original Series*. The characters are the same, Kirk, Spock, Uhura, McCoy, Scotty, etc., but, with new actors, except, Leonard Nimoy appears briefly as Spock from the future to warn the current Spock about the Klingons. It not clear how the same person could be present in two different time frames or how one can warn of events which have not yet taken place.

The plot concerns an individual named Khan who has armed the Enterprise with 72 super photon torpedoes with which to make a preemptory strike on the Klingon home world, Qo'noS (kronos). These torpedoes are supposed to be super secret, and no one is supposed to examine them. However, Spock and McCoy break protocol and open one of the torpedoes. They find it contains a human in cryogenic suspension, as do all the other torpedoes. This all relates to Episode 24 of the *Original Series*, "Space Seed" and also the movie version, the *Wrath of Khan*, in which Khan had developed a race of advanced beings with which he was going to colonize a new planet.

In the current movie, Khan is played by the English actor, John Cumberbatch. In the original series Khan Noonian Singh was played by Ricardo Montalban who gave a more exotic appearance to the character and played with greater power. However, the plan is ultimately thwarted with the usual number of exploding starships and planets. There are some nice references to the *Original Series*. Christopher Pike who was the captain of the Enterprise in pilot episode, "The Cage", has a small part in this movie, also the mention of Qo'noS. However, they can't seem to agree on the appearance of Klingons. In the *Original Series*, they were dark skinned rather greasy looking individuals, in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, they had prominent crests, as exemplified by Worf, in this movie they wore helmets which didn't allow a good look at them, but they did not seem to look like either of the previous characterizations. These back references will be meaningful to

fans of the *Original Series*, but will not mean much to present day viewers. Although the film is set in the period of the *Original Series*, the Enterprise is far more advanced and complicated than that in any of the previous movies. All in all the movie is entertaining, but I don't think we will see it getting any Academy Award nominations, except, maybe, for special effects. [Now showing in Israel.]

TV Series Review by Ted Henderson

Currently showing on HBO (Home Box Office) is the series, *A Game of Thrones* which is based on the series of five novels, *A Song of Fire and Ice*, by George R. R. Martin. It is in the realm of fantasy. The story concerns a kingdom called Westros and it is set in a period similar to our Middle Ages. There are knights in armor, jousts, wars, intrigues, and murders. The plot is hideously complicated. In fact, to help you keep things straight, the first book has a 36 page appendix listing all the characters and their relationships. In fact, all the books are about a thousand pages long. The TV series is just concluding its third season. It is well done and very worthwhile watching. Since it is on pay TV, the episodes are not interrupted by mindless commercials. If this program is available in Israel, I would recommend watching it.

From December 2002

"Replying to an Invitation to the Scientists' Ball of 2002"

By Miriam Ben-Loulu

The **2001 Scientists' Ball** (reported in *CyberCozen*, July 2001) was so successful that it was decided to make it a yearly event. This reporter interviewed a number of the scientists to see whether they would be attending. Note that this year, in contrast to last, several **oceanographers** were also invited.

Matthew F. Maury said he would come, even though he might be out of his depth, because he was concerned about current trends.

Jacques Piccard sent his regrets – he was too deep in research at the time.

Walter Garstang complained that the invitations should have been written in verse. However, he offered to be in charge of the entertainment and said he would read selections from his popular book *Larval Forms and Other Zoological Verses*. The others agreed providing he did not include "The Onchosphere" ("He's now a *Cysticerus* in the muscles of a pig, With just a sporting chance of getting out to grow up big. If you'll consent to eat your pork half-raw or underdone, His troubles will be over, and a Tapeworm will have won....") which they felt might affect the digestion of the other scientists.

Jacques Cousteau felt a ball would be too noisy – he said he preferred *The Silent Sea*.

Robert W. Bunsen was burning to come.

Peter refused to come – just on principle.

The person who invented the wheel offered to help get things rolling, but preferred to remain anonymous to avoid being lynched by car drivers stuck in traffic jams, and drivers who had had flat tires in the middle of a desert.

The man who invented the periscope wanted to have a good look at the invitees before he decided.

Sir Frank Whittle and Hans von Ohain declined to come because they were suffering from jet lag.

Pasteur was rabid about the idea.

Pavlov was salivating at the thought of a second **Scientists' Ball**, but he wanted to know if he could bring his dogs.

Several scientists couldn't come because of poor health:

1) Sir Isaac Newton had a terrible headache and is quoted as saying, "That @#%**&!!!~#\$!!! apple was HARD!"

2) Antoni van Leeuwenhoek was suffering from eye strain.

3) Gregor Mendel was hospitalized due to a genetic disorder.

Benjamin Franklin was shocked at the suggestion that he leave his duties to attend the ball, and suggested that the organizers, "Go fly a kite!"

Darwin was unable to come because of injuries caused while observing British soccer matches as part of his work on "Survival of the Fittest".

Charles F. Richter said he was coming for the dancing – "Let's shake it up, baby."

This reporter was unable to interview other scientists as she quit her job when Tetsuya Theodore Fujita invited her to twist with him. He wanted to come pick her up in his new Tornado.

Quote of the Month

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

Gaming Knowledge by *Melissa McCartney*

Video games have great potential to support educational objectives. However, problems with video games in an educational setting, including use of classroom time and limited connections to standardized tests, persist. Sadler *et al.* examined the extent to which high-school students, at general, honors, and advanced levels, learned biological concepts through the use of Mission Biotech (MB), a game designed to support education in genetics and molecular biology through classroom integration with a supporting curriculum aligned to state science standards.

Ten teachers were trained to use MB in a classroom setting and were asked to complete a daily activity log and post-implementation survey. Supporting instructional activities, also aligned to state standards yet independent from the MB interface, were provided. Assessments were designed in coordination with each of MB's four levels and were embedded within the game environment. Results from pre- and post-tests show statistically significant gains in student performance, on both curriculum-aligned and standards-aligned exams.

Students at all levels showed gains in knowledge, but the increase was highest among the general-level students. As the United States moves toward implementation of the inquiry-based Next Generation Science Standards, evidence of game-based curriculum supporting student learning increases the potential that video games may have in enhancing science education. *J. Res. Sci. Teach.* **50**, 479 (2013).

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