

OLAMOT – Passover SF Fest in Tel Aviv, April 23-24



חדשות האגודה – אפריל 2019 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

המועדון בירושלים יעסוק בספר "מלחמת האדם הזקן" מאת ג'ון סקאלזי (ינשוף, 2006). המועדון יתקיים ביום שלישי, 30-04-2019, ב-20:00. מיקום מדויק ימסר למתפקדים ב"פתיל האוכל" בדף האירוע, ב-facbook. מנחה: יהושע ברנהרט. למעקב אחר הספרים המתוכננים ומועדי מועדונים נוספים ניתן להצטרף לקבוצה **מועדון הקריאה הירושלמי של האגודה**. ניתן גם ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים - **גלי אחיטוב** - ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטס'אפ של המועדון.

במועדון בת"א באפריל לא יתקיים מפגש.

מועדון חודש מאי בת"א יהיה הפעם מועדון שמיעה! נאזין יחד לחציו השני של אלבומו של אלי בר-יהלום "משוטט בין עולמות", ונשוחח על השירים. אין צורך בהיכרות מוקדמת עם שיריו של אלי בר-יהלום בכלל, או עם חציו הראשון של הדיסק בפרט. מנחה: **דפנה קירש**.

האגודה מארגנת הדרן כנס נוסף, שלישי לחורף זה, וכולכם מוזמנים ומוזמנים! מספר הרצאות מכנסי עבר, שיועברו מחדש, באווירה ביתית גיקית וכיפית, ביום חמישי, 14-03-2019, בשעות הערב. האירוע יתקיים בבית פרטי בת"א. הכתובת המדויקת תישלח מספר ימים לפני האירוע, למי שיתקד בפתיל האוכל ו/או ישלח הודעה פרטית למארגנת - **דפנה קירש**. לתשומת ליבכם: לצערנו האירוע בקומה שלישית, ללא מעלית.

המועדון בחיפה יעסוק בספר "מערות הפלדה" מאת אייזיק אסימוב (מסדה, 1975; ינשוף, 2005). תאריך ופרטים נוספים יתפרסמו באתר, מנחה: **טניה הינקמן**. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים למועדון, במייל של המנחה.

המועדון בגליל מערבי בכרמיאל-משגב יעסוק בספר "סרפינה: אור מכין העללים" מאת רייצ'ל הרטמן. יתקיים ביום רביעי, 10-04-2019, ב-20:30, בבית פרטי במשגב. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמות ולנרשמים. מנחה: **ד"ר קרן פייט**.

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 ל**רשימת התפוצה** או **בדף האגודה בפייסבוק**. Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf.org.il>

This month's roundup:

Sorry ladies, gents, and other alien friends – I'm pressed for time this issue. This is what we've got for you:

- Beginning THIS month our new series about Alternate History/Parallel Universes/What-ifs/etc.
- Sorry, no "Sheer Science" this month, nor reviews of short stories in "Zion's Fiction"

– As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.

Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

From our readers' pens to you:

Just a quick thank for the current issue and a "food for thought" comment.

Beresheet (Israel's moon lander) was launched on 21.Feb. and will land on the moon exactly 49 days later on 11 April.

Hmm, a Jewish project that takes 49 days.

Isn't that seven times seven? seven weeks? seven...

Thanks again,

-Reuven

LB: Interesting... We'll have a full update in our next issue. Let's hope that the April moon landing will be a successful one. As of yesterday, a Lunar orbit was successfully made – Quite an achievement for such a tiny country...

Some fun from the Websites:

Have mechanical feet..., will travel

Robots Invade the Mars-Like Moroccan Desert in the Name of Research By Scott Snowden Feb 24, 2019

The Sahara Desert, close to the Moroccan-Algerian border, served as a test site for three rovers and more than 40 engineers finishing the first phase of the Strategic Research Cluster on Space Robotics Technologies, a project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 program.



To read more, see:

<https://www.space.com/robots-invade-moroccan-desert-mars-research.html>

Showcasing a series of short reviews of little-known SF

The Best Sci-Fi Movies that Most People Haven't Seen — IndieWire Critics Survey By David Ehrlich Feb 26, 2018

They don't make 'em like "Annihilation" anymore, but there's a world of mind-bending sci-fi films out there if you know where to look.

“Creation of the Humanoids”

“Best”? No. But certainly one of the most gloriously strange is “The Creation of the Humanoids,” a no-budget wonder that was made in 1960, sat on the shelf for two years, and didn't play much of anywhere until it showed up on local TV in 1965 (and promptly unhinged my 6-year-old brain — thanks!). A sort of proto-proto “Blade Runner,” it's set in a post-apocalyptic world where androids (“clickers”) are agitating for equal rights.

...

To read more, see:

<https://www.indiewire.com/2018/02/best-sci-fi-movies-people-havent-seen-1201932907/>

Time and Space (I): Introduction

- By Leybl Botwinik

It's time to start a new series of articles and reviews (with relevant links) concerning the dimensions known as Time and Space. More concretely: the various (theoretical) anomalies of time travel and of parallel universes, and all things in-between and beyond.

Here are some of the things that come to mind:

- A) Time travel classic conundrums such as:
 - a. Traveling into the past and changing history (the butterfly effect)
 - b. Traveling into the past (or future) and meeting yourself – or someone close, such as your mother, even before she was married to your father
 - c. Multiverses created as tangents or offshoots at critical decision points (alternate history)
- B) Comic book depictions in the DC and Marvel multiverses + Crossovers
- C) Imaginary parallel worlds (e.g. humans and cartoon characters living together)
- D) And possibly more

We will cover the above points randomly. That is, at the moment, we haven't planned to create an all-encompassing 'chapter' per subject, but rather present a single review – or related series – that covers one or more of the above topics. One of the reasons is that sometimes more than one factor is present in a storyline.

For example, does the butterfly effect only change reality and “overwrite” current history, or does it somehow create an entirely new parallel universe/dimension.

Brief Sampling and My Own “Explorations into the Unknown”

My first memories of reading or hearing about some of the above issues are probably from H.G. Wells’ classic story “*The Time Machine*” (originally published in 1895). I originally read a condensed version of the story in a “Classics” comic book, as a young boy – and only later in life did I read the full novella. In between, I had seen one or two of the films based on the storyline.

Time, as we know it, does not stand still. As a child, however, it would fascinate me to think “what if...” or “I wish I could go back” a moment, a day, or whatever, and change something. I’m assuming everyone does it at some point in time – and probably rather often. When everything is going “right” there is no reason to speculate thus.

However, as a child of Holocaust survivors – whose grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. were snatched away by an unprecedented horrific genocide and an almost successful attempt to exterminate a whole people (not to mention the inhuman torture, experiments and degradation of the victims). Such thoughts, therefore, were ever present and quite acute (not as an obsession, but rather as a wishful fantasy to maybe be able to go back in time and if not to make things right, at least to try and save as many of my family members as possible).

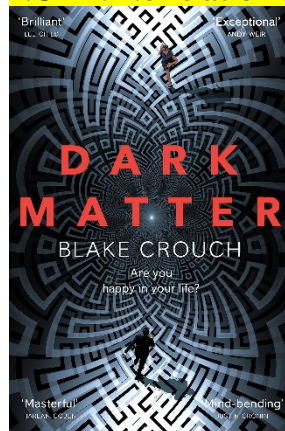
Consider, that it is part-and-parcel of Jewish teaching, that we must remember, and in some form relive our history – if only in the stories of the bible, the Passover “Seder” night, the tales of the holidays like Khanuka and Purim, etc. – as well as the stories of my father’s childhood in Poland (and of his experiences during the Holocaust).

So, to launch this series, we’ll start with a relatively new book that I recently enjoyed.

Time and Space (II): Dark Matter by Blake Crouch

Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik

NOTE: No relation to the SF TV series of the same name (we reviewed it in the past).



The book, *Dark Matter*, by Blake Crouch and published by “Pan Books” in 2016, contains 400 pages. Although a generally good read, only the **first 36 pages** really introduce you to the mystery.

Whereas the **next 140 pages** present somewhat of an explanation as to why everything is happening, **and the next 100 pages** brings you closer to the ‘main event(s)’ now speeding towards the climax. At this point, we’ve roughly completed just under $\frac{3}{4}$ of the book, and the really interesting parts start to gel. In other words, roughly 240-250 pages could probably have been condensed into 40-60 pages.

That having been said, those 250 pages are well written.

Unfortunately, they are repetitive in some cases, and often just overkill in teasing the reader. Nevertheless, the expectation to find out what the solution to the main character’s dilemma is, is well worth the wait (read).

And now that I myself have stretched out this review (somewhat), without even

hinting at the plot line – let alone the ‘bottom line’ – here is what the story is all about, and why I recommend it:

Jason, a simple college physics professor, steps out one evening from his household of loving wife Daniela and loved son Charlie, to buy some ice cream. On his way back, he is kidnapped by a lone, masked stranger, and forcefully taken to an abandoned warehouse, where he is drugged and told to strip and dress up in other clothes. In his conversation with his kidnapper, he learns very little, other than that the kidnapper asks him many personal questions and will most likely not kill him.

When Jason next wakes up, he learns that he is in another dimension – or rather parallel world, and this world’s Jason (a full-fledged physicist and one of the heads of a dimension-travelling experiment) seems to be the one who has kidnapped and switched lives with him. Our Jason is

determined to return to his wife and son, to his world of origin, and eject that usurping Jason from his world. He enlists the aid of Amanda who wants to help him find her own Jason, and to right this wrong. In order to do so – i.e. for Jason to get back to his world, they must take the same drug that Jason was originally drugged with, and this will let them pass between dimensions. Each time they take an ampule, they can move to another place to continue their search.

Unfortunately, however, they only have a limited supply of the drug, and they must traverse multiple parallel dimensions – each having been created with a slightly different timeline, and containing different people, circumstances, ‘almost’ home and wife environments, etc. (These are the story chapters that are a bit over-exaggerated in length and in number of possible ‘worlds’ they need to check out, to see if they are back in the original one that Jason was taken from).

SPOILER ALERT (but it’s OK, I don’t reveal the end):

And now, for the good part. This is where it gets really interesting, and makes the read worth it!

Jason manages to make his way back to what seems to be his original world, that contains the Jason duplicate that kidnapped him. However – and this is the spoiler – several hundred other Jasons have also managed to make it to this world, and they all believe that they are the original Jason back in their own home, and are all competing to defeat the kidnapping Jason and, ultimately, to get rid of the other Jasons who they consider to be fakes... Well that’s going to be a bit of a problem, isn’t it... ?

(So, go buy or borrow the book!. Apparently, there may be a movie in the making soon too)

**Stand by for more on Space & Time conundrums next month.
Feel free to send comments / reviews of related books & movies.**

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

For Comments: E-mail: levbl_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 levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com
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