

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

- המועדון בירושלים יעסוק בספר "כשהחירס לוחש" מאת לורה רובי (עוץ, 2018). פרטים נוספים יתפרסמו בהמשך. 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 אחישוב](#) - ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטס'אפ של המועדון.

- המועדון 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. שיר לדוגמא מתוך הדיסק - [ספירלה](#).
יתקיים ביום חמישי, 23.5, בשעה 19:30, בבית פרטי ברמת אביב. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמים ולנרשמים למועדון מנחה: [דפנה קירש](#).

- המועדון בגליל מערבי בכרמיאל-משגב יעסוק בספר "המשכוכית" מאת קוני ויליס (כנרת זמורה ביתן, 1998). [אירוע הפייסבוק](#)
יתקיים ביום רביעי, 29-05-2019 ב-20:30, בבית פרטי במשגב. כתובת מדויקת תינתן לנרשמים 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 לרשימת התפוצה או [כתב האגודה בפייסבוק](#). Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>



Congratulations on Israel's 71st Independence day



This month's roundup:

- Featured: About Israel's attempt at landing on the Moon
 - I'm continuing the multi-part 'quick reviews of Zion's Fiction with story #5
 - Continuing "Time and Space" – parts II + III – about Alternate History/Parallel Universes/What-ifs/etc.
 - Sorry, no "Sheer Science" this month
- As usual, interesting tidbits from various websites.

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

Reader's resounding and reverberating remarks:

Thank you for this month's CyberCozen.

The review of "Dark Matter" by Blake Crouch made me add it to my TBR* list. It sounds amazing!

Keep up the good work!

- Sara G

*TBR – to be read

Love the graphic* ...!

- Cathy P-L

* graphic – the Olamot banner in the previous issue

Just a quick response to the April 2019 issue and the time travel options.

I recall a story by Robert Block (pretty sure; but forgot the title; remember the concept) in which going back in time put you "there" but as a ghost person, unseen and unheard by the people of that time.

You couldn't touch or move things, and apparently had no physical effect. This became a fun tourist trip, and was used by historians to go back and check on historical events. The catch was that the time travelers could see and interact with each other ... leading ultimately to popular points in time and place suffering in overcrowding!

The last scene I recall was on Mt. Calvary at the crucifixion of Jesus, with hundreds of people pushing and shoving in a great crowd to get a better view of the action. I've not seen this kind of concept again in anything I read.

- Gary L

LB: A similar concept is where the time travelers are out of sync with those in 'normal' time. They can observe but cannot be observed. If I'm not mistaken, there was a Star Trek episode like that in the original series.

LB: Here's one more for this month. I received a fascinating set of write-ups by fellow SF buff and editor-in-chief, Ahrvid Engholm. If you would like his contact info or the PDF issue containing European SF history that he sent me – drop me a line:

Here you can enjoy my latest *EAPazine, Intermission* (the attached PDF), which I send for two reasons. To begin with as interesting information! The issue has several fascinating history articles. It tells of a unique amateur film from 1943 by none other than the pulp artist, author, space reporter Eugen Semitjov! You will hear about the sf fan Stieg Larsson's this far unknown space club! And then some notes on old fantastic magazines (mostly Swedish, but also other ones). Some of you may have seen some of it before, but here it is extended and illustrated. (There's a conrep and misc other stuff too. Plus peppy pictures!) But I also want to promote the *Electronic Amateur Press Association*. Join us for more Intermissions! EAPA is the oldest PDFzine APA but needs new blood, new members. Think about it! It's free, and all you need to do, is to scribble something interesting, choose "Save As PDF" in the word processor and contact EAPA's garth.van.spencer@gmail.com. Happy reading!

--Ahrvid Engholm,
editor-in-chief of *The International Magazine of Culture and Fine Arts: Intermission*

Latest about Israel's attempt at landing on the Moon

The State of Israel is one of the few Nations that has made an attempt to land any kind of spacecraft on the Moon. We made it almost to the finish line, but a last minute technical glitch caused the moon lander to break up just before safely reaching the surface. A great feat in and of itself, we were very disappointed (because we were so close), but at the same time proud of our achievement: reaching the Moon, nevertheless.

The spacecraft's name was "Beresheet" – like the first book of the Bible (also known by its Latin title: Genesis). "Beresheet" actually means "at first" or "in the beginning", which is appropriate, since this is just the first attempt, and plans are well on the way to go for it again!

[Here's a short \(04:22\) but inspiring video about the attempt, setback, and future plans:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-idB53wp_s)

[And now, read this:](#)

Israel's *Beresheet* Spacecraft Crashes into Moon during Landing Attempt

By Mike Wall a month ago Spaceflight

Israel's first moon lander came up just short in its historic touchdown bid (April 11).

The robotic Beresheet spacecraft, built by SpacEL and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), aimed to become the first Israeli craft, and the first privately funded mission, ever to land softly on the moon. But the little robot couldn't quite make it, crashing into the gray dirt around 3:25 p.m. EDT (1925 GMT). Mission control lost communications with the spacecraft when it was about 489 feet (149 meters) above the moon's surface.

"We had a failure in the spacecraft; we unfortunately have not managed to land successfully," Opher Doron, the general manager of IAI, said during a live broadcast from mission control. "It's a tremendous achievement up 'til now."

"If at first you don't succeed, you try again," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who watched Beresheet's landing attempt from SpacEL's control center in Yehud, Israel.

[Continue reading here:](https://www.space.com/israeli-beresheet-moon-landing-attempt-fails.html)



[And now, read this too:](#)

SpacEL's Beresheet Lunar Lander: Israel's 1st Trip to the Moon

By Charlie Wood 23 days ago --- See at: <https://www.space.com/spacel-beresheet.html>

[And, finally, Coming up on a moon near you:](#)

Israel To Allocate \$5.5M To SpacEL For Beresheet 2 Spacecraft

By NoCamels Team May 06, 2019

Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology announced on Sunday, that it would allocate NIS 20 million (some \$5.5 million) to Israeli non-profit SpacEL for the construction of a second unmanned spacecraft, Beresheet 2, set for the moon sometime in the next few years.

The announcement came weeks after lunar lander Beresheet (the Hebrew word for "Genesis") crashed into the moon's surface on April 11, dashing Israel's dreams of becoming the fourth country in the world to complete a controlled lunar landing (after the US, Russia, and China).

See at: <http://nocamels.com/2019/05/israel-5m-spacel-beresheet-2-spacecraft/>

And now, back to our regular programming:

[Some fun from the Websites:](#)

[More Star Wars...](#)

In the Jawdropping First Trailer for Star Wars: *The Rise of Skywalker*, the End of a Saga Begins

By James Whitbrook – 12-Apr-2019

The force has awoken. The last of the Jedi has relit the spark for a new generation beyond him.

And now it's time for the Skywalker Saga to come to a close with *The Rise of Skywalker*, 42 years after we first stepped into the galaxy far far away—and we finally have our first look at the film.

Lucasfilm has just officially confirmed that the ninth chapter of the main *Star Wars* saga will be subtitled *The Rise of Skywalker*, as well as given us our first tiny teaser of what we can expect from this culmination of decades of *Star Wars* storytelling.

Check out the first look below! (Here's the tweet in case you can't view.)

Continue reading:

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/in-the-jawdropping-first-trailer-for-star-wars-the-ris-1832561630>

[Before Game of Thrones, there was Dune](#)

The Spice Must Flow: New 'Dune' Movie Starts Shooting

By Scott Snowden April 02, 2019

Principal photography has begun on the newest adaptation of Frank Herbert's epic sci-fi novel "Dune."

Herbert wrote six novels in the series altogether, with "Dune" (Chilton Books, 1965) being the first. After his death in 1986, the author's son Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson have co-authored an impressive further 26.

The last time someone attempted to bring the story to the big screen came 33 years ago, with director David Lynch's film. That vastly underrated movie was an unparalleled masterpiece in production design, but it altered one or two elements of the source material more than some fans liked.

Brian Herbert recently tweeted that the cameras have begun rolling for the new adaptation.

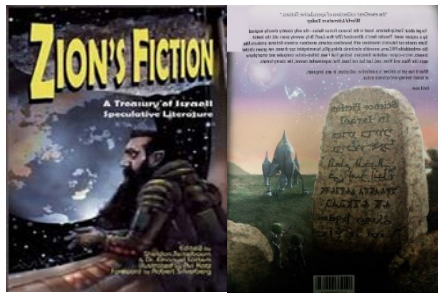
Continue reading:

<https://www.space.com/new-dune-movie-adaptation-begins-filming.html?>

Review: “Zion’s Fiction” ed. Teitelbaum & Lottem (Pt. 3)

– Now Coming to You, From the Prime SF Nation of the World

Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik



Story #5 – *Hunter of Stars* by Nava Semel

Imagine that the sky blanked out one night – that we could no longer see the Stars (on a ‘good’ night, you could barely see the outline of the Moon) – and this was the new reality:

“At first people cried, then they didn’t cry so much, and Grandpa says that people get used to bad things just as they get used to good things. In school we were taught that this was an ecological disaster no scientist had anticipated, and unlike those who claim that this was God’s curse, Grandpa says that this is people’s curse...” (p.127)

This short story contains only 5 pages. In my opinion, the premise (about the ecological disaster) is rather weak. However, it contains many interesting points and presents some basic issues that concern our modern life. The main character Neri (from the Hebrew for “candle”=“ner”), a boy, recounts how people have polarized into those who “believe” in the stars that were, and those who oppose them, from the “Movement against Star Worship”.

On the one hand, Nava Semel’s tale emphasizes the ‘darkness’, but that technology is still ‘alive and kicking’. For example, all the light emitting and reflecting gadgets (phosphorescent shoulder pads and headbands) and the gifts the boy got for his birthday (glowing soccer ball so you can play in the dark/dimness, etc.), as well as the “Heavenly Body Substitute Searchlight” that lit up every night at midnight over the sea at the Tel Aviv beachside. On the other hand, there is a strong emphasis of tradition, family togetherness, and respect for the elders (parents and Grandpa).

Is the message here, that difficult times are easier to overcome or ‘endure’ when you are not alone, and can also fall back on ‘tradition’ (the tried and true of our forebears)? Are the ‘traditional values’ more supportive for survival than technological ‘solutions’? The story is short, possibly simplistic (as seen through the eyes of a young child) and straightforward, but contains excellent food for thought. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

MORE ZION’S FICTION QUICK STORY REVIEWS – NEXT TIME !

For more on the book, see the official website at: <http://www.zionsfiction.com/>

Also: https://www.amazon.com/Zions-Fiction-Treasury-Speculative-Literature/dp/1942134525/ref=sr_1_1

Time and Space (II): 7 Splinters in Time (2018)

Reviewed by Leybl Botwinik



Let me break it to you now (no reason to beat around the bush on this one – the title of the film says it all...): multiple dimensions (and multiple copies of the main character) and time travel (of sorts). Just what the doctor ordered: fits into this new series I’m writing – like a glove 😊.

From IMDB: “A detective investigates a murder, only to find that the victim is... himself. Soon, he discovers multiple versions of himself, not all of them friendly.”

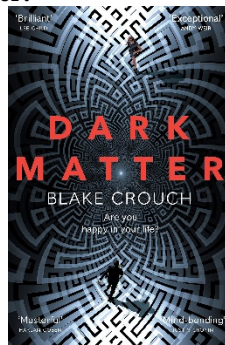
A very interesting, while at the same time, a very strange film. I believe, however, that the director had much fun with this one.

What’s happening in the movie

In the first 20 minutes of the 80-minute film, everything is set up for the continuing story, with several ‘classic’ storyline genres each running in parallel, slightly intermixing, and then all coalescing and blending into the climax:

- 1) Main character Darius (we later find out his real name is Daniel) and his mysterious memories (are they real?). The film opens where he is interviewed by his superior officer about his memories and lapses of memories – and reminded to take his meds. **He can't remember anything before the last 10 years.**
- 2) A crazy recluse – The supporting character, Luka is (apparently) Darius/Daniel's friend, but he has been in hiding in a bunker for the last 10 years. Now he must come out of hiding to 'save' his friend.
- 3) A mysterious librarian that gives Darius hints to trace his past.
- 4) A mysterious marking on Darius's forearm (like a spiral, possibly a maze), actually slightly reminiscent of the cover of my previous review on the novel "Dark Matter":

Dark Matter:



7 Splinters in Time:



- 5) Some of the film – the memories – are shown like old super8 home movies – with a scrubbed/faded effect; some of the film is almost B&W, with hard-nosed detective monologue like in a 1930's-1960's pulp story where Darius talks to himself as he is investigating the mysteries.
- 6) Darius is a single person, taking care of his old mother/aunt/grandmother (?)

The key to the mess

It seems, that Daniel was part of the OMPHALUS time-travel project to send assassins back in time to 'fix issues' before they can happen (Think: killing someone before they are born – or their mother – as in the "Terminator" franchise of movies). However, something went awry, throwing the time line(s) off course: Somehow, he ended up killing his younger self – causing strange rifts in time, including himself being split into 7 bodies and personalities – one of which is the 'assassin' bent on killing the other versions of himself.

My recommendation

The movie is not easy to follow or understand. It is, in some ways, distracting and unclear in many spots... until everything coalesces for its finale. On the other hand, there are many interesting ideas regarding time travel and its consequences. If you do plan to see the movie, I suggest you watch it two or even more times, to fully appreciate the subtle messages and sub-plots that all come together at the end.

One final note:

*I only noticed this after seeing the movie several times – and only when I followed right through to **include seeing the credits** – that the spiral symbol on Darius' forearm is actually an extracted image from the very central ridges of a fingerprint. Not obvious, until you see the credits at the end of the movie...*



Time and Space (III): The One (2001)

Short review by Leybl Botwinik

This film predates “7 Splinters”, but has some interesting parallel ideas, as well as its own merits: First of all, it’s a martial arts film starring Jet Li (one of my favorites) and also includes Jason Statham in a minor, but supporting role. Second, it deals with the ‘multiverse’ and the police force that monitors and protects its stability. Third, it seems like the film version of some video game.

Li plays Gabriel Yulaw, who is a former officer of the "Multiverse Authority" (MA), an agency that polices interdimensional travel via wormholes. Statham is one of the two MA officers assigned to bring Yulaw to justice, for having broken the law. Yulaw had discovered that if he kills one of his multiverse duplicates, he absorbs part of their energy and his own strength, speed, etc. increases – as does that of all the other surviving duplicates of himself in other universes. Thus, he decides to eliminate the others in order to acquire their energies, and become "The One" – the final and only “Jet Li” version. According to the MA officers, the creation of such a super powerful "The One" would cause havoc in the multiverse.

After having eliminated all but one version of himself – Gabe Law – the two meet for the final battle, but the evil Yulaw is eventually defeated by the good Gabe (our world’s “Jet Li”) and sent to some off-planet futuristic prison, where he plans to fight all the prisoners there (that’s how the movie ends).

What isn’t clear, and seems to be a major ‘hole’ in the plot’s main ‘theory’ is, if the evil Yulaw dies in prison, the good Gabe would become "The One". Wouldn’t that also cause havoc in the multiverse? For that matter, why would all the versions dying be a problem? All living creatures everywhere eventually die out, and yet nowhere do we find that some people get stronger, faster, etc. as their other dimensional versions die out – or that some old man (the very last version of himself) gets a sudden spurt of superhuman energy.

One last note. According to Wikipedia (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_One_\(2001_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_One_(2001_film))), there are ‘only’ 124 versions of Yulaw spread across the multiverse. Is that number a ‘given’? Does that mean that there are only 124 multiverses, or that only 124 ‘Jet Li’ versions grew up to reach this age of maturity? Is there a rule? Coincidentally, adding $1+2+4=7$. Is this the inspiration for “7 Splinters”?

My recommendation: It’s a fun movie with 2 of my favorite martial artists. Nothing special in the movie – Jet Li has done much better ones – but it’s easy to see and understand.

**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!

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