

Olamot SF Convention in Tel Aviv – April 16-17. STAY TUNED!

חדשות האגודה – מרץ 2025 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "אחינו של הקוסם" מאת ק.ס. לואיס, ויתקיים ביום חמישי 27.03 בשעה 19:30, בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש (dafna1485@walla.co.il), [בדף האירוע בפייסבוק](https://www.facebook.com/events/1041913523811981), <https://www.facebook.com/events/1041913523811981>

ירושלים: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "טבעת הזהב של נקדימה" מאת טליה דאי, ויתקיים ביום חמישי 27.03 בשעה 20:00. לפרטים על המפגשים הבאים ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת, גלי אחיטוב sal.maple@gmail.com, ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטסאפ של המועדון.

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 בדף האגודה בפייסבוק.

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

This month's roundup:

- Special Wartime Issue (#18) – Future Lost ... ☹️
- Short, short TV and movie reviews
- [Our usual tidbits from the Web](#)

– Your editor, Leybl (Leon) Botwinik

Special Wartime Issue #18

The end of their future ...



From our readers:

Dear Leybl,

I would like to heartily recommend viewing the following new Star Trek fan videos -- two of them are animated, and one is not:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Azf_2WLE-As – Animated Starship Mojave
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=678P3lmMN1M> – Slipstream
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3B39_FS8_Lo – Animated Starship Defiant

The animated links are part of a series, whereas the real-life video is a standalone. Each one has its unique features (crew, plot, science fiction -- alternate dimensions, time realms, universes, experiments, etc.). The two animations take up less than 20 minutes each, while the Slipstream episode takes closer to 30 minutes. All contain suspense and mystery, as well as innovative and resourceful (sometimes unpredictable) denouements.

Gary Roth

LB: Thanks, Gary. I appreciate your sending this. Hope our readers will too 😊



Massive matte black triangle UFO glides slowly and silently above.

- Art by
Jose
Sanchez

(c)2024 Jose Sanchez

Short, Short Reviews – by Leybl Botwinik

1) Avatar (#2) – The Way of Water (2022)

Like *Avatar* (2009, the first in the franchise), this film contains fantastic scenery and loads of imaginary creatures, in addition to the unique planet Pandora's natives themselves (the Na'vi, 10-foot-tall (3.0 m), blue-skinned, sapient humanoids that live in harmony with nature).

Wikipedia has a nice summary of the original film here:

["https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avatar_\(2009_film\)"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avatar_(2009_film)).



Also, like in the original film, the new '*Avatar 2*' film deals with issues of ecology and acceptance between different races/species: Humans and the Na'vi, as well as between the different Pandoran tribes, and even with the flora and fauna. It also has 'good/friendly' humans vs. nasty 'bad guys'.

Sadly, the bad guys are specifically named as **US Marines (USMC)**. Sadly, because I always looked up to the US Marines as being the good guys. Sure, there are rotten people in any society (and any army has its share

of traitorous or just plain nasty soldiers) – but the USMC has always been considered a beacon of light – though not in this case (see: <https://indyfilmlibrary.com/2023/02/20/save-the-planet-kill-a-marine-james-cameron-and-the-blockbusting-ideological-critiques-of-the-avatar-films/>).

That having been said, this extraordinary film with bigger than life heroes (literally) and black-on-white bad guys – aided by a tremendous budget expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars – is worth watching the full nearly 3 hours. Note that the 3rd installment in the franchise **“Avatar: Fire and Ash”** is set for a December 2025 release, and I’m looking forward to seeing it.

2) Under the Skin (2013)

This one is a very scary one. Somewhere between SF and Horror. A very interesting blend of ‘*we are not alone on this planet*’ Earth ... I only watched it to the end because of the actress, Scarlett Johansson. She plays an attractive female who preys on men, leading them to their death (in a very strange way). The plot reminded me of the mythological Sirens – the beautiful but sinister mermaids – who would lure sailors into leaping off their ships only to sink to the bottom of the waters to drown in the depths.

According to Wikipedia, it won multiple awards and recognition (see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Under_the_Skin_\(2013_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Under_the_Skin_(2013_film))).

The film takes place in Scotland, which is another reason to watch, though definitely not for the weak of stomach.

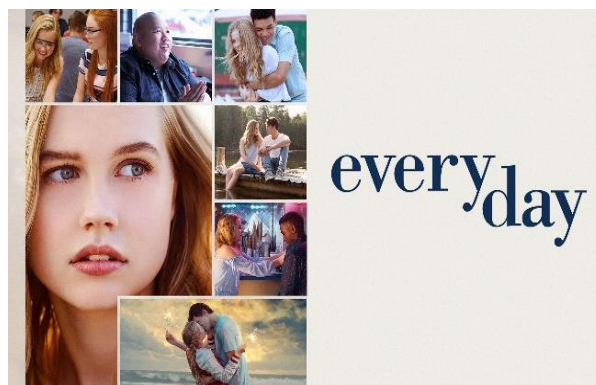


3) Every Day (2018)

Another ‘*we are not alone on this planet*’ story, which somehow reminds me of Shakespeare’s Hamlet:

***“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy”***

The main plotline is about a lost soul – a wandering spirit – that takes over a new body each day. Strangely enough, only of teenagers... and this spirit becomes romantically intrigued with a particular girl, Rhiannon, making the movie also a ‘coming of age’ story for the young 16-year-old protagonist.



The wandering spirit has, apparently, been around for a long time – possibly centuries and therefore knows a lot about the language and customs of the people in the surroundings. However, it has no conscious control over whose body it will enter (i.e. wake up in, in the morning). It will only enter someone in the immediate vicinity, and every day, in someone else’s body. The original ‘owner’ of the body gets blanked out for a period of 24 hours...

There seem to be a number of unanswered and probably conflicting issues regarding the ‘body invasions’. Some questions I would ask it – if I could: Can you take over a non-human form (bird or cat, for example)? What happens if you are in an isolated small town or island – will you repeat-take over the local people’s bodies?

In general, entertaining. For a full plot synopsis, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Every_Day_\(2018_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Every_Day_(2018_film)) .

[Personal note: I only decided to see the 2018 movie now, because I was worried it might be similar to my and my son’s “Tragedy of a Shapeshifter” that we recently published, and people might accuse us of stealing ideas. Not to worry: There is practically nothing similar ☺ - LB]

Fun from the Web

- **Beam me to the stars: Scientists propose wild new interstellar travel tech**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/tech/beam-me-to-the-stars-scientists-propose-wild-new-interstellar-travel-tech>
- **Film sets of the near future: Just as fake as the 'film' itself**
<https://newatlas.com/ai-humanoids/veo-2-porsche-ad/?ref=thefuturist>
- **When AI passes this test, look out**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/23/technology/ai-test-humanitys-last-exam.html?ref=thefuturist>
- **"Astronauts" (US and others) -> "Cosmonauts" (Russia and others) -> and now: Chinese "Taikonauts" - Actually from 1998 !**
<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/taikonaut>
- **Fun New Mouth Swab Will Tell You When You'll Die (And you might be able to buy the test online, too)**
<https://futurism.com/neoscope/cheek-swab-mortality-epigenetics?ref=thefuturist>
- **Apple's amazing desktop robot looks straight out of Pixar**
<https://www.cultofmac.com/news/apple-lamp-like-robot-prototype?ref=thefuturist>
- **The Quest to Save the World's Rarest Pasta**
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/worlds-rarest-pasta-su-filindeu?ref=thefuturist>
- **Oxford scientists say they've achieved quantum teleportation**
<https://futurism.com/oxford-scientists-quantum-teleportation-supercomputers?ref=thefuturist>
- **NASA lowers impact risk of 'city-killer' asteroid 2024 YR4 to 1 in 360**
<https://www.space.com/asteroid-2024yt4-impact-risk-drop-nasa>
- **'... impact probability zero...!' Earth safe from 'city-killer' asteroid 2024 YR4**
<https://www.space.com/the-universe/asteroids/earth-safe-from-city-killer-asteroid-2024-yr4-thats-impact-probability-zero-folks>
- **Scientists Have Confirmed the Existence of a Third Form of Magnetism**
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/scientists-confirmed-existence-third-form-180000038.html?ref=thefuturist>
- **Just a fraction of the hydrogen hidden beneath Earth's surface could power Earth for 200 years, scientists find**
<https://www.space.com/the-universe/earth/just-a-fraction-of-the-hydrogen-hidden-beneath-earths-surface-could-power-earth-for-200-years-scientists-find>
- **'metamaterial' could help build shapeshifting space habitats, etc.**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/tech/new-flexible-metamaterial-inspired-by-nature-could-help-us-build-shapeshifting-space-habitats-and-telescopes>
- **The 50 greatest innovations of 2024**
<https://www.popsci.com/technology/best-of-whats-new-2024/?ref=thefuturist>
- **It's Official: Boring Cities Are Bad for Your Health**
<https://www.wired.com/story/boring-cities-are-bad-for-your-health/?ref=thefuturist>
- **"Brain Rot" Is Poisoning Our Minds**
<https://futurism.com/neoscope/brain-rot-poisoning-minds?ref=thefuturist>
- **Man from uncontacted tribe emerges from rainforest, signals to villagers**
<https://www.popsci.com/environment/uncontacted-amazon-village/?ref=thefuturist>
- **What if life on Venus is just life from Earth?**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/search-for-life/what-if-life-on-venus-is-just-life-from-earth>

- **Understanding UFOs: What has to happen to move the UAP story forward?**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/search-for-life/what-has-to-happen-in-2025-to-move-the-uap-story-forward>
- **Launches, moon landings and more: Here's the top spaceflight missions to watch in 2025**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/missions/launches-moon-landings-and-more-the-top-spaceflight-events-to-look-forward-to-in-2025>
- **Space Mountain at 50: Five nods to NASA from the Walt Disney World ride**
<https://www.space.com/space-mountain-50th-disney-world-nasa-astronauts>
- **100 years ago, Edwin Hubble proved our Milky Way galaxy isn't alone**
<https://www.space.com/the-universe/100-years-ago-edwin-hubble-proved-our-milky-way-galaxy-isnt-alone>
- **Archaeologists Unearth the First Pharaoh's Tomb Since Tutankhamun**
<https://gizmodo.com/archaeologists-unearth-the-first-pharaohs-tomb-since-tutankhamun-2000566113?ref=thefuturist>
- **Intelligent Life May Be More Likely to Exist on Other Planets Than Previously Thought, Scientists Say**
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/intelligent-life-may-be-more-likely-to-exist-on-other-planets-than-previously-thought-scientists-say-180986078>
- **Some aliens may need sulfuric acid like we need water**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/search-for-life/life-as-we-dont-know-it-some-aliens-may-need-sulfuric-acid-like-we-need-water>

MOVIES/TV

- **Escape**
<https://gizmodo.com/best-space-movies-streaming-netflix-max-prime-video-2000520245>
- **'Mickey 17' trailer: a deeper look at Pattinson's upcoming sci-fi dark comedy**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/new-mickey-17-trailer-gives-us-a-deeper-look-at-robert-pattinsons-upcoming-sci-fi-dark-comedy-romp>
- **'Star Trek: Lower Decks' Final Season and The Complete Series beam onto Blu-ray this March**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/star-trek-lower-decks-final-season-and-the-complete-series-blast-onto-blu-ray-in-march>
- **'Jupiter Ascending' came out 10 years ago, and we're still not sure how The Matrix creators' space opera went so wrong**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/jupiter-ascending-10-years-later-a-cosmic-misfire-or-an-undervalued-space-romp>

BOOKS

- **Boldly boost bartending skills – 'Star Trek Cocktails: A Stellar Compendium'**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/boldly-boost-your-bartending-skills-with-star-trek-cocktails-a-stellar-compendium>
- **Guide to the Solar System: Brand New Edition!**
<https://www.magazinesdirect.com/az-magazines/71697328/BKZ-B6835.shtml>

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