

ICON 2025 – Wishes – October 8-10, Tel Aviv



SCIENCE-Fiction Fanzine

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

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "שעוני נוכחות" מאת יואב אבני (עותקים של הספר הוגרלו בין המשתתפים במועדון אוגוסט, באדיבות הוצאת כתר), ויתקיים ביום ה', 18.9, בשעה 19:30, בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש (dafna1485@walla.co.il), ובדף האירוע בפייסבוק.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1041913523811981>

ירושלים: לפרטים על המפגשים של מועדון הקריאה, ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק או ליצור קשר במייל עם המרכזת, גלי אחיטוב, sal.maple@gmail.com, ולהצטרף לוואטסאפ המועדון.

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

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

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

This month's roundup:

- Special Wartime Issue (#24) in Memory of Charlie Kirk (14-Oct-1993 to 10-Sep-2025) May He Rest in Peace
- SHEER SCIENCE – Aging isn't just about decline (from National Geographic)
- Book Review: Humans (by Matt Haig)
- Our usual tidbits from the Web

Special Wartime Issue #24

Killing Free Speech – in Memory of Charlie Kirk (14-Oct-1993 to 10-Sep-2025. RIP) 🙄

Charlie Kirk was assassinated on Wednesday. He was an adamant supporter of Israel and the Jewish People.

Many did not agree with what he had to say about the USA, Gays, Abortion, etc. but he nevertheless criss-crossed America, visited university campuses, and let everyone express themselves, and ask him questions. Large crowds came to hear his stances and responses. He did not speak from on high but rather met with everyone at eye level.

Credited to both Voltaire and Evelyn Beatrice Hall, the quote that seemed to most personify and resonate with him – just see his multiple YouTube clips – was: "I **disapprove of / may not agree with / disagree with** what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." ¹



The right of free speech, however, must not be tainted by lies, double-speak, making up facts, and ignoring facts. In the famous SF novel "1984", Orwell used the concept of 'doublethink' to connote contradictory slogans such as "War is Peace" or "Slavery is Freedom" to overwhelm free thought. ²⁺³

Indeed, Charlie Kirk's radiant charm and wit, keen memory for facts and quick accurate responses will be missed by all who believe in free speech. He defended to his death, the right of people to speak their minds.

There are still 48 hostages being held by Gazan terrorists that murder those who try to speak freely.

Free them! May the good guys stay safe, and may the bad guys fail hard – Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

¹ GOOGLE: Elizabeth Beatrice Hall (under the pseudonym S. G. Tallentyre) used it in her book 'The Friends of Voltaire'.

² GOOGLE: In George Orwell's 1984, "War is Peace" means the ruling Party maintains control through perpetual warfare, which serves to unite the populace against a common enemy, keep them ignorant and poor, and consume resources that might otherwise lead to greater awareness or comfort. This concept is an example of doublethink, the ability to hold and accept two contradictory ideas as truth, as defined in The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism.

³ Also: "<https://www.algemeiner.com/2025/09/10/the-anti-israel-contradiction-machine-where-every-lie-cancels-the-last/>"

Book Review: Humans (by Matt Haig)

Review by Leybl Botwinik

If you need a million dollars, then you should solve the Riemann Hypothesis (for real: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riemann_hypothesis). Note, however, that this could be dangerous to you and your loved ones!



Matt Haig wrote a brilliant book about an Alien being sent from his distant corner of 'space' to eliminate any chance of a solution to the mathematical enigma of the Riemann Hypothesis being known/discovered by Humans – they deemed it dangerous. In the book, a Mathematics professor/scientist works out the solution, and the Aliens feel threatened by Humans acquiring this knowledge. They replace the professor with an Alien whose mission is to erase all evidence of the solution and eliminate anyone who may have any knowledge of the solution (or even if they know that a solution has been discovered).

The Alien, of course, knows almost nothing about humans, is disgusted by everything human, etc. – 'a fish out of water' – but must quickly adapt and suppress his/its true feelings when reacting with humans. In replacing the professor, he must then deal with his family and friends, and dog. The dog called Einstein is, in fact, the first and only living creature he can tolerate.

The Alien has a psychokinetic power that enables him to practically walk through walls or manipulate objects and people – also to communicate with the dog ... (coincidentally, just saw this: **"I Took My Dog to a Psychic. I Think It Actually May Have Worked?:"**

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/advice-dog-psychic/?ref=thefuturist>*)

Haig tells the story from the Alien's viewpoint, making delightful and insightful non-stop observations on humans, our foibles, social norms, etc. The writing is light, often humorous, and thoroughly enjoyable.

Much of the story reminds one of TV series such as *"Mork and Mindy"* or the more recent *"Resident Alien"* (Fourth – and apparently last 🙄 – season that came out this year is also worth watching), as well as the movie *"Starman (1984)"* and later, its own TV series. However, Haig's book is original in its own unique way.

I highly recommend reading this book.

The book was originally published May 9, 2013.

* On the other hand, getting a robot dog is not such a bad thing either:

<https://www.stacksocial.com/sales/sunfounder-pidog-robot-dog-kit-with-raspberry-pi-zero-2-w-32gb-sd-card>

*Sheer Science**

*In memory of Aharon Sheer (א"ה) – Founding Editor

Aging isn't just about decline. Here's how health improves as we grow older

**New science suggests there's plenty that
gets better with age—if you let it.**

By Hannah Singleton (July 8, 2025) – on the National Geographic website

We spend billions of dollars each year trying to fight aging—covering up wrinkles, dyeing gray hair, and chasing the promise of youth. However, while aging is often portrayed as a slow decline, scientists say that view overlooks the bigger picture. “Everyone talks about aging as this decline,” says Michelle Feng, chief clinical officer at Executive Mental Health and a licensed psychologist who specializes in geriatric psychology and medicine. “But aging is just living. It literally means that you’re alive.”

How you choose to think about aging makes a big difference in how you experience it, she adds. [Studies show](#) that people who hold more positive beliefs about aging are more likely to have better cognitive health, fewer mental health issues, and even a longer lifespan. A positive outlook “leads to better cognition, cognitive health, lower likelihood of depression and anxiety later in life,” says Feng.

[\(At 102, he's the world's oldest practicing doctor. These are his longevity tips.\)](#)

So, what improves with age? From emotional resilience to sharper decision-making, here's what the research shows.

1. You get better at handling stress

Stress doesn't disappear with age, but our response to it changes. “Older people have a lot more ability to understand stressful or difficult circumstances, and they're actually better able to manage [stress] than they are when they're younger,” says [Aanand Naik](#), executive director of the UTHealth Houston Consortium on Aging.

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(to continue reading:

["https://www.nationalgeographic.com/health/article/benefits-of-aging?ref=thefuturist"](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/health/article/benefits-of-aging?ref=thefuturist))

Fun from the Web

- **26 Real-Life Technological Innovations That Seem Straight Out of a Sci-Fi Movie**
<https://www.cracked.com/image-pictofact-16131-26-real-life-technological-innovations-that-seem-straight-out-of-a-sci-fi-movie>
 - **This wild bioplastic made of algae just aced a Mars pressure test. Can astronauts use it to build on the Red Planet?**
<https://www.space.com/astronomy/mars/this-wild-bioplastic-made-of-algae-just-aced-a-mars-pressure-test-can-astronauts-use-it-to-build-on-the-red-planet>
 - **Early visions of Mars: Meet the 19th-century astronomer who used science fiction to imagine the red planet**
<https://www.space.com/astronomy/mars/early-visions-of-mars-meet-the-19th-century-astronomer-who-used-science-fiction-to-imagine-the-red-planet>
 - **US Space Force practices 'orbital warfare' in largest-ever training event**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/satellites/us-space-force-practices-orbital-warfare-in-largest-ever-training-event>
 - **How do fireworks explode in specific shapes?**
<https://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/everyday-innovations/firework-shapes.htm>
 - **World's largest 3D-printed building smashes all previous records**
<https://newatlas.com/architecture/3d-printed-schools-project-cobod-ucc-qatar?ref=thefuturist>
 - **Forget 3D printing: DNA + water build tiny machines that assemble themselves**
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/07/250709091703.htm?ref=thefuturist>
 - **Awesome images from the 2025 Astronomy Photographer of the Year awards**
<https://www.popsi.com/science/astronomy-photographer-of-the-year-2025/?ref=thefuturist>
 - **Astronomers May Have Underestimated the Size of Hundreds of Exoplanets**
<https://www.extremetech.com/science/astronomers-may-have-underestimated-the-size-of-hundreds-of-exoplanets?ref=thefuturist>
 - **Is It Cake? How Our Brain Deciphers Materials**
<https://nautil.us/is-it-cake-how-our-brain-deciphers-materials-1222193/?ref=thefuturist>
 - **How the Western Diet Has Derailed Our Evolution**
<https://nautil.us/how-the-western-diet-has-derailed-our-evolution-235683/?ref=thefuturist>
 - **Why does food by the campfire taste better?**
<https://www.popsi.com/science/why-food-around-campfire-tastes-better/?ref=thefuturist>
 - **I went on a date with my AI dream guy. Then I cried over shrimp**
<https://www.npr.org/2025/07/14/nx-s1-5426671/dating-ai-chatbot-replika?ref=thefuturist>
 - **Montessori-Inspired App for Kids 2-8 That Inspires Learning Through Play: Ad-Free, Stress-Free, and Designed for Growing Minds!**
https://www.stacksocial.com/sales/pok-pok-lifetime-subscription?utm_source=thefuturist
- **'Blood Moon' Lights Israel's Skies**
<https://unitedwithisrael.org/blood-moon-lights-israels-skies/>



MOVIES/TV

- **Star Trek Launches Its First Ever Free Original YouTube Series**
<https://collider.com/star-trek-scouts-free-youtube-series/>
- **Who are the Gorn? 'Star Trek: Strange New Worlds' reptilian menace**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/who-are-the-gorn-star-trek-strange-new-worlds-reptilian-menace-explained>
- **How the Bell Labs Holmdel Complex Inspired 'Severance'**
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/podcast-bell-labs-holmdel-complex?ref=thefuturist>
- **'War of the Worlds' at 20: Steven Spielberg made three-quarters of an apocalyptic classic**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/war-of-the-worlds-at-20-steven-spielberg-made-three-quarters-of-an-apocalyptic-classic>
- **'The sun is dying!' Ryan Gosling tries to save a doomed Earth in 1st trailer for 'Project Hail Mary' film**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/ryan-gosling-tries-to-save-a-doomed-earth-in-1st-trailer-for-project-hail-mary>
- **'Humanity's time is over!' Apple TV+ drops release date and intense first teaser for 'Invasion' Season 3**
 - 1) <https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/humanitys-time-is-over-apple-tv-drops-release-date-and-intense-first-teaser-for-invasion-season-3>
 - 2) <https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/the-threat-has-evolved-humanity-faces-the-ultimate-apex-aliens-in-stunning-new-invasion-season-3-trailer-video>
- **The New 'Spaceballs' Movie Might Become a Whole Trilogy**
<https://gizmodo.com/spaceballs-new-trilogy-mgm-2000624212?ref=thefuturist>
- **Superman's biggest weakness isn't kryptonite; It's that every Man of Steel movie to date has a disappointing ending**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/supermans-biggest-weakness-isnt-kryptonite-its-that-every-man-of-steel-movie-to-date-has-a-disappointing-ending>
- **Superman Didn't Go 'Woke,' He's Just A Good Person**
<https://kotaku.com/superman-israel-palestine-woke-clark-kent-punk-rock-1851786212?ref=thefuturist>
- **'The Fantastic Four: First Steps' is a love letter to the Space Age we always dreamed of**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/the-fantastic-four-first-steps-is-a-love-letter-to-the-space-age-we-always-dreamed-of>
- **'Lexx' appeal: A deeply underrated sci-fi classic that was equal parts Farscape, Star Wars, and Red Dwarf**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/lexx-appeal-a-deeply-underrated-sci-fi-classic-that-was-equal-parts-farscape-star-wars-and-red-dwarf>
- **Magic: The Gathering Goes Sci-fi - 9 New Cards from Edge of Eternities**
<https://www.ign.com/articles/magic-the-gathering-edge-of-eternities-spoilers?ref=thefuturist>
- **'Alien: Earth' is an intelligent and thought-provoking bloodbath, and everything we ever wanted from an 'Alien' show (review)**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/alien-earth-is-an-intelligent-and-thought-provoking-bloodbath-and-everything-we-ever-wanted-from-an-alien-show-review>

For Comments: E-mail: levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com. Tel: Leybl Botwinik +972-54-537-7729

Editor: Leybl Botwinik. Founding Editor: Aharon Sheer (ל"ז). Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu (ל"ז).

For free email delivery (PDF format) write to levbl_botwinik@yahoo.com

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And <http://efanzines.com/CyberCozen/index.htm>

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