

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

**תל אביב:** מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "גבירה וערפל" מאת אודליה גולדמן, ויתקיים 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](mailto: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 (#25) – Not over until all the hostage bodies have returned
- SHEER SCIENCE – 1) Starfish mind control 2) Time crystals
- **Our usual tidbits from the Web**

## **Special Wartime Issue #25**



### **It's Not Over Until All the Hostage Bodies Have Returned**

Key Arab and Islamic countries join the US to pressure Hamas to release all the Israeli hostages. If that isn't Science Fiction turned Fact, then what is?

Thank you, Donald J. Trump, (45<sup>th</sup> and) 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, for standing with Israel in these trying times. You and your team (Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner, and others) have facilitated the release of the last living hostages that were being held in Gaza by the treacherous and brutal Hamas and other terrorists.

However, there are still many hostage bodies still being held by the heartless monsters that are now concentrating on executing any opponents in Gaza – or just anyone that criticises them.

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

Related Reading: <https://worldisraelnews.com/shiri-bibas-sister-the-war-isnt-over-israel-has-a-lot-to-fear/>

# Sheer Science\*

\*In memory of Aharon Sheer (ז"ל) – Founding Editor

## 1) No brain, no problem: Starfish use chemical 'Mind Control' to launch underwater raids

*Researchers from the Australian Institute of Marine Science University of the Sunshine Coast, and the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology have made this incredible discovery about starfish that is going to change common perception about animal communication*

**By Kushal Debb** (July 21, 2025) – on the QUANTA magazine website

In a mind-breaking breakthrough, researchers have discovered that the sea star – the infamous crown of thorns starfish, the notorious brainless coral predator is not a mindless creature as once perceived in marine biology. These starfish coordinate their behaviour using signals to form a collective consciousness that helps them move and act together. This means the creature with no brain and blood uses chemical mind control to move and hunt in sync.



The study reveals that starfish use their spines as both sensors and secretors. These spines release unique proteins known as COTSPs (Crown-of-Thorns Starfish-Secreted Proteins) which disperse in the water and influence the behaviour of nearby starfish.

These starfish might come across as harmless creatures, but they are incredibly destructive predators which organise and devour acres of coral reefs in just months. The protein is not a result of any immune or stress response, nor is it a result of any other physical action like skin shedding. It is a communication tool. However, it remains a mystery what messages they carry. The result, though, is a coordinated, almost military-style march toward coral colonies

.... (to continue reading:

<https://www.wionews.com/science/starfish-use-mind-control-1753186092062?ref=thefuturist>)

See also: <https://owlcation.com/curiosities/starfish-the-oceans-creepiest-critter>)

## 2) What the heck is a time crystal, and why are physicists obsessed with them?

*Some of today's quantum physicists are tinkering with an esoteric phase of matter that seems to disobey some of our laws of physics*

**By Rahul Rao** (Aug 2025) – on the Popular Science (popsci.com) website

You're probably quite familiar with the basic states of matter—solid, liquid, gas—that fill everyday life on Earth.

But those three different sorts of matter that each look and act differently aren't the whole of the universe—far from it. Scientists have discovered (or created) dozens of more exotic states of matter, often bearing mystical and fanciful names: [superfluids](#), [Bose-Einstein condensates](#), and [neutron-degenerate matter](#), to name a few.

In the last few years, physicists around the world have been constructing another state of matter: a “time crystal.” If that seems like B-movie technobabble, it's technobabble no longer. Using a quantum computer, a few researchers have created a time crystal that, they think, firmly establishes time crystals in the world of physics.

The researchers haven't yet formally published their research, but last month, they posted a preprint (a scientific paper that has yet-to-be peer-edited) on the website ArXiv.

So, what exactly is a time crystal? It might sound like the critical component that makes a time machine tick, some sort of futuristic power source, or perhaps an artifact of a lost alien civilization. But, to scientists, a time crystal is actually something more subtle: a curiosity of the laws of physics.

What defines any bog-standard crystal—such as a diamond, an emerald, or even an ice cube—is that the crystal's atoms are somehow arranged in repeating patterns in space. There's three dimensions of space—and a fourth dimension, time. So physicists wondered if a crystal's atoms could be arranged in repeating patterns in time.

In practice, that works something like this. You create a crystal whose atoms start in one state. If you blast that crystal with a finely tuned laser, those atoms might flip into another state—and then flip back—and then flip again—and so forth, all without actually absorbing any energy from the laser.

If you step back, what you've just created is a state of matter that's perpetually in motion, indefinitely, without taking in any energy

...

**Continue reading here:**

<https://www.popsci.com/science/what-is-time-crystal-physics/?ref=thefuturist>

## Fun from the Web

- **Subsea desalination plant will turn Pacific Ocean into tap water**  
<https://newatlas.com/environment/subsea-desalination-pacific/?ref=thefuturist>
- **Hundreds of Robots Competed in the World's First Robot Olympics. The Results Were Unintentionally Hilarious**  
<https://futurism.com/robot-olympics-boxing-china?ref=thefuturist>
- **How One Photographer Captures the Glory of Birds in Flight**  
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/photograph-birds-in-flight?ref=thefuturist>
- **If aliens explore space like humans do, NASA scientists know where to look for their signals**  
<https://www.space.com/astronomy/if-aliens-explore-space-like-humans-do-nasa-scientists-know-where-to-look-for-their-signals>
- **AI Comes Up with Bizarre Physics Experiments. But They Work**  
<https://www.quantamagazine.org/ai-comes-up-with-bizarre-physics-experiments-but-they-work-20250721/?ref=thefuturist>
- **New private 'Arc' spacecraft aims to deliver cargo from orbit to anywhere on Earth in less than an hour (video)**  
<https://www.space.com/technology/new-private-arc-spacecraft-aims-to-deliver-cargo-from-orbit-to-anywhere-on-earth-in-less-than-an-hour-video>
- **Endangered jaguars and turtles are being reintroduced in Argentinian forests**  
<https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/rewilding-in-argentina-raises-thorny-questions/?ref=thefuturist>

### MOVIES/TV

- **Every original 'Star Trek' character who has appeared in 'Strange New Worlds'**  
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/every-original-star-trek-character-who-has-appeared-in-strange-new-worlds>
- **'Fallout' Season 2 teaser sets release date and introduces New Vegas, but did it spoil too much? (video)**  
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/fallout-season-2-teaser-sets-release-date-and-introduces-new-vegas-but-did-it-spoil-too-much-video>
- **'Star Wars: Visions' season 3 release, 1st glimpse unveiled at Anime NYC 2025**  
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/star-wars-visions-volume-3-release-date-anime-nyc-2025>

### GAMES

- **Game about Jan who makes alternate versions of himself - alters - to survive**  
<https://altersthegame.com/>
- **Lunar Strike is a hard sci-fi adventure game about preserving humanity's legacy on the moon (exclusive)**  
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/lunar-strike-is-a-hard-sci-fi-adventure-game-about-preserving-humanitys-legacy-on-the-moon-exclusive>
- **New tactical roguelite game 'Battlestar Galactica: Scattered Hopes' sees you escape the Cylons with a full fleet of spaceships (video)**  
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/new-tactical-roguelite-game-battlestar-galactica-scattered-hopes-sees-you-escape-the-cylons-with-a-full-fleet-of-spaceships-video>

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