

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

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "המקרה המוזר של בת האלכימאי" מאת תיאודורה גוס, ויתקיים ב-11.27 ב-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: המועדון יעסוק בספר "מדריך הקוסמים לאפיייה הגנתית" מאת ט' קינגפישר ויתקיים ביום חמישי, 27.11. 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 (#26) – Not over until all the hostage bodies have returned
- SHEER SCIENCE – 1) Quantum Myths 2) See & Say 3) AI Super Astronauts 4)Magnetic Constant
- Artwork (2) by Jose Sanchez + Link to a free (short) webinar about a Sci-Fi writing course
- **Our usual tidbits from the Web**

Special Wartime Issue #26



After 4,118 days in Gaza, body of
IDF soldier Hadar Goldin confirmed
to be back in Israel

Hadar was taken hostage (and killed) by the Hamas during the ceasefire brokered with them during the end of the 2014 Tsuk Eitan conflict between Gaza and Israel. His family incessantly fought for the past 11 years, to have him returned. Finally, he has been laid to rest in Israel.

There are still 3 hostage bodies being held by the heartless monsters in Gaza.

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

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

FROM 2019: <https://jcpa.org/repatriate-missing-soldiers-and-civilians/>

*Sheer Science**

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

1) Einstein hated entanglement — and five other quantum myths

“Quantum mechanics is unquestionably a robust and successful theory — so far, all its predictions have held, and scientists can build powerful technologies based on it. Yet, understanding what it tells us about the nature of reality and how we experience it has proven tricky. Physicists and philosophers have been grappling with it for a century, ironing out some of the early ambiguities, but some conceptual problems remain. And the non-intuitive nature of quantum physics makes it fertile ground for misunderstandings. Here, six physicists explore the origins of widespread myths about quantum history, theory, and applications.”

Read on at:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-02638-z?ref=thefuturist>

2) See Something, Say Something? The Science of Speaking Out

From tattling to whistleblowing, a sociologist explores
what drives people to tell on one another

By Emily Laber-Warren Aug.2025

Police rely on tips from ordinary people — witnesses, victims and whistleblowers — to investigate 95 percent of crimes. Sometimes, the decision to speak up is easily made, but in other cases, people elect to stay silent, leaving countless infractions unpunished. [About half of violent crimes go unreported](#), according to estimates by the US Department of Justice.

And yet at certain historical moments, such as in the United States in the early 1950s, when fear of communism led to many false reports against individuals working in entertainment and public service, societies can become places where people readily denounce one another — often falsely, or for petty reasons.

Tattling, whistleblowing, snitching, call it what you will: Patrick Bergemann has spent the past 15 years studying the many ways that people tell on one another, examining everything from Afghan villagers' reports of illegal Taliban activity to informers' charges of treason in 17th century Russia.

Read on at:

<https://knowablemagazine.org/content/article/society/2025/from-snitches-to-whistleblowers-why-we-tell-on-each-other?ref=thefuturist>

3) 'Artificial Super Astronauts': How AI and Robotics Could Help Humanity Settle Mars

"I think humans will still go to space and explore Mars and beyond, but we will be in interesting company."

By Leonard David September 2025

"Artificial astronauts" could fly as actual crew members on human missions to Mars, and elsewhere in space.

These rugged, space-rated artificial humans offer great advantages, advocates say. For example, they would not require the large amounts of consumables needed to support humans. They could also perform spacewalks without a life-support system.

While not everyone will agree on the predicted rate of development of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), the idea is that progress will be fast, commensurate with timescales over which Mars campaigns are planned and implemented, unlike in the past.

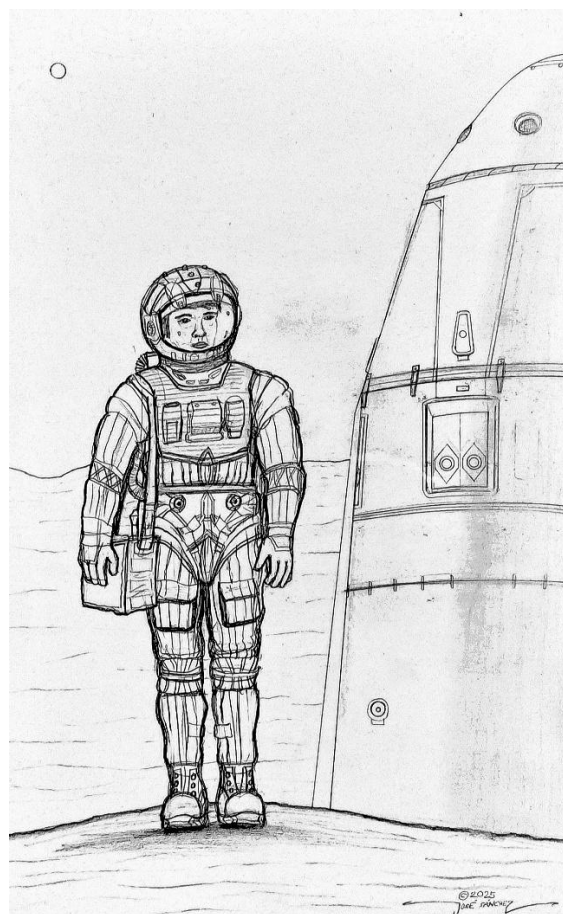
"This is forcing careful strategic thinking about what planetary exploration capabilities and systems to develop and include on missions, versus those that will mature anyway via broader societal advancements in robotics and AI," explained Pascal Lee, a planetary scientist at the SETI Institute in California.

...

Mars Concept:

Sketch of Astronaut arriving on the surface of Mars in the mid 2030's, thinking to himself:

"Wow- we're finally here!"



SCI-FI ARTWORK
Courtesy of Jose Sanchez

Read on at:

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/mars/artificial-super-astronauts-how-ai-and-robotics-could-help-humanity-settle-mars>

4) What Is the Magnetic Constant, and Why Does It Matter?

By: Rhett Allain

This persnickety number determines the strength of magnetic fields. It figures in everything from motors and generators to audio speakers. Oh, and without it we'd live in eternal darkness

In physics, we have a bunch of constants that are used in models to explain how the world works. These are fixed numbers that we plug into equations along with our variables. For example, the universal gravitational constant is used in predicting the motion of any falling object.

That's $G = 6.6743 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}\cdot\text{s}^2$.

LISTEN to a 7 minute podcast here:

<https://www.wired.com/story/what-is-the-magnetic-constant-and-why-does-it-matter/?ref=thefuturist>

All in the Family:

Bigfoot, Alien Grays and Low Crawler humanoids, all emerge from the same flying saucer. Coincidence or something else ?...



SCI-FI ARTWORK Courtesy of Jose Sanchez

Thanks to our reader Gary Roth who writes:

I recommend this flick. It has some slow moments but has interesting science.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jwIOW-ZBOM>

Fun from the Web

- **Could a unique rectangular telescope be the key to finding Earth 2.0?**
<https://www.space.com/astronomy/could-a-unique-rectangular-telescope-be-the-key-to-finding-earth-2-0>
- **12 dazzling images from the 2025 Capture the Dark photography contest**
<https://www.popsi.com/science/capture-the-dark-photography-contest-2025>
- **Israel spy satellite launch sparks 'panic' as residents mistake rocket for missile**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/launches-spacecraft/israel-spy-satellite-launch-sparks-brief-panic-as-residents-mistake-rocket-for-missile-reports>
- **Sci-fi is the genre of ideas —not just about big budgets and spectacular visuals**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/sci-fi-is-the-genre-of-ideas-it-shouldnt-just-be-about-big-budgets-and-spectacular-visuals>
- **Futuristic eye implant bypasses cornea to beam images straight to retina**
<https://newatlas.com/medical-devices/proof-of-concept-implant-corneal-blindness/?ref=thefuturist>
- **Scientists find that ice generates electricity when bent**
https://phys.org/news/2025-09-scientists-ice-generates-electricity-bent.html?ref=thefuturist#google_vignette
- **Stop Serving Microplastics -- Trash These 7 Kitchen Items**
<https://www.cnet.com/health/youre-about-to-serve-microplastics-for-thanksgiving-trash-these-7-items-first/?ref=thefuturist>

MOVIES/TV

- **Watch voice cast of Disney's 'Elio' learn about Voyager probe's Golden Record in charming new bonus clip (video)**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/watch-voice-cast-of-disneys-elio-learn-about-voyager-probes-golden-record-in-charming-new-bonus-clip-video>
- **Apple TV+'s sci-fi saga 'Foundation' is getting a Season 4: 'We look forward to continuing the epic'**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/apple-tv-s-sci-fi-saga-foundation-is-getting-a-season-4-we-look-forward-to-continuing-the-epic>
- **New 'Tron: Ares' trailer paints the town neon red as an ominous voice declares that 'Military AI is the future!' (video)**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/new-tron-ares-trailer-paints-the-town-neon-red-as-an-ominous-voice-declares-that-military-ai-is-the-future-video>
- **'Foundation' Season 3: Who are the robot-worshipping cult The Inheritance?**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/foundation-season-3-who-are-the-robot-worshipping-cult-members-of-the-inheritance>
- **The race back to the moon: What if China lands its astronauts first?**
<https://www.space.com/astronomy/moon/the-race-back-to-the-moon-what-if-china-lands-its-astronauts-first>

GAMES

- **15 years on, real-time strategy games are still chasing the high of 'StarCraft 2'**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/15-years-on-real-time-strategy-games-are-still-chasing-the-high-of-starcraft-2>
- **Sony Reportedly Planning Switch-Killer PlayStation 6 Portable**
<https://www.extremetech.com/gaming/sony-reportedly-planning-switch-killer-playstation-6-portable?ref=thefuturist>
- **Free Marvel superhero game (?)**
<https://www.marvelrivals.com/>

- "Finding the fun was always our guiding star": How 'Starfield' developers balanced realism with arcade fun when approaching space combat
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/finding-the-fun-was-always-our-guiding-star-how-starfield-developers-balanced-realism-with-arcade-fun-when-approaching-space-combat-exclusive>
- 15 years on, 'Halo: Reach' continues as golden standard of video game prequels
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/15-years-on-halo-reach-continues-to-be-the-golden-standard-of-video-game-prequels>
- 'Star Wars Battlefront' at 10: How DICE's reboot captured the feel of 'Star Wars' like no other game before or since
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/star-wars-battlefront-at-10-how-dices-reboot-captured-the-feel-of-star-wars-like-no-other-game-before-or-since>
- 'Alien: Rogue Incursion Evolved Edition' hatches surprise Xbox Series X|S release with chaotic launch trailer (video)
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/alien-rogue-incursion-evolved-edition-hatches-surprise-xbox-series-x-s-release-with-chaotic-launch-trailer-video>

BOOKS

- 'Klingon Next Door' is a hilarious look at what Star Trek's angriest aliens do in their down time
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-books/klingon-next-door-is-a-hilarious-look-at-what-star-treks-angriest-aliens-do-in-their-down-time>
- The hitchhiker's guide to literary sci-fi: A trivia quiz!
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/the-hitchhikers-guide-to-literary-sci-fi-a-trivia-quiz>
- No redshirts allowed: Nearly impossible SF trivia quiz for command-level nerds
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/no-redshirts-allowed-a-nearly-impossible-sci-fi-trivia-quiz-for-command-level-nerds-only>
- Astronaut Chris Hadfield explores murder in space in new Cold War space thriller 'Final Orbit' (exclusive)
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-books/astronaut-chris-hadfield-explores-murder-in-space-in-new-cold-war-space-thriller-final-orbit-exclusive>

Are you considering WRITING SCI-FI?

Here's a short video that may up your Sci-Fi writing game!

Hal Croasmun runs online **scriptwriting** courses in California, at "[ScreenwritingU.com](https://www.screenwritingu.com)".

I've been following him for years (sitting in on several of his free high-level and informative webinars, that he often produces as promos for his courses. Unfortunately, I barely have time to log in to the freebies, let alone sign up for what look to be valuable master classes...).

His presentations are expert. Well thought out and well-presented (I've gleaned quite a few excellent tips over the years). **This one course is specific to Science Fiction.**

Watch the **free** short webinar if you plan on writing SF – or just for its entertainment/informational value (it's worth registering, if only to see how brilliantly he breaks down the genre):

<https://event.webinarjam.com/7p3go/register/7p3got72>

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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