

חדשות האגודה – ינואר 2026 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "שירת ארץ לחוקה" מאת ארתור סי. קלארק, ויתקיים ב-22:00 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 "דרכי הארגונים" מאת סבסטיאן דה קסטל ויתקיים בבית פרטי. 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 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 (#28) – Not over until the last hostage's body is returned + The Iran Front
- SHEER SCIENCE – 1) Brain chip for telepathic control of computers; 2) Quantum breakthroughs for possible teleportation
- Artwork by Jose Sanchez
- Our usual tidbits from the Web

Special Wartime Issue #28

The Iran Front

After 836 days since the October 7th massacres and kidnappings, there is still one (1) hostage body being held by the heartless monsters in Gaza – that of Police Officer **Master Sgt. Ran Gvili, 24**

(see: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/missing-police-officer-ran-gvili-left-hospital-to-go-fight/>)

So, thousands have been killed in Iran (estimates range between 5000-15000), while attempting to express their right to freedom of speech, and protesting the tyranny of the fanatical Iranian regime for the last 50 years. Since Israel is not involved, the tens of thousands of protesters in hundreds of cities around the world who protested against Israel, Zionism, and Jews on a daily basis – for the last 2 years (and even earlier) – have not come out to support the rights of the oppressed Iranian populace. This is, of course, to be expected. None of them ever came out to protest the killing of hundreds of thousands in Syria by the Assad regime, or about tens of similar terrible events around the world.

The UN, Europeans, Canada, and others are either silent or standing on the sidelines. The only ones who seem to care are Donald Trump, president of the USA, and many among the American people. So far, only Trump has made threats and called for regime change. To back up his disgust with the terror that the fanatics in Iran are carrying out, he has given the order to move significant American military forces to the region. Time will tell, if he will use that force to punish the Iranian regime for their inhumanity to their own people, and for participating in and promoting terror around the world, including against the USA and Israel.

The War is 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

For further reading:

<https://www.skynews.com.au/world-news/global-affairs/iran-threatens-to-resume-executions-warns-of-all-out-war-if-us-steps-in-during-brutal-crackdown/news-story/f019386a3b3f62492a0b408485d71c68>

and also:

<https://jewishpostandnews.ca/uncategorized/un-human-rights-experts-want-more-war-in-gaza/>

Monsters, Monsters, and More Monsters (part II)

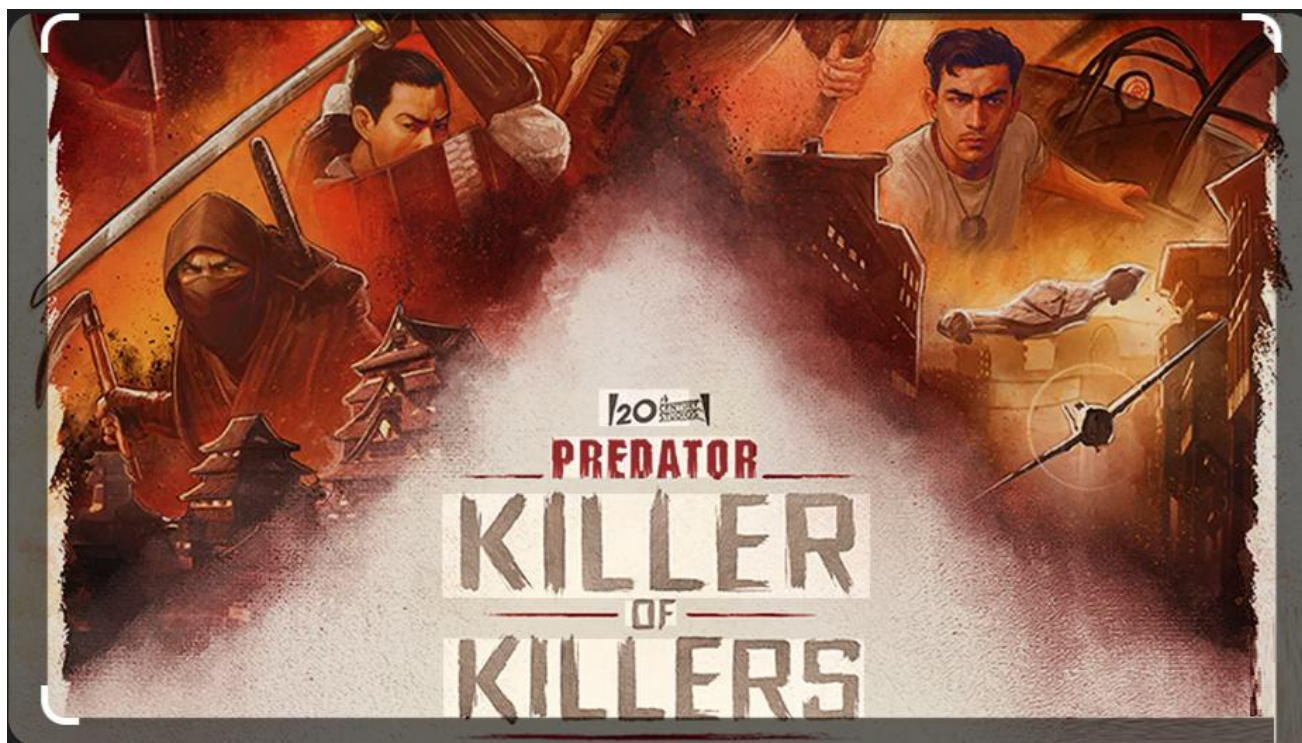
More 'Monster' films!

Like, the 'Alien' franchise, the 'Predator' movies pop up every few years.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alien (1979) • <i>Aliens (1986)</i> • <i>Alien 3 (1992)</i> • <i>Alien Resurrection (1997)</i> • <i>Prometheus (2012)</i> • <i>Alien: Covenant (2017)</i> • <i>Alien: Romulus (2024)</i> <p>Crossover films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alien vs. Predator (2004)</i> • <i>Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (2007)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predator (1987) • <i>Predator 2 (1990)</i> • <i>Predators (2010)</i> • <i>The Predator (2018)</i> • <i>Prey (2022)</i> • <i>Predator: Killer of Killers (2025)</i> • <i>Predator: Badlands (2025)</i> <p>Short film(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Chosen (2010)</i> • <i>Moments of Extraction (2010)</i> • <i>Crucified (2010)</i> • <i>Predator vs. Colonial Marines (2016)</i> • <i>The Predator Holiday Special (2018)</i>
---	--

Predator: Killer of Killers (2025)

This Predator addition to the franchise, is actually several short animations with the stories culminating in one final battle. In fact, the first three short stories take place in 841 (a Viking story), 1609 (a Japanese story) and 1942 (a WWII story). At first it may seem that there is time travel involved – but as the storyline develops, it seems more likely that human 'heroes' who have defeated Predators through the ages had been caught and kept in suspended animation, to be awakened when they are needed for a challenge by the current Predators. The part about suspended animation is clear. The time-travel part is not.



The stories follow the standard plot of a Predator seeking his 'kicks' in hunting down humans, with the challenge being to seek out particularly brave and challenging prey. They become 'trophies' similar to how

big game hunters track down, kill, and then mount their 'victories'. In the cases of previous films, often saving a souvenir from a particularly challenging opponent/victim. In the case here: actually capturing them and deep-freezing them, to be reawakened at some future time, for a new confrontation.

See Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predator:_Killer_of_Killers) for a full breakdown.

Trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbddYji1F8s>

Predator: Badlands (2025)

The film opens with a* motto of the Yautja (the name of the Predator species):

**Prey to none
Friend to none
Predator to all**

Apparently, there are various 'mottos' – and although this is the seeming essence of all the previous Predator films, this movie presents a new perspective and shows the main character (the Predator) that there may be other ways to live a life. The story introduces multiple Predators and their 'hunter' culture, Weyland Yutani robots who are Science 'researchers', and other aliens, on one of the most dangerous planets in the universe – perfect playground for our Predator 'hero'.



To prove to his father that he is brave and 'worthy' the Predator flies off to the kill or capture the most dangerous creature known to the Yautsa. In his quest, he finds that almost everything in Nature on that planet is mortally dangerous. He discovers the top half remains of a research robot that can communicate with him via its Universal translator and they pick up an orphan native animal while in search of the legendary most dangerous creature.

Unlike the previous movies that are mostly serious, the addition of the 'good-hearted' half-robot that was programmed for 'sensitivity', provides a fresh breath to the otherwise dark and scary movies in the franchise.

I enjoyed it.

To read more, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predator:_Badlands.

More to read:

"7 of science fiction's most terrifying alien races: <https://www.space.com/entertainment/scary-sci-fi-aliens>"

Sheer Science*

*In memory of Aharon Sheer (נ"ט) – Founding Editor

1) Scientists reveal a tiny brain chip that streams thoughts in real time

December 9, 2025 --- Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science

BISC is an ultra-thin neural implant that creates a high-bandwidth wireless link between the brain and computers. Its tiny single-chip design packs tens of thousands of electrodes and supports advanced AI models for decoding movement, perception, and intent. Initial clinical work shows it can be inserted through a small opening in the skull and remain stable while capturing detailed neural activity. The technology could reshape treatments for epilepsy, paralysis, and blindness.

A new brain implant could significantly reshape how people interact with computers while offering new treatment possibilities for conditions such as epilepsy, spinal cord injury, ALS, stroke, and blindness. By creating a minimally invasive, high-throughput communication path to the brain, it has the potential to support seizure control and help restore motor, speech, and visual abilities.

The promise of this technology comes from its extremely small size paired with its ability to transmit data at very high speeds. Developed through a collaboration between Columbia University, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Stanford University, and the University of Pennsylvania, the device is a brain-computer interface (BCI) built around a single silicon chip. This chip forms a wireless, high-bandwidth link between the brain and external computers. The system is known as the Biological Interface System to Cortex (BISC).

Read on at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/12/251209234139.htm>

2) New quantum breakthrough could transform teleportation and computing

September 13, 2025 --- Kyoto University

Japan's scientists have finally unlocked a way to identify the elusive W state of quantum entanglement, solving a decades-old problem and opening paths to quantum teleportation and advanced quantum technologies

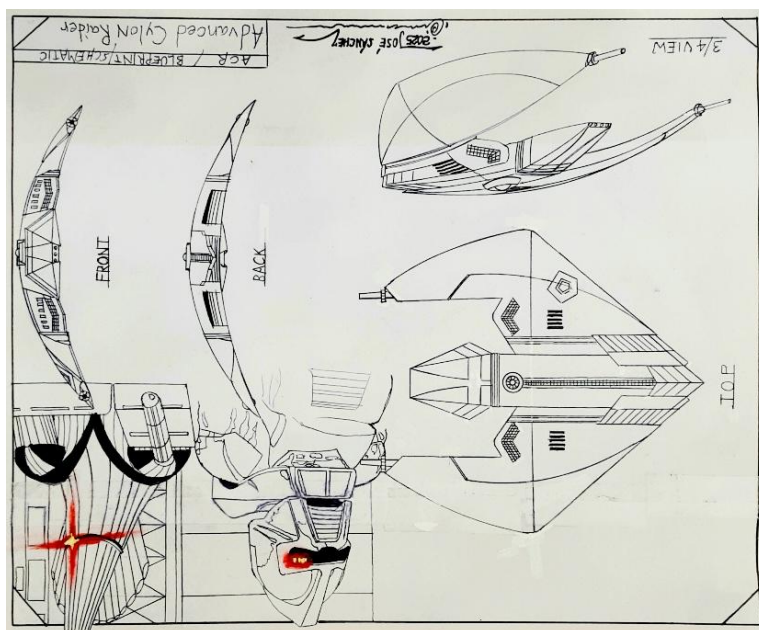
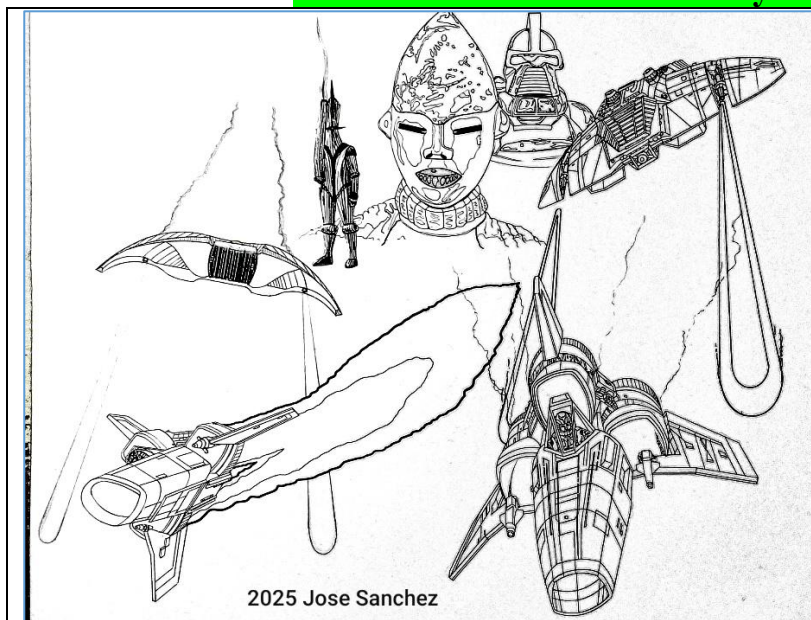
The concept of *quantum entanglement* is emblematic of the gap between classical and quantum physics. Referring to a situation in which it is impossible to describe the physics of each photon separately, this key characteristic of quantum mechanics defies the classical expectation that each particle should have a reality of its own, which gravely concerned Einstein. Understanding the potential of this concept is essential for the realization of powerful new quantum technologies.

Developing such technologies will require the ability to freely generate a multi-photon quantum entangled state, and then to efficiently identify what kind of entangled state is present. However, when performing conventional *quantum tomography*, a method commonly used for state estimation, the number of measurements required grows exponentially with the number of photons, posing a significant data collection problem.

Read on at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/09/250912195122.htm?ref=thefuturist>

SCI-FI ARTWORK Courtesy of Jose Sanchez



- SCI-FI ARTWORK Courtesy of Jose Sanchez

SPACE.COM has just created an online short story readers club that includes discussion questions.

See at:

<https://newsletter.smartbrief.com/servlet/encodeServlet?issueid=16318E85-CA5E-4DA9-9757-295D16E77210&sid=48790379-E25B-44A9-BF78-E08EB4F9D72A>

Fun from the Web

Annular solar eclipse 2026: Everything you need to know about 'ring of fire'
<https://www.space.com/stargazing/solar-eclipses/annular-solar-eclipse-2026-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-ring-of-fire>

New Study Reveals the Science Behind Exercise and Weight Loss
https://bioengineer.org/new-study-reveals-the-science-behind-exercise-and-weight-loss/?ref=thefuturist#google_vignette

AIs in Space: From partners in pioneering to the children of humanity (op-ed)
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/human-spaceflight/ais-in-space-from-partners-in-pioneering-to-the-children-of-humanity-op-ed>

AI Is Making Online Dating Even Worse
 (What happens when users are inundated with machine-generated profiles and pickup lines?)
<https://www.thecut.com/article/ai-is-making-online-dating-even-worse.html?ref=thefuturist>

Ohio Lawmaker Wants to Ban Marriage Between Humans and AI Chatbots
<https://gizmodo.com/ohio-lawmaker-wants-to-ban-marriage-between-humans-and-ai-chatbots-2000672216>

AI models that lie, cheat and plot murder: how dangerous are LLMs really?
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-03222-1?ref=thefuturist>

The largest-ever simulation of the universe has just been released
<https://www.space.com/astronomy/the-largest-ever-simulation-of-the-universe-has-just-been-released>

Is This Remote Desert Actually the World's Largest Mirror?
<https://gizmodo.com/is-this-remote-desert-actually-the-worlds-largest-mirror-2000663342?ref=thefuturist>

Chemists Crack the Ghostly Truth Behind Will-o'-the-Wisps
<https://gizmodo.com/sorry-ghost-hunters-will-o-the-wisps-are-just-electrified-swamp-farts-2000665578?ref=thefuturist>

Radical breathing technique 'Butt Breathing' confirmed safe in human trial
<https://www.thebrighterside.news/post/radical-new-breathing-technique-butt-breathing-confirmed-safe-in-human-trial/?ref=thefuturist>

Orange cats are genetically unlike any other mammal and now we know why
<https://www.zmescience.com/science/news-science/orange-cats-are-genetically-unique-indeed/?ref=thefuturist>

How a scientist's wide-eyed dream of giant space cities was crushed by reality
<https://www.space.com/astronomy/earth/how-one-scientists-wide-eyed-dream-of-giant-space-cities-was-crushed-by-reality>

Are we already witnessing space warfare in action? 'This is not just posturing'
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/satellites/are-we-already-witnessing-space-warfare-in-action-this-is-not-just-posturing>

Tech billionaires seem to be doom prepping. Should we all be worried?
<https://il.mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/65/messages/ALpuBydBJPltGg7doJuVHIFFiSY>

MOVIES/TV

The final frontier of trivia: a 'Star Trek' themed quiz
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/the-final-frontier-of-trivia-a-star-trek-themed-quiz>

'If ever there's a movie where I got everything right, it was 'Alien': How Oscar winner Roger Christian made 'Alien: Earth' feel like a classic (exclusive)
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/alien-earth-how-oscar-winning-set-designer-roger-christians-original-alien-work-lives-on-exclusive>

'Project Hail Mary': Release date, plot, cast, and everything we know about Ryan Gosling's mission to save the world

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/project-hail-mary-release-date-plot-cast-and-everything-we-know-about-ryan-goslings-mission-to-save-the-world?>

'Andromeda' at 25: An optimistic but flawed sci-fi romp cobbled together from the notes of 'Star Trek' creator Gene Roddenberry

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/andromeda-at-25-an-optimistic-but-flawed-sci-fi-romp-cobbled-together-from-the-notes-of-star-trek-creator-gene-roddenberry>

'Space: Above and Beyond': 30 years on, Fox's failed military sci-fi series is almost lost to time... and that's a shame

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/space-above-and-beyond-30-years-on-foxs-failed-military-sci-fi-series-is-almost-lost-to-time-and-thats-a-shame>

'Enemy Mine' at 40: An empathetic space adventure that still resonates strongly today

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/enemy-mine-at-40-an-empathetic-space-adventure-that-still-resonates-strongly-today>

'The Mandalorian and Grogu' trailer is very stylish, but we still have no idea what the movie is about (video)

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/the-mandalorian-and-grogu-trailer-is-very-stylish-but-we-still-have-no-idea-what-the-movie-is-about-video>

Every 'Star Wars: Visions Volume 3' episode, ranked from worst to best

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/every-star-wars-visions-volume-3-episode-ranked-from-worst-to-best>

In space, everyone can hear you scream: Why sound design was 'Alien: Earth's breakout star

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/in-space-everyone-can-hear-you-scream-why-sound-design-was-alien-earths-breakout-star>

GAMES

Upcoming Warhammer 40,000 games: Space Marine 3, Dawn of War 4, Dark Heresy & more

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/upcoming-warhammer-40-000-games-space-marine-3-dawn-of-war-4-dark-heresy-and-more>

'Fallout: New Vegas' came out 15 years ago, but there's never been a better time to return to the Mojave Wasteland

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/fallout-new-vegas-came-out-15-years-ago-but-theres-never-been-a-better-time-to-return-to-the-mojave-wasteland>

Best space strategy games, ranked

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-games/best-space-strategy-games-ranked>

BOOKS

Why obsession with aliens? Q&A with 'First Contact' author Becky Ferreira

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-books/why-is-humanity-obsessed-with-aliens-q-and-a-with-first-contact-author-becky-ferreira>

Jem Cresswell's striking whale images – in pictures

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2025/oct/03/humpback-whale-images-photographer-jem-cresswell-in-pictures>

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

Copyright © 2026 — Archives at: <http://www.kulichki.com/antimiry/cybercozen>

Also (archived issues from 2014+) at: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/CyberCozen/>

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

© כל הזכויות שמורות למחברים וליוצרים
All rights reserved to specified authors and artists
For Comments / Free PDF by email: leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com. (Tel: +972-54-537-7729)