

# ICON – October 20-22, 2024 – Prophecies



## חדשות האגודה – אוקטובר 2024 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "המחממת מרחוב קלמנט" מאת רוברט סלואן. ויתקיים ביום חמישי 31.10, בשעה 20:00, בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש. בדף האירוע בפייסבוק.

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

ירושלים: לפרטים על המפגשים הבאים של המועדון הירושלמי ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק או ליצור קשר במייל עם מרכזת המועדון בירושלים, גלי אחיטוב [sal.maple@gmail.com](mailto:sal.maple@gmail.com) ולהצטרף לקבוצת הוואטסאפ של המועדון.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1758700637764422/>

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 (#13): Some thoughts
- Our usual tidbits from the Web.

– Your editor, Leybl (Leon) Botwinik

## Special Wartime Issue #13

### Dear Readers:

378 dark and dreadful days have dragged by – we are already past the year mark, and into the 13th month of war on seven fronts (Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Judea/Samaria, and Iran)

Last month I finished this 'editorial' with the following:

p.s. look forward to next issue's connection between the Holocaust and this year's ICON theme 'Prophecies'.

So, interestingly enough – even before I saw that this year's ICON festival theme would be 'Prophecies' – I received the July 2024 issue of "Mizkar" the official publication of the "Merkaz halrgunim shel nitsuley

haShoa beYisrael" the organization dealing with the Holocaust and providing aid and support to survivors of the horrible years of Nazi terror during World War II that took place between 1939-1945.

When we study the Holocaust, we don't just look at the specific years '39-'45, but at the years leading up to, and the repercussions and consequences of the years following. In the periodical in question, a series of articles were published of known prophetic statements, newspaper articles, discussions and even a song, that predate the beginning of the actual war in 1939 and foresaw the terrible potential of the Nazi regime and their antisemitic allies. Some of them as early as 1932 with the rise of the Nazi party in Germany, and one even earlier still.

Very often, such warnings (of potentially bad things about to happen) are brushed off as 'Fantasy' or 'Science Fiction', and some of the 'reporters' are belittled or even ostracized, for 'exaggerations', etc. Back a few years ago, I published an article on LinkedIn, exactly on this subject. It was published in parallel with the May 2015 CyberCozen SPECIAL ISSUE in memory of Aharon Sheer (o"n). Entitled "**How Science Fiction Stops the Sky from Falling**" (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-science-fiction-stops-sky-from-falling-botwinik/>) – I discussed the importance of taking warnings seriously – else the worst can happen (forewarned is forearmed):

***"... some writers are really, really worth reading because of the important messages they convey. It just so happens [that] their genre is via speculative fiction [...] They present topics as diverse as moral issues involving genetic manipulation, robotics replacing humans in the work force, pollution, overpopulation, addiction to technology, woman's place in society, etc. Many of their topics are current worries and possible future headaches (or worse) ..."***

The articles in the Holocaust periodical are all in Hebrew (maybe one day they will be translated into other languages). They discuss the projections of:

- Uri Tsvi Grinberg – The poet who in 1922 foretold of Jews being gassed to death, and in 1932 in a poem, of two Jews hiding underground, believing themselves to be the last Jews alive, after a terrible Holocaust.
- Zeev Jabotinsky – As a journalist, after reporting on the 1903 Kishinev pogrom, he sent out a warning to the millions of Jews of Eastern Europe of further pogroms and danger to their lives. Years later he made a bold statement for all Jews to 'evacuate' – leave – and emigrate to the Land of Israel.
- Yehezkel Koyfman – Warned of the upcoming disaster, when Hitler was elected in 1933.
- Hugo Bettauer – Projected the exile of Austrian Jewry in 1922.
- Rabbi Abraham Avimelekh of Carlin (and other rabbis) – he forewarned about a terrible disaster approaching.
- About newspaper publications in 1934 Palestine predicting a Holocaust, with Hitler's rise to power.
- And the famous 'Holocaust' song 'Es Brent/unders shtetl Brent' (It burns / Our Village Burns) by the folks poet Mordechai Gebirtig, who was murdered by the Germans in the Krakow Ghetto, in 1942. It concerns the pre-WWII, 1936 pogrom on a Polish-Jewish shtetl (town) Przytyk, and is considered a prophetic precursor to the terrible events of the murder and destruction of East European Jewry (see: <https://yiddishsongs.org/es-brent/>).

Speculating about certain trends and sending out warnings of impending catastrophes is one of the things that SF writers do best – but as we can tell from the above examples, not everyone who analyzes situations and can put 2+2 together is a SF writer.

The message, though, that must be taken at face value – or 'NOT' taken for granted – is, that if there is a wound somewhere, an illness, or disease just cropping up – it should be taken care of immediately, and not put off for later. Had our own leadership (both Israeli and international) nipped them in the bud, many dangers to the Jewish people and Israel specifically (and to the world in general), the Oct 7<sup>th</sup> massacres and atrocities may have been prevented, or at least the damages minimized.

Leybl Botwinik, Editor

**For a copy of the Hebrew periodical mentioned in the editorial, see Issue 85:**  
<https://online.fliphtml5.com/ldukk/rqat/#p=1>

Due to the Jewish Holiday period of, basically, one holiday per week this month of October, I didn't get a chance to put together more than the above editorial and the following "Fun from the Web" – Expect more goodies next time.

## Fun from the Web

- Snatching a spinning spacecraft was 'the greatest pride' for 1st Canadian astronaut in space  
<https://www.space.com/canadian-astronaut-1st-space-artemis-2-quantum-leap>
- How Canada is preserving what remains of its iconic supersonic Avro Arrow jet  
<https://www.space.com/canada-supersonic-avro-arrow-jet-preservation>
- Could The Great Pacific Garbage Patch Be Eliminated In Five Years?  
<https://weather.com/science/environment/news/2024-09-16-great-pacific-garbage-patch-eliminated-2024>
- Gravity mapping detects large hidden structures under surface of Mars  
<https://futurism.com/the-byte/hidden-structures-under-mars-surface?ref=thefuturist>
- Butt-breathing mammals and dead fish swimming: The 2024 Ig Nobel Prize  
<https://newatlas.com/science/2024-ig-nobel-prizes/?ref=thefuturist>
- Why space archaeologists are finding more Mayan ruins than ever before (exclusive)  
<https://www.space.com/mayan-ruins-space-archaeology-more-found>
- China unveils spacesuit for moonwalking astronauts (video)  
<https://www.space.com/china-unveils-moon-landing-spacesuit-video>
- Mass extinctions on Earth can help us find alien life in the cosmos. Here's how  
<https://www.space.com/complex-alien-life-mass-extinctions>
- Could Earth's 'evil twin' Venus carry a dire warning about climate change?  
<https://www.space.com/venus-earth-greenhouse-gases-climate-change>
- 4 futuristic space technologies – and when they might happen  
<https://www.space.com/future-space-technologies-world-space-week>
- These space tech spinoffs are helping scientists fight climate change  
<https://www.space.com/how-space-technology-aids-climate-change>
- We have the satellite data to show climate change is real. Now what?  
<https://www.space.com/climate-change-satellite-data-environmental-action-fossil-fuel-burning>
- Space Force's mysterious X-37B space plane to attempt new 'aerobraking' maneuvers in orbit  
<https://www.space.com/space-force-x-37b-aerobraking-maneuvers>

## TV&MOVIES

- 'Alien: Romulus:' How VFX Supervisor Shane Mahan hatched a new nest of xenomorphs  
<https://www.space.com/alien-romulus-vfx-supervisor-interview>
- See 1st trailer for Bong Joon Ho's sci-fi comedy 'Mickey 17' starring Robert Pattinson (video)  
<https://www.space.com/mickey-17-1st-trailer-robert-pattinson>
- Official 'Star Trek' magazine ends an impressive 30-year run in December  
<https://www.space.com/official-star-trek-magazine-ends-an-impressive-30-year-run-in-december>
- 4 must-see Jupiter movies to help you prepare for NASA's Europa Clipper mission  
<https://www.space.com/4-must-see-jupiter-movies>
- The planets of 'Star Wars Outlaws' <https://www.space.com/planets-of-star-wars-outlaws>



Here are the latest updates from SpaceIL!

As our engineering mission advances toward the moon, we are also focused on developing a range of educational activities that connect the next generation with the wonders of space. Additionally, we're thrilled to unveil the new mission video for Beresheet 2!

Watch and share the new Beresheet2 mission short video.



#### Launch of the SpaceUP Program

We are excited to announce the launch of the SpaceUP educational program, which has been adopted by around 15 classrooms across the country. Targeting the mid and high school students, this program makes the field of space engineering accessible, introducing them to the challenges of space missions and scientific research.

The program features learning through videos and interactive activities, hands-on work on a real space mission, and research. The program is offered in Hebrew and Arabic, and we aim to expand the program and translate it into additional languages to engage schools and educational organizations worldwide.

#### Our work on the Beresheet2 mission continues at full speed!

The association's engineering team is working on further spacecraft development, with a focus on landing technology. We continue our efforts to raise the necessary funding to complete the Beresheet2 mission with a focus on the Government of Israel, the Knesset, partnering countries and private donors by, emphasizing the national and international, scientific, and educational importance of the mission.

#### Successful Lunar Landing Simulation for Beresheet2

We achieved another significant milestone on our journey to the Moon.

This week, our mission engineers successfully simulated the landing of Beresheet2 on the Moon using an advanced simulator developed in collaboration with Sim Dot Space, an Israeli company founded by engineers who were involved in the Beresheet1 mission.

In this simulation, Beresheet2 successfully landed on the Moon, marking a significant step in testing the spacecraft's design. The simulator replicates all phases of flight—from lunar capture to lander separation and the landing itself. The flawless landing in the simulator provided crucial insights, confirming that the lander and its control systems are well-designed and functioning properly.

As we advance toward the 2027 launch of Beresheet2, we remain committed not only to technological excellence but also to inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers in Israel.

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