

Safe Realities, Fierce Imaginings: Science Fiction, Judaism & Religious Imagination

Jan.-June & Sep.-Dec., 2017

Founded by Baltimore Science Fiction Society members 30 years ago, Congregation Beit Tikvah is the only North American synagogue ever born from a science fiction society.



We're celebrating our anniversary with a love letter to our roots in both Judaism and science fiction. We'll look at religious and philosophical ideas flowing hidden in nearly all science fiction. Using science fiction stories and films, Jewish source texts, and contemporary essays, we'll examine messiahs and improving humankind, why some people fail the Turing Test, dreams of justice and a kinder universe, God writ large and small, artificial intelligence, aliens and "otherness," time travel, conservation of human consciousness, and other themes intriguing to both SF and religious thinkers.

Our Rabbi Larry Pinsker, a lifelong science fiction fan and educator, has created a great opportunity to learn about both science fiction and Judaism, even if you have no familiarity with either.

Congregation Beit Tikvah

At the Corner Community Center

5802 Roland Avenue (at Bellemore) – Baltimore 21210

Shabbat Service, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Science Fiction & Judaism 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Register/more information: 410-464-9402 or www.beittikvah.org

Session #	Date	Topic
1	Jan 14	Ethics & Beauty in a Ruthless Universe: A Pragmatic Look at Religion, Science Fiction, & Judaism
2	Feb 11	Messiahs and the Perfection of Humankind
3	Mar 11	My God is Bigger Than Your God
FILM NIGHT	Apr 1	To Be Announced
4	Apr 8	"My Unshaped Form": Part 1 – Building a Golem
5	May 13	"My Unshaped Form": Part 2 – Care & Use of "Souls"
6	Jun 10	"What's the point of time travel?": A Talmudic View Part 1