



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Website address: [www.voicesisrael.com](http://www.voicesisrael.com)

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

### **President**

Judy Koren  
10 Costa Rica St.  
Haifa 3498130  
Mobile: 054-741-7860

[president@voicesisrael.com](mailto:president@voicesisrael.com)

### **Secretary**

Linda Suchy  
Haim Laskov 5/7  
Netanya 4265605  
Tel: 054-497-8812

[secretary@voicesisrael.com](mailto:secretary@voicesisrael.com)

### **Treasurer**

Chanita Millman  
15 Shachar St.  
Jerusalem 9626323  
Tel: 02-653-6770

[millmanm@inter.net.il](mailto:millmanm@inter.net.il)

### **Publicity Officer**

Wendy Blumfield  
19 Sd. Wingate,  
Haifa 3353307  
Tel: 04-837-6820  
Mobile: 054-524-0412

[wendyb@netvision.net.il](mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il)

### **Membership Coordinator**

Yochanan Zaquantov  
33/6 Nahum Goldman St.  
Beer Sheva 8471958  
Tel: 053-708-9140

[zaquantov@gmail.com](mailto:zaquantov@gmail.com)

### **Events Coordinator**

Elana Dorfman

[Elanado@gmail.com](mailto:Elanado@gmail.com)

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

**President's Letter**

**January Meeting Dates**

**Welcome New Member(s)**

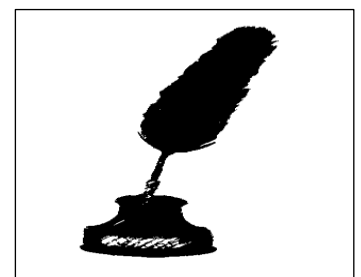
**Announcements**

**Calls for Submissions (Sent in a separate document)**

**Congratulations To Our Members!**

**Upcoming Events by Members**

To – **All January Birthdays** –  
Happy Birthday. May your day  
and year be filled with  
happiness, good health, and  
may all your happy dreams  
come true.



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Apart from our local group meetings we were in a post-Chanukah lull in December. Even the Anthology submission period, which usually starts on December 15<sup>th</sup>, was moved a month because of the extended submissions period for the Reuben Rose competition: **submissions to the Anthology will start in mid-January and run till April 15th.** Everyone take note and prepare your best poems to submit!

And in that connection: ESRA published in December two reviews of the Anthology, both very positive; but one remarked rather sadly that there were very few humorous poems – let's all of us take note! And thanks once again to our energetic Publicity Officer, Wendy Blumfield, for getting the reviews.

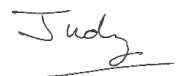
On December 13th I, as President of Voices Israel, and Dina Yehuda as Chief Editor of the Anthology, gave an invited workshop on writing poetry, via Zoom, to the ESL-teacher-training students at Givat Washington College, a teacher-training academic college near Ashdod. About 30 students (2 classes) attended, plus a few teachers, and the presentation was very well received. We gave them some basic information about Voices Israel and the Reuben Rose and Bar Sagi prizes, and then (following the request from their English department head) addressed the process of writing poetry and what inspires us, the reading and critiquing of some poems, and a writing exercise in which the students eagerly participated. These students will be teaching middle- and high-school English in a year or at most two, so we're glad to have had the opportunity for publicity! I'm hoping we can do this again next year. Many thanks to Dina for volunteering the time to prepare and give the workshop.

For our own members, we're planning another Zoom mini-workshop for the first Monday in February – see the announcement in this newsletter. Elana Dorfman will continue her series on the senses with a workshop, "Seeing is Believing," centered on the sense of sight. Because the Corona situation is ever-changing and still uncertain, we're staying with Zoom workshops though we really hope we'll be able to finally hold the Netanya residential in May. As usual, we're limiting to 25 participants, so if you'd like to attend, **please register with Elana who is also our new workshop coordinator: [elanado@gmail.com](mailto:elanado@gmail.com).**

Finally: the submission period for the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize is still open: Please everyone do remind all your family, friends and anyone with teenage children who may be interested, and direct them to the information on the Bar Sagi Prize page of our website: <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>.

Wishing all of us a successful year of poetry writing in 2022,

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## JANUARY 2022

### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 7:00 PM AT RAZYA ADAM'S 60/4 LEON BLUM HAIFA</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412 <a href="mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il">wendyb@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, JANUARY 20 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 <a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 <a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b> MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM AND IN PERSON IF VACCINATED WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12 AT 5:00-7:00PM</p> <p><b>FOR DETAILS:</b> Call 04-697-4105 or write to: <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a> for a link &amp; guidelines.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-6974105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>ASHKELON</b> CONTACT CHAIM FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Chaim Bezalel Mobile: 054-674-5900 <a href="mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com">bezalel.levy@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>NETANYA &amp; SHARON</b> MONDAY, JANUARY 24 7:00 PM AT SUSAN OLSBURGH'S 2/6 ZALMAN SHAZAR (3RD FLOOR) RAMAT POLEG</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Susan Olsburgh Tel: 074-704-2736 <a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b> CONTACT PHYLLISIE FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Phyllisie Gross Tel: 052-874-6880 <a href="mailto:phyllisie@hotmail.com">phyllisie@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>LONDON UK</b> FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ESTHER.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Esther Lipton <a href="mailto:eblipton@talk21.com">eblipton@talk21.com</a></p>
<p><b>SOUTHERN</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 5:00-7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b> MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 6:45 PM (ISRAEL TIME)</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Shoshana Kent Tel: 052 808 9365 <a href="mailto:Y2nosh@netvision.net.il">Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>USA/CANADA</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>RESERVE FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup></b> Elana Dorfman's workshop "Seeing is Believing" See announcement below.</p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

**DEADLINE APPROACHING!!! JANUARY 15, 2022**

## **The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the Third Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize Competition, 2022**

The Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize commemorates a talented young Israeli poet, Bar Sagi, who died at the age of fifteen. The competition was established by Bar's family and is administered by the Voices Israel Group of Poets in English in consultation with Prof. Anthony Joseph, Bar's grandfather.

The competition is open to Israeli school students aged 12 through 19.

**Submission dates: November 15, 2021, through January 15, 2022.**

**Cash prizes will be awarded** to three winning poems: 400 NIS first prize, 250 NIS second prize, 100 NIS third prize. One or more other poems may be awarded an Honorable Mention.

**There is no fee** for entering the competition.

### **Competition rules and submission guidelines**

- The competition is open to young poets aged 12 to 19 when the poem was written.
- Poets may use their whole name, first name, or a pseudonym. We will not publish any contact information.
- Poets submit by sending up to three poems, by email, in one file – either in the body of the email, or as an attached Word file – to [barsagivoices@gmail.com](mailto:barsagivoices@gmail.com).
- The parent or guardian's name and postal address, and the child's age when the poems were written, must be included somewhere within the document.
- Poems may be in any style and on any subject, but each must have no more than 41 lines (not including title), and they must be in English.
- Poems must be previously unpublished. The poets retain sole copyright of their poems.
- Prizes will be presented by Bar Sagi's family, and the winning poets will read their poems, at a prize-giving ceremony held by Voices Israel. This may be held separately, or together with the prize-giving for the Reuben Rose competition, Voices Israel's annual poetry competition for adults.
- The winning poems, and Honorable Mention poems if there are any, will be published in the annual Voices Israel anthology. Upon acceptance, a parent or legal guardian must sign a release allowing us to publish the poem.

For information about the competition and its winners, and PDF files of the winning poems from previous years, see <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>.

For further questions, contact Susan Bell, the administrator of the competition, at [sujubell@gmail.com](mailto:sujubell@gmail.com).

Voices Israel is a fully accredited and approved organization registered since 1993 with the Israel Organizations Authority: number 580197036.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

CATHLEEN COHEN, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

RUTH SCHREIBER, JERUSALEM, IL

## A SPECIAL OFFER FROM JOHNMICHAEL SIMON

Johnmichael Simon is offering his chapbook design services to Voices Israel members and friends.

If you would like to possess a beautifully presented and published collection of your own favorite poems, please contact Johnmichael for details of this special offer at [johnmichaelsimon@gmail.com](mailto:johnmichaelsimon@gmail.com).

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS (SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT)

## KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem “Even in America” was published in *Constellations*, <http://www.constellations-lit.com>.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose poem was chosen as a finalist in *Oprelle's* “2021 Matter” Anthology Poetry Contest.

To – **Reuven Goldfarb**, whose poem “Are the California Fires Out Yet?”, appears in the December 1, 2021, issue of the *Jewish Post & Opinion*. Reuven would be happy to send a copy of the poem and, if desired, a pdf of the newsmagazine to anyone who requests it. Reuven Goldfarb [poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com).

To – **Paul Rabinowitz**, who will be the featured reader at *Calling All Poets* at The Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory. February 4, 2022, 7-9 PM at 8 N Cherry St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

To – **Miriam Green**, whose poem “Testing for Covid” was a featured poem in *Poetica Magazine*.

To – **Isaac Cohen, who:** has two of his poems published in the October-December International Writers’ Journal; has received a congratulations certificate from the Literature World Group Ernest Hemingway for his poem “My love of nature”; and has received a certificate from Premio Internazionale D’Eccellenza “Citta del Galateo” for his poem “You’re Too Young to Die.”

To – **Carolyn Mary Kleefeld**, who was interviewed on World Poetry Café, 100.6 FM on December 16, 2021, when she read from and talked about her soon-to-be released book, *Immortal Seeds: Bearing Gold from the Abyss*, co-published by Cross-Cultural Communications and The Seventh Quarry Press. Carolyn will update us on news of the publication date.

**TO: ALL POETS:**

**PLEASE SEND ME YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. I WILL PUBLISH THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER. YOU DESERVE TO BE CONGRATULATED.**

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCING A VOICES ISRAEL ZOOM WORKSHOP: "SEEING IS BELIEVING?"

We're delighted to announce an upcoming Voices Israel Zoom mini-workshop, another in a series on Harnessing the Senses for Creative Inspiration, given by Elana Dorfman.

DESCRIPTION: Using sensory description keeps our poetry in the moment and develops a strong connection with the reader. In her continuing series about the senses, Elana will lead a workshop based on the sense of sight. We will especially explore descriptions of colors and the associations they can create. After two very short initial exercises the participants will have 15-20 minutes to write a poem based on what we discovered from the exercises. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Elana Dorfman is a writer, storyteller and social activist. She has a Master's degree in Creative writing from Bar Ilan University and has been leading creative writing workshops for the past ten years. She writes both stories and poems and is an active member of the Voices Israel Haifa group. You can hear her stories on the [Whywhywhy- True Stories from Israel](#) podcast.

PRICE: **free!** – this is Zoom, the coffee and cake are on you.

**TO ENROLL:** Elana is also our new workshop/events coordinator, so please **contact her** at [elanado@gmail.com](mailto:elanado@gmail.com).

DATE: MONDAY FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30 PM ISRAEL TIME (5:30 pm UK time, 12.30 noon US East Coast time).

EXPECTED LENGTH: 1.5 to 2 hours.

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