



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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**2021 Anthology Submissions open  
/closing 15 March 21**

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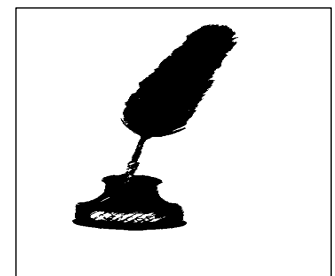
**Congratulations**

**Group Poetry Selections**

**Other Poems by Our Members**

**Poems from Overseas  
Members**

To – **All February 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,

Sadly, we note the passing this last month of our long-term member Roy Runds, after a long illness, and extend our condolences to his family. Condolences also to Yaakov Azriel, a former member and frequent contributor to the Anthology and the Reuben Rose competition, well-known to our Jerusalem group, whose mother has passed away.

COVID-19 continues to hound us – I do hope that everyone aged over 60, and all others when possible, have been vaccinated or is in the process of doing so. Apart from the clear health reasons: the more of us that are protected, the more likely we are to be able to get back to normal and hold the Netanya residential in May.

On to happier things: congratulations to Shoshana Kent, who is taking over as group coordinator of the Global Group. Thanks you Shoshana! - and many happy meetings of this group, which continues to grow.

Meanwhile it's **Early Bird membership renewal time**. Do remember to renew now and get the Early Bird reduction. The easiest way in these days of lockdown is by PayPal or online bank transfer, via the [Join or Renew Membership page](#) of our website.

We are also half-way through the **Anthology submission period**, which ends on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone who hasn't yet done so: remember to select your three best poems of the past year and send them in!

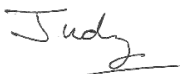
This month **we produced the e-chapbook of our last workshop**, and distributed it to participants. Many thanks to Avril Meallem for designing the beautiful cover, and to all the workshop attendees who sent in their poems for it, together with photos of the objects used as inspiration.

Yochanan, our Membership Coordinator, has analyzed **the feedback from that workshop**. Half the participants filled in the evaluation form (thank you!) and the response was overwhelmingly positive. We'll certainly take your comments into account in planning future workshops and I do urge as many attendees as possible to provide feedback after each workshop, in order to give us a broader view of how to optimize them. (If anyone who attended would like to see the analysis, just email Yochanan and ask for the pdf file).

Looking ahead: we have **another workshop**, with the intriguing title of "Harnessing the Senses for Creative Inspiration" scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>. **The announcement and full details are in this newsletter; please register with Linda to attend**. As usual, places are limited so don't leave it till the last minute!

**Calls for Submission notices:** of late our secretary Linda has been getting notices with close deadlines, and in January put out a supplemental mid-month list. We *may* continue to do this, depending on how many are received. Please note that we will not put out email blasts about *single* events or calls for submission, nor more than one extra list between newsletters: so anything received after the mid-month list (if it's issued) waits till the next newsletter. Do please take these dates into consideration when deciding whether it's worth sending Linda a notice.

With hopes for a better, less locked-down February,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2021

### ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT 8:00 PM</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, FEBRUARY 25 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 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 6:00 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 ZOOM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 5-7 PM GUESTS WELCOME 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> MEETING VIA ZOOM 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> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:00 PM</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> MEETING VIA ZOOM CONTACT PHYLLSIE FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Phyllsie Gross Tel: 052-874-6880 <a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@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 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 5:00-6:45 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, MARCH 8 DETAILS AND REGISTRATION TO FOLLOW IN THIS NEWSLETTER</p>	<p><b>USA/CANADA</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 8:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Shoshana Kent Tel: 052 808 9365 <a href="mailto:Y2nosh@netvision.net.il">Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</a></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize Competition, 2021

**CLOSING DATE EXTENDED**

**SUBMISSION PERIOD IN PROCESS – CLOSING FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

The Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize competition 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.

The 2021 competition is open to Israeli school students, and this year we are also opening it to students from schools outside Israel.

**Submission dates:** November 15, 2020 through February 28, 2021.

**Cash prizes will be awarded** to three winning poems: 600 NIS first prize, 400 NIS second prize, 200 NIS third prize – or the equivalent in the winner's local currency. 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.
- There is no submission fee.
- 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 mailing 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, but including stanza breaks), 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. The winning poets will read their poems at a prize-giving ceremony held by Voices Israel. This is held in conjunction with the Voices Israel adult's prize in the Reuben Rose competition.
- The winning poems and honorable mention poems 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 further questions, contact Susan Bell, the administrator of the competition, at [sujubell@gmail.com](mailto:sujubell@gmail.com)

For information about the 2020 competition and its winners, and a PDF file of the 2020 winning poems, see <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>.

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

## VOICES ISRAEL 2021 ANTHOLOGY – REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS

### **THE SUBMISSION PERIOD IS NOW OPEN. PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.**

The submission period for the 2021 Anthology opened on December 15 and will end on March 15, 2021. Submissions are accepted from Voices members and non-members alike. There is no fee for submitting poems to the Anthology. Paid up members of Voices Israel will receive a copy of the anthology once it comes out, whether they are published or not, shipping fees included. Non-members may order copies for NIS50 (US\$ 25) each shipping inclusive.

Copyright for individual poems is retained by the author of each poem. Copyright for the Anthology belongs to Voices Israel Group of Poets in English.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

Poems must be submitted using the Voices Israel Online Submission Manager, powered by Submittable. *This is the only way to submit your poems.* Email submissions to any of our team will not be considered.

As of last year, we have streamlined and partially automated the submission and judging procedure. Therefore, even if you are a long-time contributor, you **MUST** read the full Guidelines at the top of the submission form on the Submittable page.

Submit a maximum of 3 poems on any subject. Poems should not exceed 40 lines including stanza breaks but not including title.

Important! Please note that *poems must be submitted one by one on Submittable, each poem in a separate submission.* Please *do not try to submit 2 or 3 poems at once.*

Poems *must* be submitted by typing or copying them into the space provided in the online form. We no longer accept uploaded files.

Poems should be previously unpublished. However, poems that have been included in the monthly Voices Israel Poetry Page attached to the newsletter or were written at Voices workshops and published in the resulting chapbook of the workshop and/or on the Voices website are acceptable.

Translations of living poets' poems are acceptable as long as the translations have not been previously published. The translator must have the permission of the poet if it is not the same person.

Fancy or unconventional formatting is not encouraged.

Judging is anonymous and the poems will be forwarded to the editorial board without names. No revisions of poems will be accepted after submission!

#### **TO SUBMIT:**

Go to the Voices Israel website: [www.voicesisrael.com](http://www.voicesisrael.com).  
From the Anthology menu choose Submitting to the Anthology.  
At the bottom of that page is the Submit button.

After reading the guidelines on that page, please click the Submit button to go to the Voices Israel Submittable page and start the submissions process.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## SECOND VOICES ISRAEL ZOOM WORKSHOP:

### *HARNESSING THE SENSES FOR CREATIVE INSPIRATION*

We're delighted to announce our next Zoom workshop, presented by Voices Israel member Elana Dorfman. It's a workshop that Elana has given previously to others, and we've received glowing recommendations of it from previous participants.

Those of our members who write stories as well as poetry: note that this workshop allows you, for a change, to choose to write either in poetry or prose form.

To ensure useful discussion, the maximum number of participants is 25 (as for face-to-face workshops) so if the subject interests you, hurry to enroll!

DATE: MONDAY MARCH 8TH 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.

TOPIC: HARNESSING THE SENSES FOR CREATIVE INSPIRATION

DESCRIPTION: The goal of the workshop is to stimulate our sensory memory in general, and the sense of smell in particular, as inspiration for creative writing. The method that we will use will be to create a free flow of writing that will develop our imaginations, spark memories and get us in touch with our subconscious imagery. In the workshop, we will create uniquely personal, raw material that could later be turned into a poem or essay.

**PRESENTER: Elana Dorfman, Haifa Group.**

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 nine 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: please contact Linda at [secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com)

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TIME TO PAY DUES!!

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT CLOSES MARCH 31, 2021.

FOR INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYMENT:

<https://www.voicesisrael.com/join-us-or-renew-membership>

## IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

The member that made a direct deposit of Nis 200 on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 should please contact Chanita Millman at [millmanm@smile.net.il](mailto:millmanm@smile.net.il)

## WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Katherine Burkman, Ohio, USA



## CONDOLENCES

To Yaakov Azriel, a former member of Voices Israel, on the passing of his mother, Anita Rosenkrantz, z"l, whose funeral was in the States.

## 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).

## CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

#### FORMAL ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE POETRY

Our next Formal Elements in English Language Poetry resumes on Wednesday, February 17, starting at 5 pm. We will be delving into Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear and Edward Fitzgerald, the translator of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam."

[poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com) or 04-697-4105.

### FROM DR. STEVEN KLEIN

I am excited to announce the second edition of my online speaker series featuring representatives from 12 different non-Jewish communities in Israel. If you didn't know there were that many, well now you do! This is a unique opportunity for people of all ages who are curious to learn about other cultures and identities and/or generally interested in Israeli society. The first lecture, Feb. 28 at 7pm Israel time on Zoom, will be free. Early Bird registration runs through January 31. Please spread the word, I'm looking forward to it!

Register at [www.stevkleinteachingonline.com](http://www.stevkleinteachingonline.com)

**If you mention Voices Israel, you will receive a 10% discount!!**

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

*Poetica Magazine Contemporary Jewish Writing* has announced that it is now open for submissions to a new eEdition. No fee to submit! Open edition - No deadline! Selected works will be included in a special print edition publication TBD. <https://www.poeticamagazine.com/>

The 2021 Nimrod Literary Awards, The Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction and The Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry, are now open, with a deadline of April 1st. **The Awards offer first prizes of \$2,000 and publication and second prizes of \$1,000 and publication, and winners will also take part in a Virtual Awards Ceremony and Reading with our final judges in October 2021. This year's final judges are Rilla Askew (fiction) and Geoffrey Davis (poetry).** PLEASE NOTE THE RULES at the link [here](#). Only submitters who live in the U.S. by October of 2021 are allowed to enter the contest.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

**Deronda Review** is still open for submissions for its next issue. There are two themes. First, "numbers", in whatever sense. (Hint: "numbers" used to be a synonym for "verse"!) Second, "the poem and its story." To understand "The Poem and its story", it is advisable for poets to go into the web-site [Deronda Review](#). Submissions in Israel should be sent to Mindy Aber Barad Golembo at [maber4kids@gmail.com](mailto:maber4kids@gmail.com).

Aesthetica has announced their 2021 Creative Writing Award for Poetry and/or Fiction. The closing date is 31 August 2021. [Aesthetica 2021 Creative Writing Award](#)

Winning Writers, the 2021 Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest is now [open for entries](#). **We are doubling the top prize to \$2,000 and the second prize to \$500.** Our co-sponsor [Duotrope](#) will give the winner a two-year gift certificate (a \$100 value) to go with their \$2,000 prize. As always, this contest has no fee. Deadline April 1, 2021.

Winning Writers has sent notice of various contests being offered by their companion publication, Funds for Writers. See link [here](#).

Mslexia (the magazine for women who write) is calling for submissions to their June 2021 edition of the magazine, closing date 12 April 2021. There is a contest for themed poetry and prose. See their magazine for details at [mslexia.co.uk](http://mslexia.co.uk).

Consequence is an international literary magazine published annually, focusing on the culture and consequences of war. They are an independent, non-profit magazine and a charitable organization. There is no fee for submission. Read all about them at [www.consequencemagazine.org/](http://www.consequencemagazine.org/).

## CONGRATULATIONS

To – **Diane Ray**, whose poem "Capitol Offense" has been published by Indolent Books in their section, *Transition: Poems in the Afterglow* on January 7, 2021. See "[Capitol Offense](#)".

## CONGRATULATIONS

To – **Wendy Blumfield**, whose review of A. B. Yehoshua's new novel, [The Tunnel](#), has been published in *The Jerusalem Report*.

To – **John Gallas**, whose new book, [The Gnawing Flood](#), has been published by Cerasus Poetry. "Winner of the Bronze Medal Award in the 2020 Cerasus Poetry Olympics. A brave and exciting collection of 28 anti-colonial poetry-prints." See [here](#). Mr. Gallas also has written a teaching piece [that you can access here](#). It is part of an Online Exhibition at John Rylands Library Manchester: creative process of making of one of Me Pomes.

To – **Paul Rabinowitz**, who sent us the following updates: I am humbled to send off 35 signed books to St. Elizabeth University for their spring semester as [The Clay Urn](#) will be required reading for Integrated Literacy II, Critical Reading, and Literature & Cultural Context. Huge thanks to Lynne McEniry.

We had the premiere of our dance film [Villa Dei Misteri](#). We are submitting the short film to festivals so we cannot make it public. However, if you'd like a private viewing send me an [email](#) and Georgia Osborne and I will make it happen.

Pete's Candy Store, Brooklyn, NY was the set for last week's 'open mic' and film shoot for the Poetry film, "[Little Gem Magnolia](#)" based on my short story. Filmed by Kathleen Kelly with original score by Jordan Rabinowitz and Thomas Mariano. To be released June, 2021.

## APOLOGIES/CORRECTION

To – **ELLEN JAFFE** who was incorrectly listed in January's newsletter as being from the USA. Ellen is Canadian!

Contributions published in this Voices Israel newsletter and files linked to it, including in our workshop chapbooks, are the sole copyright of the contributors themselves.

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