



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

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### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

#### **President's Letter**

**February Meeting Dates (See Save the Date in bottom right corner)**

#### **Announcements:**

#### **Iawe Announcements**

**Calls for Submissions in this newsletter**

**Congratulations To Our Members!**

#### **Group Poetry Selections**

**Other Poems by Our Members**  
*(for members who are unable to be part of a Voices group)*

#### **Poems from Overseas**

**Members ☹️ Didn't receive any!**

**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,

We're a month into the Early Bird period for renewing membership: to ensure you get your discount, visit the Join Us or Renew Membership page of our website (<https://www.voicesisrael.com/join-us-or-renew-membership>) and renew by bank transfer, PayPal or cheque: full instructions are on that page.

This is a month of good news and bad news. The bad news: I regret to have to report the demise of our Ashkelon group, which dwindled down to just two members, its coordinators Chaim and Yonah Bezael; after many efforts Chaim has finally given up trying to revive the group.

The good news: we have just heard the results of the 2021 Reuben Rose competition – congratulations to all winners and Honourable Mention recipients! Warm thanks as always to Mark Levinson, our tireless RR administrator, and many thanks also to our 3 judges, Ricky Friesem – the 2020 First Prize winner; Jane Seitel – the 2020 Second Prize winner, and Prof. David Caplan, the 2021 Overseas Judge.

And we have a busy half-year ahead of us:

Anthology submissions started in mid-January and run until April 14th – right before Pesach. Now that we've announced the results of the Reuben Rose Competition, we can all turn around and submit to the anthology up to three poems that didn't win a prize or Honourable Mention.

Last reminder: Elana Dorfman's workshop "Seeing is Believing," a continuation of her Poetry of the Senses series, will take place on February 7<sup>th</sup>. As usual, registration has been brisk and **this workshop is now full**.

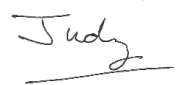
Looking beyond the coming month: we'll be holding the AGM at the end of March as usual, followed by an Open Mic. The date is set for Tuesday March 29<sup>th</sup>, in Tel Aviv – Phella Hirschson's daughter-in-law, Jeannie Harrison, has very kindly offered her apartment for the venue. If at the last minute we can't hold a face-to-face event, we'll just revert to Zoom. Exact details and a request for registration will be in the next newsletter.

The submission period for the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize closes on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please everyone do remind your family, friends and anyone with teenage children who may be interested, and direct them to the Bar Sagi Prize page of our website: <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>. Susan Bell, our Bar Sagi Prize administrator, tells me that results could be announced before Pesach. We'll probably hold its awards event together with that for the Reuben Rose Competition, by Zoom, early in May.

Finally, we're looking forward to holding the 2022 Netanya residential workshop, hopefully at the end of May. **If you have an idea for a workshop session for it, please, again, email me as above.**

Details of all these upcoming events will be published, of course, in forthcoming newsletters

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2022

### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:00 PM ZOOM OR IN PERSON TO BE DECIDED – CONTACT WENDY NEARER THE DATE</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 24 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 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 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, FEBRUARY 9 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> GROUP DISBANDED</p>	<p><b>NETANYA/SHARON</b> MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 7:00 PM ZOOM, OR IF POSSIBLE, 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 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 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17 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, FEBRUARY 23 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>IAWE EVENT</b> REGISTRATION HAS OPENED AND CAN BE ACCESSED <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH AT 8:00PM (ISRAEL), 1:00PM (EST) ON ZOOM</b></p>	<p><b>SAVE THE DATE</b> March 29 for 2022 AGM Detailed information to follow.</p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ATTENTION - IMPORTANT

**VOICES ISRAEL 2022 DUES:** Take advantage of a **special offer** of only **100 shekels (US\$35)** if paid until March 31, 2022. After March 31, dues will be **120 shekels (US\$40)**. Although we prefer payment by **bank transfer or via PayPal**, you may still send a cheque as in the past. For detailed instructions, see, <https://www.voicesisrael.com/join-us-or-renew-membership>.

*If paying by check*, please make it out to Voices Israel and send it with your completed application form to:  
Chanita Millman,  
15, Shachar St.,  
Beit Hakerem,  
9626323 Jerusalem,  
ISRAEL.

*If paying by bank transfer or PayPal:* our bank account information is:  
Bank Discount - bank No.11, Branch 159.  
Account Number: 6624199 in the name of Kolot Israel (our name in Hebrew: Kolot means Voices).

In this case, please send in the application form by email to Chanita ([millmanm@zahav.net.il](mailto:millmanm@zahav.net.il)) and let her know that payment has been made by bank transfer or PayPal, so that she can check it has actually arrived and match it up with your application.

## IAWE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SAVE THE DATE

**From Michael Kagen:** We are very fortunate and honored to announce a very special evening with the former New York State poet laureate and a shining light to us all - Alicia Ostriker - who will be in conversation with Prof. Karen Alkalay-Gut chairperson of the IAWE.

Registration has opened and can be accessed [here](#).

**Wednesday, February 16th at 8:00pm (Israel), 1:00pm (EST) ON ZOOM**

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## 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 March 31, 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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### 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 SUBMISSION

**From Winning Writers:** [THE DREAMQUESTONE POETRY & WRITING CONTEST - WINTER 2021 - 2022](https://www.dreamquestone.com/contests/winter-2021-2022) is open to anyone who enjoys expressing innermost thoughts and feelings into the beautiful literary art of poetry and/or writing a story that is worth telling everyone. **Guidelines:** (1) Write a poem, 30 lines or fewer on any subject, form, or style. And/or (2) Write a short story, 5 pages maximum length, single or double line spacing, on any subject or theme. Genres include fiction, nonfiction, and creative nonfiction (including essay compositions, diary, journal entries, stage plays, and screenwriting). Multiple and simultaneous entries are accepted. **Prizes:** Writing First Prize is \$500; Second: \$250; Third: \$100. Poetry First Prize: \$250; Second: \$125; Third: \$50. **Entry fees:** \$5 per poem/\$10 per story **plus \$2 transaction fee per poem/story if entering online.** **Postmark deadline: March 31, 2022.** **How to enter,** [visit https://www.dreamquestone.com](https://www.dreamquestone.com)

**Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's** – They have several themed anthologies they want true stories **and poetry** for, all with deadlines in 2022. One of these is 'Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's'. Their guidelines say, "We want to hear about your holiday memories and traditions. The rituals of the holiday season give a rhythm to the years and create a foundation for our lives, as we gather with family, with our communities at church, at school, and even at the mall, to share the special spirit of the season, brightening those long winter days. Please share your special stories about the holiday season with us." Stories have to be 'Santa-safe'. Some suggested topics are: The True Meaning of the Holidays; Holiday Traditions; Family Reunions; Holiday Humor; Things that went wrong!; Holiday food and traditions; Funny anecdotes. **Deadline: 30 May 2022** for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hannukah and New Year's Details <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/possible-book-topics> (book topics and guidelines), <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines> (general guidelines), and <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story> (submission portal).

**Winning Writers** has announced their 21<sup>st</sup> annual Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest. The contest will once again offer \$3,500 in prizes, with a first prize of \$2,000 and a second prize of \$500. The top 12 poems will be published online. The winner will also receive a two-year gift certificate from our co-sponsor, Duotrope (a \$100 value). There's no fee to enter. Jendi Reiter will judge, assisted by Lauren Singer. This contest welcomes published and unpublished work. Your poem may have up to 250 lines. One poem only, please. **Submit online by April 1.**

**Oprelle.com** is calling for poetry submissions to their "Into Pieces" poetry contest (**deadline: March 1**). "There are untold stories within each of us...of the things that shatter us into pieces. Is there something heavy that you carry? Have you been broken, changed, and re-shaped into the person you are now?" Enter your 1-20 line poem today at Oprelle.com. See guidelines at <https://oprelle.com/pages/into-pieces-poetry-contest-rules-and-regulations>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

**To – Judy Koren**, whose poem “Sounds of a wet Morning” appeared on January 6<sup>th</sup> in the webzine Grand Little Things, and whose previously published poem “Tel Shikmona” is being re-published by the Society of Classical Poets on the home page of their website starting January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**To – Michael E. Stone**, who has translated to English from Armenian, the book “The Genesis Commentary by Step’anos of Siwnik’ (DUB.). Michael has published a series of translations from Armenian to English.

**To – Esther Lipton (UK)**, who has written an article about Voices Israel that appeared in KOL KENTON, the local shul magazine. It is a lovely article, and we hope that we will gather in more members for the UK division of Voices Israel.

**To – Michael E. Stone**, who has a newly published book of English translations of Mediaeval Armenian Poems.

**To – Pesach Rotem**, whose poems “The Stream of Consciousness” and “Ripple” were published in *The Lake* at [www.thelakepoetry.co.uk/poetry/pesach-rotem/](http://www.thelakepoetry.co.uk/poetry/pesach-rotem/), and whose poem “On ‘Poetry Readings’” was published in *Spillwords* at <https://spillwords.com/on-poetry-readings/>.

**To – Helen Bar Lev**, who has two poems shortlisted in Oprelle’s “Coming Home” contest: one is “Early June in Metulla” the other is “1959 September.”

**To – Hannah Moshe**, whose poem “Bunny” was published in *Prosopis* vol XIV, no 1, 2021.

**To – Susan Olsburgh**, whose poem “Hinterland” was published in the December 2021 issue of *ESRA Magazine*.

**To – Rumi Morkin** (aka Miriam Webber) who will have two poems published in the March 2022 issue of *Lighten Up Online*, a digital quarterly webzine.

**I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ALL MEMBERS to let me know if you have any of your work being published in the 2022 issue of the Deronda Review. I do not have access to that information and would love to mention you in the newsletter.**

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