



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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February 5-6



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

January has been another quiet month for Voices Israel – one of those interim months where events are ongoing rather than starting or stopping. The most notable event of the month occurred right at its very end: our Reuben Rose Competition administrator, Mark Levinson, has just announced the winners of prizes and Honorable Mentions of the 2022 competition. Congratulations to them all! Everyone who entered the competition has been informed of the results, and we'll put out an email blast to all our members in the very near future. We hope that during February we'll be able to post a PDF of the full texts of the winning poems up on the website, as usual.

Meanwhile the submission period for the Voices Israel Anthology continues until March 15th, so you're all warmly invited to submit poems which didn't manage to place in the Reuben Rose Competition, and any other good poems you'd like to share with us (up to three poems in all), for publication in the Anthology. Remember that the *only* way to submit is online via Submittable – by clicking the Submit button at the bottom of the "Submitting To The Anthology" page of our website (<https://www.voicesisrael.com/submitting-to-the-anthology>). And do please read the submission guidelines, especially regarding maximum length of poems!

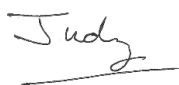
Our Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize competition is also still accepting submissions, until the end of February. Please keep advertising this competition: if you know any English teachers – your children's or grandchildren's; former or current colleagues; friends – do suggest it to them. Our announcement and the guidelines can be downloaded from the Voices Israel website (<https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>).

And finally, during January we produced and printed the chapbook from our last workshop, held in Haifa in late November, and I've sent copies to everyone who ordered them. There are still a few left for sale if any of our members are interested, at the subsidized member price of 20 NIS (plus 5 NIS for postage if mailed to you).

Looking ahead: our next national meeting will be the Annual General Meeting which I hope we'll hold in person (not via zoom) towards the end of March or in early April; and after that, the joint prizegiving ceremony for the Reuben Rose and Bar Sagi Prize competitions. Since the 13 top Reuben Rose poems come from many poets abroad as well as in Israel, this latter event will most probably be held via Zoom, as it has for the past few years. Exact dates are still to be arranged.

And as always: our Workshop Coordinator, Elana Dorfman, is always happy to hear of ideas for new workshops. If you have a subject that you think would interest other members, or one that you'd like to hear a presentation on yourself – or if your local group has an idea for a workshop that it could organize – just get in touch with Elana at [elanado@gmail.com](mailto:elanado@gmail.com).

Meanwhile: happy Muse-ing!



Judy Koren,

President, Voices Israel

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<b>SOUTHERN</b>  Meeting via Zoom Thursday, February 23 at 17:00 – 19:00           Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640  <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a>	<b>TEL AVIV</b>  Meeting via Zoom Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 PM           Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438  <a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a>	<b>JERUSALEM</b>  Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 PM           Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998  <a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a>	<b>WESTERN GALILEE</b>  No meetings scheduled. Contact Phyllsie for details.           Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Mobile: 052-874-6880  <a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a>
<b>HAIFA</b>  Wednesday, February 8 at 19:00 at the home of Elana Dorfman   Contact Debbie Golden for details           Coordinator: Debbie Golden Mobile: 054-580-6209  <a href="mailto:deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il">deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il</a>	<b>NETANYA/SHARON</b>  Monday, 27 February at 19:00 at Susan Olsburgh's home   2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg           Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575  <a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a>	<b>UPPER GALILEE</b>  Wednesday, February 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the home of Reuven and Yehudit.   128 Keren HaYesod Artists Quarter, Tzfat           Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262  <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a>	<b>GLOBAL GROUP</b>  Meeting via Zoom Thursday, February 16 at 19:00 Israel time           Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365  <a href="mailto:Y2nosh@netvision.net.il">Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</a>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## IN MEMORIAM: MICHAEL GREENBERG

We are sorry to report that Michael Greenberg has passed away. Michael was active in Voices Israel until the end, and even participated in the December 2022 meeting of the Tel Aviv chapter via Zoom from his hospital bed.

Here is one of Michael's poems.

### July 2020

July, and yet there are clouds  
that move so slowly  
they seem, at times, to be still,  
at times, translucent.  
Last night, there were colors in the sky:  
the moon, not quite crescent, yet not  
half, was a yellow-orange.  
A cloud-like mist passed over.

We, too, shall pass, Lady and I.  
Lady, with her white coat and big brown spots,  
her black and brown ears, her black and brown snout,  
tinged by the white of her years.  
I, as the poet said, am multi-colored,  
pink and tan, white and pale.  
What colors are my veins seen through skin?  
How shall I name them?

My heart was cut open while I slept.  
Have you seen the bluish-gray of an umbilical cord  
or the deep, deep red of the placenta  
so unlike the crimson of blood,  
or the viridian green of trees in Norway  
on a drizzly April afternoon?  
How many colors make a man, a child, or a leaf  
in every passing season?

What are the colors of time?

**Michael Greenberg**

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP – EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

It's that time again! Renew your membership in Voices Israel for 2023 **now** to catch the Early Bird discount and ensure that you get all the perks of membership:

- the Voices Israel monthly newsletter,
- a free copy of the annual Voices Israel Anthology,
- the right to participate in our monthly meetings, workshops, readings, and other activities,
- the satisfaction of contributing to the advancement of English-language culture in Israel and abroad!

### Catch the Early-Bird Special

Our regular membership fee is 120 NIS for Israeli residents or US\$40 for overseas members.  
Pay by March 31 and get the Voices Early-Bird Special: 100 NIS or US\$35!

### Three Ways to Pay

Membership dues may be paid by bank transfer, check, or PayPal.

#### To pay by bank transfer:

Name of the payee: Voices Israel *קולות ישראל* or

Bank: Bank Discount – bank no. 11

Branch: 159

Account Number: 6624199

After completing the transfer, please notify our treasurer Chanita at [millmanm@inter.net.il](mailto:millmanm@inter.net.il)

#### To pay by check:

Make the check out to Voices Israel and mail it to our treasurer:

Chanita Millman,

15 Shachar Street

Beit Hakerem

9626323 Jerusalem

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#### To pay by PayPal:

Please go to our webpage [www.voicesisrael.com/join-us-or-renew-membership](http://www.voicesisrael.com/join-us-or-renew-membership)

and click on the appropriate PayPal “Buy Now” button.

**Whichever way you choose to pay**, please know that your continued support of Voices Israel is sincerely appreciated.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Voices Israel is pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new member:

– **Gabriel Emanuel Wiseman**, Had Nes, Israel

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose story “Bryant Avenue” was published in *ESRA Magazine* at

<https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/bryant-avenue-1.html>

To – **Wendy Blumfield**, whose essay “Don't Throw Me Under the Bus” was published in *ESRA Magazine* at

<https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/don-t-throw-me-under-the-bus.html>.

To – **Isaac Cohen**, who was awarded a World Literary Prize named after Rahim Karim (Karimov) by the Rahim Karim World Literature Foundation, **and** who had a poem published in *World Contemporary Poets*, Vol. 1 ([www.prodigylife.net/products/world-contemporary-poets-vol-1-shikdar-mohammed-kibriah-bangladesh](http://www.prodigylife.net/products/world-contemporary-poets-vol-1-shikdar-mohammed-kibriah-bangladesh)).

To – **Ira Director**, who had eleven poems published in 2022:

– three poems in *Mediterranean Poetry*: [www.odyssey.pm/contributors/ira-director/](http://www.odyssey.pm/contributors/ira-director/)

– six poems in *The BeZine*: <https://thebezine.com/?s=ira+director>

– one poem in *Paddler Press*: <https://paddlerpress.ca/issues-trip-log/>

– and one poem, “Food Court,” in the *2022 Voices Israel Anthology*.

To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem “The Putz Who Saved American Democracy” was published in

*Mobius: The Journal of Social Change* at <https://mobiusmagazine.com/poetry/putzwhos.html>.





# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY IN ESRA MAGAZINE

The January 2023 issue of *ESRA Magazine* carries a highly favorable review of the 2022 Voices Israel Anthology by Morton Leibowitz. The review gives special individual praise to “My First Friend” by Judith Feinberg, “Undeliverable” by Ricky Rappaport Friesem, and “Soup Tureen” by Joyce Serlin, and then concludes with an overview of the anthology as a whole: “So yes, what makes this anthology so special is the shared cultural heritage, shared temporal background and the easy flow of the writing. Highly recommended.” Read the whole review at

<https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/voices-israel-anthology-2022-volume-48.html>.

## SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2023 VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY

The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English publishes an annual anthology of poetry. Submissions to the 2023 edition of the anthology — Volume 49 — are now open and will remain open until March 14, 2023. This volume will be prepared under the supervision of editor-in-chief Dina Jehuda and editors Eli Ben-Joseph, Wendy Blumfield, and Elana Dorfman. Everybody — Voices members and non-members alike — may submit up to three poems for consideration. Poems may be on any topic, but may not exceed 41 lines including stanza breaks. There is no fee for submitting. Full guidelines may be found on our website at [www.voicesisrael.com/submitting-to-the-anthology](http://www.voicesisrael.com/submitting-to-the-anthology).

## AN EVENING WITH JONATHAN WILSON

I A W E

Israel Association of Writers in English  
Is pleased to invite you to



Photo credit: © Sharon Kaitz

### An International Zoom Event with Jonathan Wilson

hosted by Karen Alkalay-Gut

Thursday, February 23, 2023

7:30 pm Israel time

JONATHAN WILSON is the author of eight books: the novels *The Red Balcony*, *The Hiding Room* (a finalist for the Jewish Quarterly-Wingate Prize) and *A Palestine Affair* (a *New York Times* Notable Book and National Jewish Book Award finalist); two short story collections, *Schoom* and *An Ambulance Is on the Way*; two critical studies of the fiction of Saul Bellow; and the soccer memoir *Kick and Run*. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *Best American Short Stories*, among other publications.

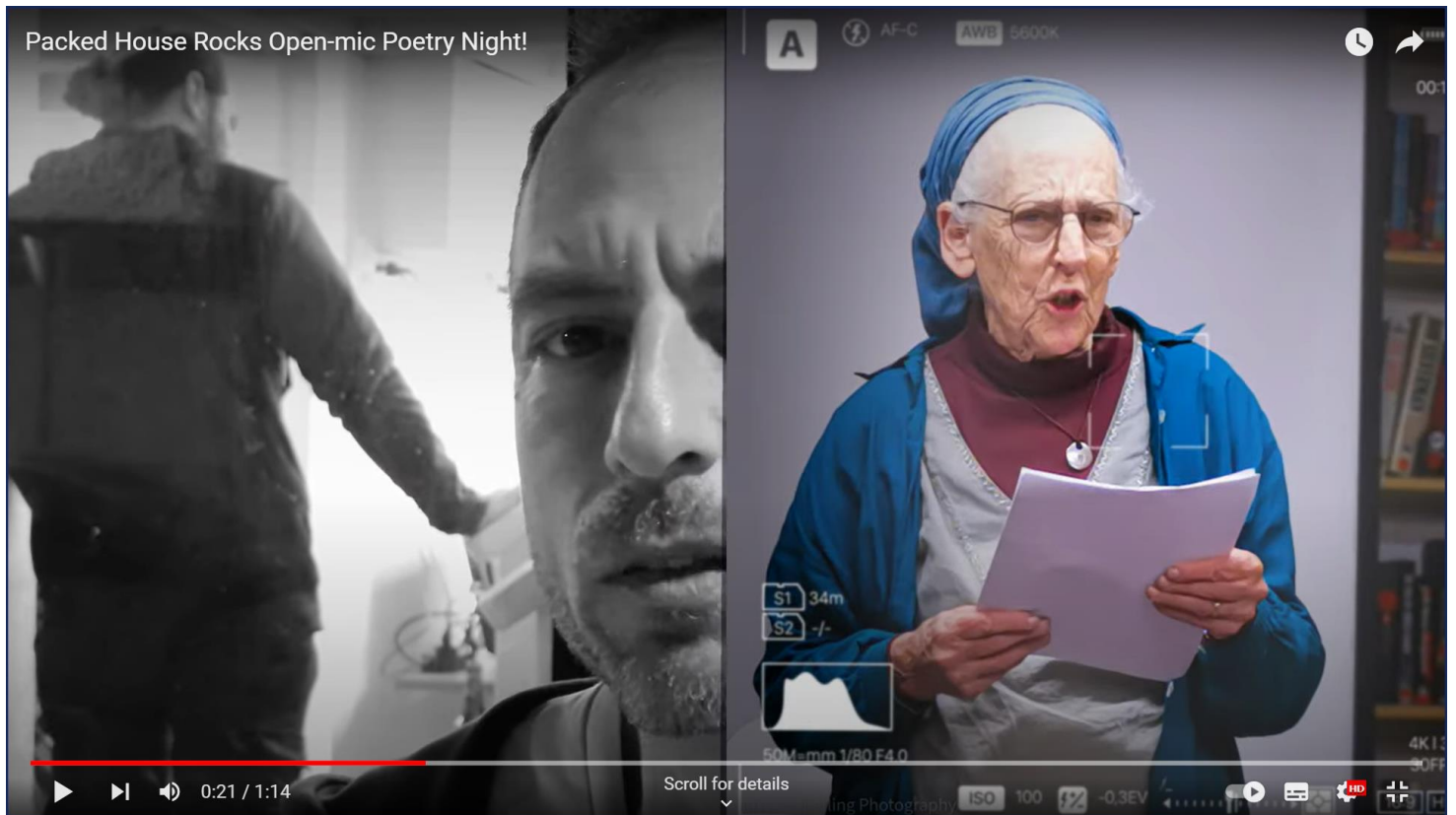
To register, please click here and you will receive a link to the Zoom room before the event.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdM7fAUVWo-vxt6UiiGQ2SksFRQxmoFOHEM0ujC23LofaGaw/viewform>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## POETRY NIGHT IN TZFAT – ROUND 1

A packed standing-room-only crowd enjoyed a raucous evening of poetry at the Geiger English Library in Tzfat on January 16. The event was hosted by Australian performance poet Yoram Symons and featured more than a dozen poets including Voices Israel members Ann Bar-Dov, Miriam Botzer, Reuven Goldfarb, Yehudit Goldfarb, and Pesach Rotem. Catch a brief but colorful overview of the event at <https://youtu.be/5Oe72D7B0rg>.



## POETRY NIGHT IN TZFAT – ROUND 2

So successful the first time, and thanks to popular demand — they're doing it again!

Open-Mic Poetry Night II

Tuesday, February 7, from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Edyth Geiger English Library, Jerusalem St. 38, Safed, Israel.

For more information, and to register as either a participant or a spectator, go to

[www.geigerlibrary.org/event-details/open-mic-poetry-night-ii](http://www.geigerlibrary.org/event-details/open-mic-poetry-night-ii).



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## THE BAR SAGI YOUNG POETS PRIZE

**Deadline is the end of this month!**

Bar Sagi was a young Israeli poet who wrote in English. Born in Rehovot in 2001, she lived from age five to eleven with her parents in the United States and English became her preferred language. Sadly, on her return to Israel she was diagnosed with bone cancer, and after putting up a courageous and protracted battle, finally succumbed in 2017 after over four years, before reaching her sixteenth birthday.

During these last years, Bar wrote 25 poems which documented her journey with illness and hope and her remarkable life force. These poems, written in her own hand-illustrated book entitled "See Me Soar and Spread My Wings," reflect her many-sided character and unusually mature understanding. The publishing house Gvanim has published them in a book, illustrated with original water-colourings mostly by Ellie Makar-Limanov with others by Anna Melnikov (available from Steimatsky). In addition, the Israeli Education Ministry has selected six of them to be taught in Israeli schools: these can be freely viewed and the file downloaded at

[https://meyda.education.gov.il/files/Pop/0files/english/Chativat-Beynayim/Selected\\_Poems\\_of\\_Bar\\_Sagi.pdf](https://meyda.education.gov.il/files/Pop/0files/english/Chativat-Beynayim/Selected_Poems_of_Bar_Sagi.pdf).

Bar's family decided to endow a prize in her name, to preserve her memory and to encourage other young poets. Voices Israel is delighted to partner with them in this initiative, and to help encourage the voices of the young in Israel.

**The competition is open to Israelis aged 12 to 19 when the poem was written.**

**Full submission rules and guidelines are at [www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize-guidelines](http://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize-guidelines).**

**The competition is free to enter, and awards three cash prizes** (First Prize: 400 NIS; Second Prize: 250 NIS; Third Prize: 100 NIS) plus a variable number of Honorable Mentions at the judges' discretion. The winning poems, and Honorable Mention poems if there are any, will be published in the annual Voices Israel anthology.

**The fourth Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize will remain open for submissions until the end of February 2023.**

The Fourth Bar Sagi Prize (2022-2023 competition)

Administrator: Michele Bustin

Judges: Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield, Amiel Schotz

**Please spread the word.** If you know any English teachers, please tell them about the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize. If you know any parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles, tell them about it too. And of course, if you know any young poets, you absolutely must tell them about it. Voices members: we are counting on your help!

## 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).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## “THREE LITTLE WORDS” AT HAIFA ENGLISH THEATRE

Three Little Words, a story that speaks the universal language of love, was written by artistic director (and Voices Israel President) **Judy Koren**. Maggie Ben Gad is the musical director. The musical arrangements, including the show's original theme song, are by Clive Noble.



HAIFA ENGLISH THEATRE 2023 presents

# THREE LITTLE WORDS

AN EVENING OF MUSICAL THEATRE

artistic director **JUDY KOREN**  
musical director **MAGGIE BEN GAD**

**BEIT HAGEFEN AUDITORIUM**  
**33 HATZIONUT, HAIFA**

Thursday 16 February 20:00  
Saturday 18 February 20:00  
Thursday 23 February 20:00  
Saturday 25 February 20:00

Tickets: 70 NIS. Seniors: 65 NIS.  
Children/Students with IDs: 60 NIS.

Tickets available at the door on performance evenings  
(cash or checks only / no credit cards)

Special Needs, Groups, Reserved Seats  
[hazejeff@netvision.net.il](mailto:hazejeff@netvision.net.il) OR phone: 04-872-7940  
(afternoons) and leave a message

Tickets on sale at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/haifa-english-theatre-presents-three-little-words-tickets-477245262427](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/haifa-english-theatre-presents-three-little-words-tickets-477245262427)

More information: [www.h-e-t.org](http://www.h-e-t.org)  
[h.e.theatre@gmail.com](mailto:h.e.theatre@gmail.com) registered amuta 580117646

More information at: <https://h-e-t.org/>

Tickets on sale at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/haifa-english-theatre-presents-three-little-words-tickets-477245262427>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**Cleaver: Philadelphia's International Literary Magazine** is an online quarterly journal that is now holding a Form and Form-Breaking Poetry Contest. *Show us your poems that hold up the perfect iambic pentameter of a Shakespearean sonnet or crash it on the rocks of free verse. Show us a villanelle with textbook patterning or show us the villanelle who just crashed her car. Whatever the form, we want to see your poems that use form consciously, whether that's to execute them to perfection or execute their expectations.* Submission fee is \$15 for one or two poems, \$10 for each additional poem. First prize is \$500, second prize is \$250; third prize is \$100. All prizewinners will be published in the fall 2023 issue of *Cleaver*. Submission deadline is March 31. Details are at [www.cleavermagazine.com/form-and-form-breaking-poetry-contest-2023/](http://www.cleavermagazine.com/form-and-form-breaking-poetry-contest-2023/).

**Sunlight Press** is an online literary journal that publishes poetry every Wednesday and Friday. *We want to hear the ways people turn toward light and hope, whether it is through the arts, culture, spirituality, or humor, and also how they respond to darkness and navigate unknown spaces. Epiphanies are born from the ordinary and the extraordinary; whether it's a reflection unfolding during a morning walk, after the loss of a loved one, or in the middle of unexpected laughter, we want to know about these moments.* Submit up to three poems. There is no fee and no deadline for submissions. They pay \$30 for the first poem accepted, and \$10 for each additional accepted in the same submission. Details are at [www.thesunlightpress.com/submissions/](http://www.thesunlightpress.com/submissions/)

**The Arkansas International** is a biannual print journal that *seeks to put emerging and established authors from across the world in conversation with one another.* Since 2016, it has published work from writers in more than sixty countries. The deadline for the next issue is March 15. Submit up to five poems. The submission fee is \$4. Contributors will be paid \$20 per page and receive two complementary copies of the journal. Details are at [www.arkint.org/submissions](http://www.arkint.org/submissions).

**Spire Light** is an annual journal of creative expression produced by students at Andrew College in Georgia, USA. It is published in both print and online format, and features work by both Andrew College students and by grown-up writers from around the world. There is no fee to submit, and all contributors residing in the U.S. will receive a print copy of the journal. International contributors will receive a PDF file. The submission deadline is March 17. Details are at [www.andrewcollege.edu/spire-light](http://www.andrewcollege.edu/spire-light).

**Vast Chasm** is an online quarterly literary magazine. It *publishes bold work that explores the expansive human experience.* It pays \$50 per published poem. There is no submission fee and no deadline. Details are at <https://vastliterarypress.org/submissions>.

**Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest** seeks today's best humor poems. First Prize is \$2,000; Second Prize is \$500; ten Honorable Mentions are awarded \$100 each. There is no fee to enter. Both unpublished and previously published poems are accepted. Deadline is April 1. Details are at <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free>

**The Ex-Puritan** is an online quarterly magazine based in Toronto, Canada. It seeks submissions all year round, from anywhere in the world. *We're looking for poems of any length (including sequences and long poems).* There is no submission fee. It pays \$35 per poem (or page, capped at \$120 for poems running four pages or more). Details are at <https://ex-puritan.ca/submissions>.

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