



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### President's Letter

#### March Meeting Dates

#### Announcements

#### Notice of AGM

#### **Dues are Due! Early Bird Discount closes March 31**

#### New Members

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

#### Calls for Submissions

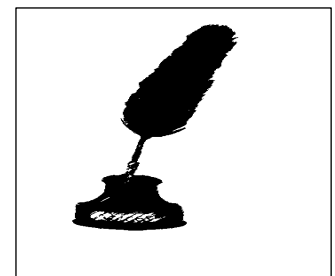
#### Congratulations

#### Group Poetry Selections

#### Other Poems by Our Members

#### Poems from Overseas Members

To – **All March 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,

It's already March – which means that only a few weeks are left to take advantage of our **Early Bird membership-renewal rate!** If it's slipped your mind till now: just visit the [Renew Membership page](#) of our website, and pay the dues either via the appropriate PayPal button there, or by bank transfer according to the instructions on that page (if in Israel, you can also send us a NIS cheque – again, all the information is on that web page).

**Reminder to our old-timers who joined in the 70s and 80s:** if you haven't already done so, please send Wendy Blumfield a half-page memoir of how you joined Voices, for our **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration**. Wendy's deadline for that was the end of February but if you didn't make it, and can get something into her in the next few days, please do make the effort!

**Reminder to everyone:** the submission period for **the 2021 Anthology closes on March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Those of you who haven't yet submitted poems – you only have another two weeks! Again, full instructions and the Submit button to start the process, are on the [Submitting to the Anthology page](#) of the website.

Coming up next week is **our next workshop** – Elana Dorfman on “Harnessing the Senses.” This workshop, like the last, has been oversubscribed, so if anyone who registered finds they can't come, please do let our secretary Linda know by email ([secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com)), so that she can free up the place for someone on the waiting list.

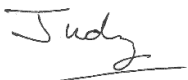
Looking ahead: on April 5<sup>th</sup>, right after Pesach, we'll be holding **the AGM** – see the notice in this newsletter. As last year, it will be via Zoom, and will include **an Open Mike**. Please register with Linda if you'd like to attend. We'll send out fuller details with the agenda and last year's financial report in a few days.

We're still debating whether, by late May or early June, we'll be able to hold the Netanya “Poetry by the Sea” residential workshop. In a week or two we'll be putting out a survey of members regarding your preferences – would you come to a face-to-face event in a hotel, or would you prefer something by Zoom? Your feedback will really help us to make a decision. Of course it also depends, even so, on the State of the Nation, Corona-wise, by then.

Finally, I'd like to extend warm thanks to Helen Bar-Lev, who has decided that, after so many years of devotion to Voices – from her long-ago role as Editor of the Anthology, through her years as Assistant President to her latest role as Overseas Connections Coordinator – it's time to step down from that role. Helen, I wish you every success as you continue to write poetry, paint your incredible artwork, and take part as a Voices member, from up there in Metulla, in the meetings of our Global Group.

I do hope you all managed to celebrate and enjoy Purim despite all the restrictions.

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## MARCH 2021

### ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, MARCH 23 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, MARCH 18 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, MARCH 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 PERSONAL ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 AT 5-7 PM 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, MARCH 29 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, MARCH 21 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>WORKSHOP</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, MARCH 8</p> <p><b>REGISTRATION CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>USA/CANADA</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b> MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM MONDAY, MARCH 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

## Notice of 2021 Annual General Meeting Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

As last year, we will hold the 2021 Voices Israel Annual General Meeting via Zoom.

**Date for Annual General Meeting: Monday, 5 April 2021**

**Time: 19:30 Meeting begins (the meeting room will open at 19:15).**

For our overseas members who wish to attend: 19:30 Israel time on that date is 5:30 pm UK time, 12:30 noon US Eastern time.

**Susan Olsburgh** will send out the link for the meeting at midday approximately on 5 April. **Please send an email requesting the zoom link before then to [olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com).**

If you would like to propose a resolution at the AGM, please send it to Judy Koren at [president@voicesisrael.com](mailto:president@voicesisrael.com) to arrive *at least one week before the meeting date, i.e. by Monday March 29th*.

The meeting will be followed by an **OPEN MIKE**, a chance to read one or two of your poems to the assembly! If you wish to read at the Open Mike, please register one or two poems (max) by poem name with our President, Judy Koren, at [president@voicesisrael.com](mailto:president@voicesisrael.com).

The deadline for registering poems is *one week before the meeting date, i.e. Monday March 29<sup>th</sup>* (note that this is during Passover chol hamoed; you can of course register earlier!)

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM and hearing you read your poems at the Open Mike.

# 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. CLOSING MARCH 15.**

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

## 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>

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carol E. Dietrich, Ohio USA

Tobi Ben-Shalom, Israel

## 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

My "Formal Elements" class will meet on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 5 pm, on Zoom. We'll be focusing on the late Victorians, especially the group of poets known as "The Decadents," many of whom were members of the Rhymers' Club. They include Oscar Wilde and Ernest Dowson. We'll also be looking at work by Francis Thompson. Call or write Reuven Goldfarb, the class instructor, to request advance copies of the poems to be read and a Zoom link to the meeting.

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

## 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.

**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 Golemba at [maber4kids@gmail.com](mailto:maber4kids@gmail.com). **Deadline: March 31**

**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).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

**SPILLWAY 29 IS OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS January 1– March 31, 2021.** Send us your best 3–5 unpublished poems of any theme! Free in January, \$3 per submission beginning February 1. Simultaneous submissions are accepted, but please notify us immediately if your work has been accepted elsewhere. Submissions via Submittable:  
<https://tebotbachpoetry.submittable.com/submit/179177/spillway-29>.

**Lidia Chiarelli of Immagine Poesia sent us the following information about the new Dylan Day site created for 2021.**

Dear Poets

After last year's success of our online event, which was much appreciated by the British organizers, the new site for 2021 has been created

<https://dylandaycelebration.jimdofree.com/>

ready to welcome your poetic contributions to celebrate DYLAN THOMAS.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dylan\\_Thomas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dylan_Thomas)

one of the most innovative poets of the 20th century.

Some "selected verses" attached at the end of this newsletter could be the starting point to create a poem in response to the poet's words. Please just remember that Dylan Thomas' poems are copyrighted: the verses in the attachment are for your personal view only and not to be published online.

How to submit:

- send a poem (not to exceed 20 lines) and a short biography by the first week of May (poems will be published in order of arrival) to this email address: [immagine.poesia@gmail.com](mailto:immagine.poesia@gmail.com)

The site will be made official on May 14, the international day of #DylanDay, but you can follow the evolution in progress.

Hope to hear from you soon and HAPPY DYLANDAY to all.

Additional opportunities to submit poetry:

<https://amicidiguidogozzano.jimdofree.com/sezione-autori-stranieri-2021/> (**before June 25**)

**Free submissions.**

**Spertus Institute (Chicago, IL USA)** sent us notice of a two-part online series they are conducting exploring the juncture of race and justice in Jewish life.

Critical Conversations – Jews and Race. Follow this link for the information you need to join in this interesting program. First presentation will be on Tuesday, April 27; the second program will be on Monday, May 10. Spertus Institute

## CONGRATULATIONS

To – **Deborah Golden**, whose poem "Gathered In" was published in online book entitled *In Silence We Wait* (edited by Richard M. Grove, 2021) as part of ongoing Poetry Pandemic Project.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, who is retiring from her post as Overseas Coordinator, but we are keeping her on-call for poems and lovely artwork!! Enjoy, Helen.

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