



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

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March 6-8

Shabbat Parah



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VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Another quiet month has passed but we've been planning for events further down the line.

First, we've fixed the date of the Annual General Meeting for March 20th at 6 pm (a little earlier than usual, so as not to hold it too near to Pesach which starts on April 1 this year). Jeannie Harrison, Phella Hirschson's daughter-in-law, has again very kindly agreed to host it at her home near Tel Aviv University, at 44 Tagore St., apt. 48, Tel Aviv. That's convenient both for buses and for the University train station. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

As usual, we'll have an Open Mic session after concluding the business of the AGM. ***Please register for attending the AGM with our secretary Pesach (secretary.voices@gmail.com) not later than one week before, i.e. by March 13th, and also let him know if you would like to read one or at most (if time) two poems, not longer than one page each, at the Open Mic.***

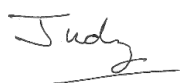
Jeannie provides the venue and the tea/coffee but not the refreshments – please, if you're coming to the AGM, ***bring a small kosher, dairy or parve contribution to the evening's refreshments (e.g. a salad, cake/cookies, a veggie plate, quiche, etc.) and tell Pesach what you're bringing when you register.*** Voices Israel provides the plates, cups, cutlery and burekas 😊. Thank you!

As I've mentioned several times, Wendy Blumfield is stepping down as Publicity Officer, and this will be announced at the AGM. We're still hoping someone will volunteer to help replace her. Do get in touch with me or with her if you'd like to hear more.

On to the Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose competitions! The Bar Sagi Young Poets' Prize has just closed for submissions, and we expect to announce the winners in a couple of weeks. As you know, the winners and Honourable Mention recipients of the Reuben Rose competition were announced last month. As usual, many of them are from abroad (Mark will give us an interesting breakdown of numbers at the AGM) so we're again holding the awards event by Zoom, combined with the awards event for the Bar Sagi prize. ***We've fixed the date for the joint awards event for Sunday, April 30th, at 7 pm Israel time (5 pm UK time, 12 noon US East Coast, 9 am US Pacific) and hope to "see" there as many of our members, from Israel and abroad, as possible.***

The submission period for the Voices Israel Anthology closes in a couple of weeks! If you haven't done so yet, do select your best three poems to submit to it. Remember that the *only* way to submit is online via Submittable – click 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 (41 lines, with long lines that overflow counted as two).

As always: our Workshop Coordinator, Elana Dorfman, is happy to hear of ideas for new workshops. If you have any suggestions, just get in touch with Elana at elanado@gmail.com.



Judy Koren,

President, Voices Israel

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

MARCH 2023 MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>SOUTHERN</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, March 16 at 17:00 – 19:00</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640</p> <p>miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p>	<p>TEL AVIV</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438</p> <p>nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998</p> <p>aemeallem@gmail.com</p>	<p>WESTERN GALILEE</p> <p>No meetings scheduled. Contact Phyllsie for details.</p> <p>Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Mobile: 052-874-6880</p> <p>phyllsie@hotmail.com</p>
<p>HAIFA</p> <p>Wednesday, March 22 at 19:00 at the home of Iris Dan</p> <p>Contact Debbie Golden for details</p> <p>Coordinator: Debbie Golden Mobile: 054-580-6209</p> <p>deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il</p>	<p>NETANYA/SHARON</p> <p>Monday, 27 March at 7:00 p.m. at Susan Olsburgh's home</p> <p>2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575</p> <p>olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p>	<p>UPPER GALILEE</p> <p>Wednesday, March 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the home of Reuven and Yehudit.</p> <p>128 Keren HaYesod Artists Quarter, Tzfat</p> <p>Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262</p> <p>poetsprogress@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, March 22 at 17:00 Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365</p> <p>Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</p>

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- **Rochelle S. Kochin**, Jerusalem, Israel
- **Nikki Stiller**, New York, U.S.A.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – all the **winners and honorable mentions of the Reuben Rose Competition**. Their names are listed on page 9 of this newsletter.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose new poetry book *Late Life Love* was featured on the World Poetry Café radio show.

The entire show is recorded at

www.mixcloud.com/VictorSchwartzman/world-poetry-cafe-for-january-19-2023-helen-bar-lev-and-monsif-beronel/

To – **Isaac Cohen**, who recited his poem “Ode to My Indian Friends” in the film “India” made for Poets Without Borders for the Versopolis Poetry Expo 23. Isaac appears on the video at 12:45. <https://youtu.be/K06iYKKA7AY>

To – **Susan Olsburgh**, whose twelve years as facilitator of the Netanya AACI Poetry Please program was celebrated in a laudatory two-page article.

Poetry? Yes! Pretty Please!

By Paulette Woolf

One of the most popular and long running programs at Netanya AACI is Poetry Please. I wanted to discover what it is about this program that attracts so many loyal participants, so I talked to Sue Lever, Carmel Miller, Phil Margolis and of course the facilitator extraordinaire, Susan Olsburgh.

They painted a picture of a dynamic, knowledgeable facilitator, who puts a great deal of effort into each and every session, ensuring that all participants feel equal and welcome. According to Carmel, over the 12 years of its existence, the program has evolved from six participants to the current 25-30, half of whom tune in on Zoom. Sue explained that Susan Olsburgh, sends out a booklet in advance, with the theme changing monthly. Participants are encouraged to participate and Susan spends hours online researching poems which she then forwards for inclusion in the program material.

During the session, different people read the poems and the program discusses it from a variety of perspectives. “She’s amazing. The most wonderful facilitator. Susan makes everyone feel good. She’s patient and encouraging” enthuses Carmel, who has been a loyal participant since the initial session. “I treasure going once a month and have missed only two programmes in 12 years.”

I asked Susan Olsburgh how the program got started. She said she’d taught literature in the UK and was also involved in Voices Israel, a creative writing group which she chaired for five years. Rachel asked if she would consider creating a program at Netanya AACI. Susan thought that sharing poetry would be enjoyable and how right she was!

She always starts with something from Tanach. The focus can also be on poetry



through the ages, the golden age of Spain, Hebrew poetry or local writers. Sometimes they listen to recordings of famous poets reading their own work. Some works are nostalgic, favorite childhood poetry. Some are more emotional such as poetry from the Shoah. The program then tries to figure out why a particular poem is so appealing. Program participants are challenged to think and explore and delve more deeply into the poetry.

Phil, one of the few males in the program, introduces humorous poetry such as Spike Milligan. “I’m often asked to read, which I enjoy since I was involved in dramatics.” He echoes the enthusiasm of the other interviewees. “She’s amazing. She has lots of experience and makes it a fun event. It’s good for our community and good for people to get together.”

All three interviewees agreed that what makes Susan so special is her ability to pitch each session in a way that regardless of one’s background or interest, it will appeal to them. It’s neither too academic nor too frivolous. No easy task! Susan is welcoming and open to what anyone has to say. She is patient and encouraging and makes everyone feel good.

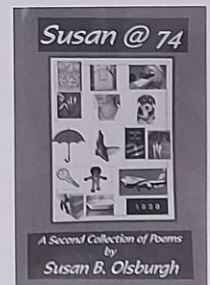
Susan is always searching for ways to innovate. She has organized two trips – One to Bialik’s home in Tel Aviv and another to Caesarea and Tiberias where they read Chana Senesh poetry on the beach and visited the grave of Naomi Shemer. Sometimes she invites guests. Susan praises Netanya AACI for their support, specifically their efforts to keep the program going during Covid, by switching to Zoom. She loves the fact that lovely friendships have formed between people who share an interest in poetry. She concludes the interview by telling me, “The enthusiasm of the participants gives me a lot of satisfaction.”

Well Susan, it’s clear that the reverse is true and your participants want you to continue ועשרים ועוד!

Let me add my appreciation on behalf of Netanya AACI for all you do!



Above: On the beach in Caesarea, guided by Dani Margolis where participants read Chana Senesh poetry.



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

A LETTER FROM LINDA

Dear Friends and Poets:

I know I have seemed to forget all of you after I resigned as Secretary of Voices Israel. I must ask for your forgiveness.

On October 13, 2022, I underwent back surgery. All went very well until a week after the surgery when a dangerous infection developed in the surgical wound. I underwent three more surgeries to clean the wound and was in the hospital for over a month. The infection spread throughout my body which required that I be on a continuous infusion of antibiotics through a PICC line. I had excellent care both at the hospital (Beit Cholim Meir in Kfar Saba) and at home with my husband who did everything for me. I am happy to announce that I have recovered quite well up to this point. I walk in the home without a walking aide, but outside I use walking aides for now. The back pain I had been experiencing is gone. BH

I hope to see some of you at the AGM in Tel Aviv. I miss the connection we had when I was your secretary. I look forward to meeting anyone able to attend. And I send my sincerest thanks for those of you who were aware of my situation who contacted me or sent prayers for me. Sending my love and wishes for good health for all of you.

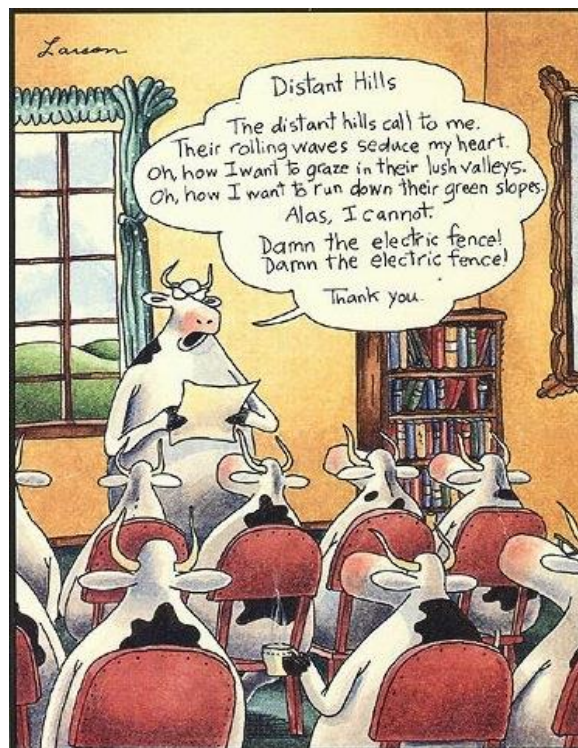
Hugs, Linda Suchy

lindasuchy@gmail.com

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.



Cow poetry

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

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.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP — EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS MARCH 31

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 or קולות ישראל

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

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

ISRAEL

To pay by PayPal:

Please go to our webpage 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

THE VOICES ISRAEL 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2023 Voices Israel Annual General Meeting will be held in person on March 20. Phella Hirschson's daughter in law, Jeannie Harrison, has once again very kindly offered to host us at her home near Tel Aviv University. We look forward to seeing as many members there as possible.

Date: Monday, March 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm (**not** at 6:30 as previously announced).

Address: 44 Tagore Street, Apartment 48, Tel Aviv.

Agenda: The agenda for the 2023 AGM follows this announcement. The minutes of last year's AGM, along with the Voices financial report for 2022, which members will be asked to approve at the AGM as usual, will be sent to all members in advance of the meeting.

Registration: So that Jeannie knows how many people to expect, please register in advance by email to secretary.voices@gmail.com. The deadline for registering is Monday, March 13 (one week before the meeting).

Refreshments: Those coming to the meeting are kindly requested to bring a small kosher (dairy or parve) contribution to the evening's refreshments. Please let the secretary know what you intend to bring when you register.

Resolutions: If you would like to propose a resolution at the AGM, please send it to Judy Koren at president.voices@gmail.com also at least one week before the meeting date, i.e. by Monday, March 13th.

Open Mic: The meeting will be followed as usual by an Open Mic where members may read one or, if time allows, two poems each. Poems for the Open Mic must be not more than one page long – a maximum of 41 lines. Shorter poems of course are welcome! If you wish to read at the Open Mic, please send your name and your poem title(s) to secretary.voices@gmail.com —again by, at latest, one week before the meeting date, i.e. Monday, March 13th.

Summing Up: Registration to attend the AGM, your contribution to the refreshments, and your Open Mic poem titles, should all be sent to Pesach Rotem at secretary.voices@gmail.com by Monday, March 13. Proposed resolutions for the AGM should be sent to Judy Koren at president.voices@gmail.com by Monday, March 13.

With warmest thanks to our hostess Jeannie, we look forward to seeing you at the AGM and hearing you read your poems at the Open Mic.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

Agenda for AGM Voices Israel Monday, March 20, 2023

Meeting begins at 18:00.

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2022 AGM for approval
3. President's report
4. Adoption of treasurer's report
5. Thanking outgoing publicity officer
6. Reuben Rose Poetry Competition report
7. Voices Anthology report
8. Membership report
9. Website report
10. Bar Sagi Competition Report
11. Regional group reports
12. Resolutions
13. Any other business

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

4th Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and 33rd Reuben Rose Competition Awards Event, Sunday April 30th, 2023, 7:00 pm Israel time – via Zoom

International equivalents: 5:00 pm (UK time);
12:00 noon (US Eastern time); 9:00 am (US Pacific time)

Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize

Judges: Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield and Amiel Schotz, Israel.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

Comments by Professor Anthony Joseph, Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize sponsor

Comments by Michele Bustin, judge and administrator

Readings of the Winning Poems, by the poets and/or proxy readers

Names of the winning poets and poems, and of any Honorable Mentions, to be announced.

Reuben Rose Competition

Judges: Yiskah Rosenfeld, USA; Reuven Goldfarb, Israel; and Yehoshua November, USA – this year's Overseas Judge.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

Comments by Mark L. Levinson, Reuben Rose administrator

Comments by attending competition judges

Readings of the Winning Poems, by the poets and/or proxy readers

First prize – Iris Dan, Israel: *The Fear of Slipping Through Letters*

Second prize – David Silverman, USA: *The Prophet Elijah – Possibly – on 9th Avenue, Orders a Ham & Cheese Sandwich (Easy Mayo)*

Third prize – Judy Koren, Israel: *How to Write a Middle Eastern Symphony.*

Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order of poet's surname)

Roy "Robin" Bass, USA: *How To Break (A Container)*

Simon Constam, Canada: *Jacob Wrestles the Angel*

Alan Elyshevitz, USA: *Our Saturdays*

Gabriel Emanuel, Israel: *Einstein's Brain*

Solly Kaplinski, Israel: *Until 120*

Rochelle S. Kochin, Israel: *The Wedding Canopy*

Esther B Lipton, UK: *Kol Nidrei Night Encounter*

Celia Merlin, Israel: *Pears*

Jo-Ann Mort, USA: *In Lviv*

Pamela Wax, USA: *1HLY 48*

Open Mic – if time allows.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Heartland Review is a biannual print literary journal published by the Creative Writing program at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. *Submit three poems of any length or style to include traditional poetic forms.* Deadline is May 1. There is no fee to submit. Accepted authors in the U.S. receive one free copy of the journal; authors abroad must purchase through Amazon. Details at www.theheartlandreview.com/the-heartland-review.

Poetica Magazine is a journal of contemporary Jewish writing. It is published annually online, with the possibility that selected works might be published in a print edition as well. *Poetica Magazine seeks to publish poetry that exhibits both courage and nuance in its exploration of modern Jewish life, while simultaneously transcending any dichotomy between the secular and the sacred.* They are open for submissions from March 1 through August 31. Please submit one poem at a time; after you receive a reply, you may submit again. There is no fee for the first 250 submissions; after that, a fee of \$3 per submission. Full submission details are at www.poeticamagazine.com/2023-submit.

Able Muse is an annual print journal of metrical poetry. Submit one to five metrical poems (or one long poem), rhymed or unrhymed. (A poem of more than 40 lines is considered a “long” poem.) All types of formal poetry are welcome, from traditional to boundary-pushing. We want well-crafted poems that use meter skillfully and imaginatively (with rhyme or not), in a contemporary idiom that reads as naturally as free verse. Submission deadline is July 15. Submission is free. Simultaneous submissions are not permitted. Details are at www.ablemuse.com/submit/.

The Ocotillo Review is a biannual print journal based in Austin, Texas. *Although we welcome experimental or unusual approaches to literature, our goal is to promote finely crafted work with an expressive and meaningful voice. We pay our contributors upon publication because we feel that too much art is taken for granted.* Submit up to three poems of up to 65 lines each. There is no fee to submit. Deadline is March 31. Details at <https://kallistogaiapress.submittable.com/submit>.

The MSU Roadrunner Review is a biannual student-curated online literary journal out of the Creative Writing program at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Our focus is on quality prose and poetry, and submissions are open to all. There is no submission fee. Submission deadline is April 12. Details at <https://sites.msudenver.edu/roadrunnerreview/submissions/>

Shrapnel Magazine is a Canadian-run and internationally minded online literary journal. *While we publish a variety of content, what sets us apart from most literary magazines is that we yearn for surreal, absurd, or humorous pieces.* Submit up to five poems. There is no deadline. They request a donation of \$5 with every submission; in return, they provide feedback on every piece, even if it is not accepted, and they pay \$30 for every accepted poem plus an additional \$5 to writers who are able to record themselves reading their piece. Details at www.shrapnelmagazine.com/submit.

Topical Poetry bills itself as *a global platform to share poems on current events.* It publishes online every other Sunday. Submissions are free, and always open. There is no limit on the number of poems you may submit, but each poem should be no longer than 750 words. Details at <https://topicalpoetry.com/submissionguidelines/>,

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