



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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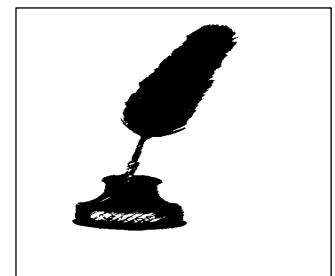
**Congratulations**

**Group Poetry Selections**

**Other Poems by Our Members**

**Poems from Overseas  
Members**

To – **All April 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,

First, best wishes to all for a happy and kosher Passover! For many of us the past few weeks have seen a flurry of activity as we spring-clean and prepare for the seder. To the joy of all of us in Israel, the Covid restrictions were relaxed, enabling us to enjoy the festival with our extended families. We sincerely hope that life will soon get back to something at least approaching normal for our overseas members too.

In early March we had a very successful Zoom workshop, led by Elana Dorfman, on poetry inspired by the senses – chiefly the sense of smell. 24 of us attended, of whom an unprecedented 22 filled in the online evaluation form created by our Membership Coordinator, Yochanan. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, especially regarding Elana's conduct of the workshop, and we hope we'll have the pleasure of more workshops from her in the future. We'll be producing an e-chapbook from this event, for distribution to the attendees.

We had a happy increase of membership renewals ahead of the end of the Early Bird rate. The Early Bird period is now over, but if you didn't manage to renew during it, you can still do so at the standard rate – easiest via PayPal from our website.

The submission period for the Anthology closed in mid-March. The editors have been hard at work making final decisions, and everyone should by now have received a notice regarding each poem submitted. I understand from Dina, our Chief Editor, that over 300 poems were submitted and just over a third were accepted. Thanks to the changes made to the whole process the year before last, we are to date running well ahead of our usual schedule for producing the Anthology.

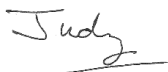
Looking ahead: on April 5<sup>th</sup>, right after Pesach, we'll be holding the AGM. Linda has sent out the financial reports together with the official notice about it. Please remember to register with Susan Olsburgh to get the Zoom link if you would like to attend; and if anyone has not yet registered for the Open Mike and would like to participate, please send me **now**, by email (to [president@voicesisrael.com](mailto:president@voicesisrael.com)), the titles of one or at most two poems you would like to read at it. It does seem that we'll have time for two poems each.

Looking further ahead: we've fixed the date of the Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose joint awards ceremony for Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm (Israel time). We're hoping that since it's a Sunday, members from outside Israel will find it easier to attend, since evening hours in Israel are morning to midday hours in the US. The full details are in the announcement of it in this newsletter.

We are still trying to organize the Netanya "Poetry by the Sea" residential workshop for late May or early June. Enough of our members have said they'd come, but the hotel only starts taking bookings from May 18<sup>th</sup>, which gives us very little time to get a price quote and receive firm commitments. So right now, unfortunately, the workshop's fate is still undecided.

With warm wishes for a happy, healthy Passover,

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

**VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH**  
**APRIL 2021**  
**ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES**

<p><b>HAIFA</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>TUESDAY, APRIL 27</b>  <b>AT 8:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Wendy Blumfield</b>  <b>Tel: 04-837-6820</b>  <b>Mobile: 054-524-0412</b>  <a href="mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il">wendyb@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>THURSDAY, APRIL 22</b>  <b>AT 7:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Mark Levinson</b>  <b>Mobile: 054-444-8438</b>  <a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>TUESDAY, APRIL 20</b>  <b>AT 6:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Avril Meallem</b>  <b>Tel: 02-567-0998</b>  <a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b>  <b>MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM</b>  <b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7</b>  <b>AT 5-7 PM</b>  <b>Call 04-697-4105 or write to:</b>  <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a>  <b>for a link &amp; guidelines.</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Reuven Goldfarb</b>  <b>Tel: 04-6974105</b>  <b>Mobile: 058-414-0262</b>  <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>ASHKELON</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>CONTACT CHAIM FOR DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Chaim Bezalel</b>  <b>Mobile: 054-674-5900</b>  <a href="mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com">bezalel.levy@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>NETANYA &amp; SHARON</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>MONDAY, APRIL 26</b>  <b>AT 7:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Susan Olsburgh</b>  <b>Tel: 074-704-2736</b>  <a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>CONTACT PHYLLSIE FOR DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Phyllsie Gross</b>  <b>Tel: 052-874-6880</b>  <a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>LONDON UK</b>  <b>FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE</b>  <b>CONTACT ESTHER.</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Esther Lipton</b>  <a href="mailto:eblipton@talk21.com">eblipton@talk21.com</a></p>
<p><b>SOUTHERN</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>SUNDAY, APRIL 18</b>  <b>AT 5:00-7:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Miriam Green</b>  <b>Tel: 05-7388640</b>  <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b>  <b>MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM</b>  <b>MONDAY, APRIL 12</b>  <b>AT 7:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Shoshana Kent</b>  <b>Tel: 052 808 9365</b>  <a href="mailto:Y2nosh@netvision.net.il">Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>USA/CANADA</b>  <b>NO MEETINGS PLANNED</b></p>	<p><b>ANNUAL GENERAL</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>MONDAY, 5 APRIL, 7:30 PM</b></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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and Reuben Rose Competitions Awards Event, Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, 7:30 pm Israel time – via Zoom

International equivalents: 5:30 pm (UK time);  
12:30 pm (US Eastern time); 9:30 am (US Western time)

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### Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize

Judges: Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield and Amiel Schotz, Israel; Consultant: Ricky Friesem, Israel.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

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

Comments by Susan Bell, judge and administrator, Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize

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

First prize: Aubrey McFate (pen name), age 18: *Loving without being loved*

Second prize: Rafi Goldstein, age 12: *I Move Forward Without Thinking*

Third prize: Sigal Nachshon, age 12: *Stillness*

Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order of surname):

Natasha Alexander, age 12: *Our Mountaintop*;

Yaara Heller, age 12: *A wish in your heart*;

Mordechai Howie, age 12: *Three*;

Roxana Isaacs, age 15: *A teardrop cascaded*;

Hannah Sugars, age 17: *Two Minds!* and *The Universe - and Us*.

### Reuben Rose Competition

Judges: Miriam Webber, Israel; David Silverman, USA; and Kay Kim Richards, USA - this year's Overseas Judge.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

Comments by Mark Levinson, Reuben Rose administrator

Readings of the Winning Poems 2019, by the poets and/or proxy readers

First prize - Ricky Rapoport Friesem, Israel: *David's Shield*

Second prize - Jane Seitel, USA: *Lantern Fish*

Third prize - Esther Lipton, UK: *The Burden of Memory*.

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

Iris Dan, Israel: *Pictures from an Exhibition*

John Cecil Dendy, USA: *Silent Night, Revisited*

Anne McCrady, USA: *Acceptance Speech*

Susan Olsburgh, Israel: *Gates*

Haya Onallah, Israel: *Blind*

Sarah Sassoon, Israel: *The Color Jew*

Mervyn R. Seivwright, USA: *Walks Along Oirase Gorge*

Amiel Schotz, Israel: *The Mist*

Johnmichael Simon, Israel: *Babushkas*

Immanuel Suttner, Australia: *Now that you're here*

Open Mike - if time allows.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW AND/OR RETURNING MEMBERS

#### New Members

**Silvia Kofler, USA**  
**Devorah Harris, USA**  
**Anne Marie Brumm, USA**

#### Returning Member

**Gary Corbi, USA**

### 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

Reuven will give a solo poetry reading of about one hour's duration on Wednesday evening, April 28th, starting at 7:30. Write to him at [poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com) to obtain a link to this event.

#### REUVEN'S FORMAL ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE POETRY

My "Formal Elements" class will meet on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 5-7 pm, on Zoom. Poets selected for study include Hardy, Kipling, Housman, and early Yeats. 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.

### FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

Those of you who write poetry – especially metered and rhymed poetry, might especially appreciate this musical retrospective. I watched and greatly enjoyed it.

Broadway Musicals:

A Jewish Legacy

<https://vimeo.com/260670343>

### CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**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](#)

**Frontier Poetry** is offering an all-online space to get your work read and edited by the very people who accept/reject poems for a living. For more details about this Poetry Lab, [click this link](#).

**Omnidawn** has announced its Single Poem Broadside Contest. Accepting electronic and postal submissions March 1 to April 19, 2021. [www.omnidawn.com/contest](http://www.omnidawn.com/contest). Please visit this link for full information. It's important to read this information before submitting.

**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/>

**Two Sylvias Press** is again offering its *30 new poems for April (National Poetry Month)*. See [Two Sylvias Press Contests](#)

**Winning Writers** March 2021 newsletter has announced the best free literary contests with deadlines through **April 30**. See, [March 2021 newsletter](#).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

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

**Winning Writers** has announced several poetry contests which you can find through FanStory at this [link](#).

**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).

## CONGRATULATIONS

To – **Paul Rabinowitz**, who has some new published works: [“The Monastery”](#) Adirondack Review; [“The Cat”](#) Authors and Artists Anthology [“Soundscape”](#) Authors and Artists Anthology, "Villa dei Misteri" in the Spring issue of *The Courtship of Winds*; "The Monastery," in the Spring issue of *The Adirondack Review*

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose poem, *St. Patrick's Day Cranes*, and painting, *Cranes at the Agamon HaHula Nature Reserve*, have been printed in the Dylan Day Celebration magazine.

To - **Stanley H. Barkan** for co-editing the anthology of Bilingual poetry, *Bridging the Waters III*.

To - **Stanley H. Barkan, Willa Schneberg, Steven (Shlomo) Sher, Ada Aharoni, Helen Bar Lev, Ruth Fogelman and Channah Moshe** whose poems were published in the Anthology, *Bridging the Waters III*.

To – **Eli Ben-Joseph**, who has published a chapbook, *“Shells”* containing 50 of his poems

and a few prints of his artwork. (**Editor's note:** when it appears on Amazon I will let our readers know!)

To – **Hannah Moshe**, who has had two poems published: A Green Swan (electronic version of) Amaravati Poetic Prism, International Multilingual Poetry Anthology, India; and A Picture in Poetry – the best of 2020, Poets of the World, Inner Child Press International & The Year of the Poet.

To – **Wendy Blumfield**, who sent us the following announcement: The University of the Highlands in Scotland Midwifery School have had all their tutoring online this year, apart from their clinical work in hospitals. To liven up their studies, their tutor Irene Murray organised an “Art Gallery” with paintings and poems connected to their profession. Irene used to be the head midwife at the Scottish Hospital in Nazareth and she and Wendy are old friends. Irene asked Wendy to send a few “birthing and mothering” poems to the “Art Gallery”, and she displayed them beautifully on-line.

To – **Anthony and Denise Joseph** on celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. May you enjoy many more years of happiness.

To – **Miriam Webber**, who has had two poems accepted for the next issue of Deronda Review.

To – **John Gallas**, whose book *The Extasie*, a book of love poems, is being published by Carcanet April 2021. Carcanet is offering a pre-order discount code running until publication date on 29 April 2021. PRE-ORDER DISCOUNT CODE OFFER ENDS 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

To order your copy of *The Extasie* at £9.74 (RRP £11.69) with free UK P&P, go to <http://www.carcanet.co.uk/> and enter the code: GALLAS25 (case sensitive) at the checkout.

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