



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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Congratulations To Our 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.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

This month brought us a mixture of joy and sorrow. We share in the general sorrow over the tragedy ongoing in Ukraine; we extend our condolences to the families of the victims of the recent terrorist attacks; and we mourn, on a more personal level, the passing on March 16th of our active Canadian member Ellen S. Jaffe, after a long battle with cancer. We rejoice in the fact that we could give her some joy before she died: on March 13th we held in her honour, via Zoom, a North American poetry reading, organized by our U.S. member Diane Ray, which Ellen attended from her hospital bed, together with her family and friends. Eight US, Canadian and Israeli Voices members each read two of Ellen's poems and one of their own. Ellen herself was thrilled that this happened and that she could attend, and her family also told us, after she passed away, how much the event had meant to her.

Back in Israel: we held our Annual General Meeting on March 29th, at the home of Jeannie Harrison, Phella Hirschson's daughter-in-law, near Tel Aviv University. Many thanks to Jeannie for her generous offer to host the event! Despite yet another wave of yet another Corona variant, and despite the current security situation, 13 people managed to come. At the AGM we said a fond farewell to Linda Suchy, our marvellous secretary, who has retired from the position after five years, with a small honorarium to show our appreciation for all she has done for Voices; and we welcomed Pesach Rotem who has taken over from her, after his nomination was officially confirmed by general vote at the AGM. Hard as it is to think that I shall no longer be in daily touch with Linda, whose efficiency and experience has been of such help to me, I look forward to working with Pesach going forward.

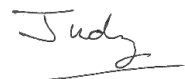
The AGM ended with an Open Mic at which nine members read one or two poems each.

Meanwhile fifteen poets sent in the poems they wrote or started at Elana Dorfman's "Poetry of Color" workshop of February 8th, and I finally found the time to produce an e-chapbook of the event (PDF document) and send it to all participants. I do hope you enjoy it! It is arranged for printing double-sided, so that if anyone wishes to print it and e.g. spiral-bind it, they can do that. For regular reading on the computer, however, it works best to view it as single pages. We are not putting it on the website since this counts as publication; but if any member of Voices wishes to receive a copy just send me an email, as usual to president.voices@gmail.com.

The submission period for the Bar Sagi Prize has just ended. See page 8 herein for the announcement and the results of the competition. The prize-giving event will be by Zoom on April 26th together with the awards event for the Reuben Rose Competition. A notice has been sent out to all members, and to all the Reuben Rose entrants and winners.

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.**

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

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APRIL 2022 MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>SOUTHERN</p> <p>NO APRIL MEETING</p> <p>Next Meeting Thursday, 12 May 17:00-19:00 Via Zoom</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640</p> <p>miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p>	<p>TEL AVIV</p> <p>MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, APRIL 19 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438</p> <p>nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM</p> <p>NO APRIL MEETING</p> <p>NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, 12 MAY, 19:00 VIA ZOOM</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>NO APRIL MEETING</p> <p>Coordinator: Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412</p> <p>wendyb@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>NETANYA/SHARON</p> <p>NO APRIL MEETING</p> <p>NEXT Meeting Monday 16 May 19:00 AT SUSAN'S</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 074-704-2736</p> <p>olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p>	<p>UPPER GALILEE</p> <p>MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 AT 4:00-6:00PM</p> <p>AND MAY 11 5PM PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS MUST SEND REUVEN A SAMPLE POEM AHEAD OF TIME TO BE INCLUDED.</p> <p>FOR DETAILS: Call 04-697-4105 or write to: poetsprogress@gmail.com for a link & guidelines.</p> <p>Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-6974105 Mobile: 058-414-0262</p> <p>poetsprogress@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP</p> <p>MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 AT 18:45 (ISRAEL TIME)</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052 808 9365</p> <p>Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</p>

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CONDOLENCES.

It is with heavy heart that we tell you of the passing of Ellen Jaffe ל"ט.

Only a few days before Ellen's passing, Voices Israel held a zoom meeting to honor her as she sat in her hospice bed. I have been told that Ellen was very moved by this outpouring of love and respect for her. May her memory be always a blessing. BDE

A comment from the YouTube of the zoom meeting for Ellen:

Lil Blume

So wonderful that this was made. Thank you all. Ellen died this morning, March 16, 2022. RIP Ellen.

Link to the YouTube recording: <https://youtu.be/Nbl1122yYNo>

Here is a poem written to Ellen from Katherine L. Gordon, one of the past judges of Voices Reuben Rose poetry competition, followed by a poem from Helen Bar-Lev who has been a friend of Ellen's for many years.

I Cannot say Farewell to Ellen Jaffe, Always Near Me

There is a little painting, just a leaf and a flower,
suspended in the corner of the big and bright window-scape
of my study.
A gift from Ellen Jaffe who knew I loved flowers.
Once we went hunting butterflies
in the valley riverside,
just to count and enjoy their carefree wings in flight.
We shared a love of all things wild, cared for the happiness
of the world and all its peoples.
Ellen sent me a tribute book of poems for her mother,
she spoke of her son, for Ellen loved her family
and all her friends.
We knew the joy of poetry, felt its connection to the universe
and the closeness to each other in its expression.
What a void you leave in my heart dear friend,
what a loss to the world of poetic creativity
and to all those who knew you through it.
Your words will comfort and teach us,
I will cherish all things in your memory.

Katherine L. Gordon

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A Meeting in Hamilton

for Ellen

שָׂא יְהוּה פָּנָיו אֵלַיָּךְ, וְיָשִׁים לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

We met in Hamilton
on a pleasant August afternoon,
at a poet-packed restaurant,
our statures both short,
our names the same

All of us went up to the podium
to read our poems,
you the last, the best,
the most intense;
you shone

After I returned home,
we corresponded, if not frequently
we exchanged books and empathy
and now you leave;
I shall re-read your writings
and send blessings of light and love

Peace unto you good friend,
on this most momentous of journeys

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Poems by Ellen S. Jaffe

What I Want

What I want is another summer
sweet as plums
and fresh-picked raspberries --
even if I'm just sitting on my deck
wrapped in a blanket,
swaddled.

Physicists debate about time,
some say it doesn't exist,
except, perhaps, in our minds --
life, the universe, just a series of discrete
moments, shorter than nanoseconds
apart.

But what of carbon-dating, dinosaur bones,
the rise and fall of mountains and of glaciers?
My son changing from embryo to infant,
child to adult, and the tree we planted
the year of his birth, a tiny sapling,
now taller than the house?
Sunrises, sunsets, ocean tides
?
I prefer Einstein's idea of *spacetime*,
the two inseparable as we live inside its curving,
imperfect fabric.

November now, leaves raining from the ash trees
in our courtyard.
Eight or nine months until another summer.

I want.

Ellen S. Jaffe
Nov. 2021

Hair

Two years and many chemos past diagnosis,
I'm finally losing my hair
(though, not yet, my head.)

Handfuls fall out when I brush, shampoo,
or simply run my fingers through --
enough so I could craft a small bird's nest,
comfy and warm, tightly-knit.
I leave some clumps in our garden, beside the iris,
the bleeding-heart,
hoping the birds spot them.

Maybe the same birds inhabiting Lorna Crozier's poem,
as she imagines her friend Mary
stuffing birdseed into the bra that covers
her missing breast,
sparrows and chickadees flocking
close to feed.

It's good to think of this connection:
our bodies' missing, derelict parts
helping other creatures, joining us
all, heart to heart to heart,
as life goes on.

Ellen S. Jaffe
September 2021

*See Lorna Crozier's poem "Nothing Missing" in
Angels of Flesh, Angels of Silence.
McClelland and Stewart, 1988.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

YISKAH ROSENFELD, USA

NINA JAWITZ, ISRAEL (RETURNING MEMBER)

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.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Poetica Magazine calling for Passover Poems; deadline April 10. The editors are looking to share two Passover poems in the April 19 newsletter. poeticapublishing@aol.com

KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – Helen Bar-Lev, whose poem *The Wrong Tree*, has been published in the April 2022 edition of ESRA magazine.

To – Isaac Cohen, who has had two poems, *My yearn* and *Amazing Journey*, published in the magazine Atunis, in Belgium.

To – Pesach Rotem, who had four poems published in *Synchronized Chaos* at <https://synchchaos.com/poetry-from-pesach-rotem-2/>, including “A Prickly Pair” written at Judy Koren’s workshop on Metaphor, and “Why an Apple?” written at Dina Yehuda’s workshop on Biblical Images.

To – David Ades, Australia, whose poem “The Message, Pittsburgh 2013,” was the Featured Poem in the most recent issue of POETICA MAGAZINE.

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3rd Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and 32nd Reuben Rose Competition Awards Event, Tuesday April 26th, 2022, 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 Susan Bell, judge and administrator

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

First prize - Sapir Frumkin, age 15: *White Noise*

Second prize - Eliav Huppert, age 18: *Empty Seats*

Third prize - Amiad Dror Golan, age 17: *Comfort*

Honorable Mention - Sapir Frumkin, age 15: *Coral*

Reuben Rose Competition

Judges: Ricky Rappaport Friesem, Israel; Jane Seitel, USA: and Prof. David Kaplan, USA - this year's Overseas Judge.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

Comments by Mark Levinson, Reuben Rose administrator

Comments by attending judges of the competition

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

First prize - Yiskah Rosenfeld, USA: *The Morning After a Vipassana Retreat*

Second prize - Amy Small-McKinney, USA: *Small Stone*

Third prize - Elizabeth Edelglass, USA: *No Mention.*

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

Robert Dashevsky, USA: *Arabic 1973*

Reuven Goldfarb, Israel: *Red Bead*

Michael Greenberg, Israel: *The Kibbutz*

Judy Koren, Israel: *A Gentle Villanelle*

Celia Merlin, Israel: *Things It Sucks to Hear*

Rivka Nomberg, USA: *Bookmark*

Ian Rodney Pettit, Australia: *The Bipolar Stingray*

Judith R. Robinson, USA: *Poem for My Father*

Avraham Schonbrunn, Israel: *The Return*

Dina Yehuda, Israel: *Rachav*

Open Mic - if time allows.

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