



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Website address: www.voicesisrael.com
019-703-6

Amuta No. 58-

President

Judy Koren
10 Costa Rica St.
Haifa 3498130
Mobile: 054-741-7860
president@voicesisrael.com

Secretary

Linda Suchy
Haim Laskov 5/7
Netanya 4265605
Tel: 054-497-8812
secretary@voicesisrael.com

Treasurer

Chanita Millman
15 Shachar St.
Jerusalem 9626323
Tel: 02-653-6770
millmanm@inter.net.il

Publicity Officer

Wendy Blumfield
19 Sd. Wingate,
Haifa 3353307
Tel: 04-837-6820
Mobile: 054-524-0412
wendyb@netvision.net.il

Membership Coordinator

Yochanan Zaquantov
33/6 Nahum Goldman St.
Beer Sheva 8471958
Tel: 053-708-9140
zaquantov@gmail.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter

May Meeting Dates

Announcements

Calls for Submissions

Kudos To Our Members

Group Poetry Selections

Other Poems by Our Members

**Poems from Overseas
Members**

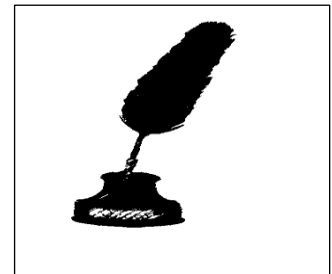
To – **All May Birthdays** –
Happy Birthday. May your day
and year be filled with
happiness, good health, and
may all your happy dreams
come true.



If you may have forgotten, the
early bird period has ended for
paying your membership dues.

If you are able to pay now,
please do.

We appreciate it.



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

This has been a month of celebrations – starting with the last few days of Passover, followed by Independence Day, and ending as I write this with Lag ba'Omer – which we hope will not cause the Corona restrictions to be resumed!

For Voices, the big news is that **we have decided to hold the “Poetry by the Sea” residential workshop, which was postponed last year, at the King Solomon hotel in Netanya.** A draft (not finalized) program is included in this newsletter. It is planned to take place on a Sunday-Monday, either May 30 –31st, or the following week, June 6th – 7th. Attendance will require a “green passport”.

The hotel will only give us a price quote after Shavuot, which means that **everyone will then have to register quickly! As soon as we have firm prices and date, we'll notify everyone.** We expect the price per person in a double room to be reasonably close to the 2016 price mentioned in our email message about it, 460 NIS; but please note that we mentioned the wrong price for a single room: back in 2016 it was 760 NIS not 580. I do hope this won't seriously affect those of our members who would prefer a single room.

Our other good news is that David Caplan, who gave a very successful workshop in Haifa in 2018, has agreed to be the International Judge of the 2021 Reuben Rose competition. David is a Professor of English at Ohio Wesleyan U. where he is also assistant director of creative writing. He has published two books of his own poetry, the latest in 2020, and serves as a contributing editor to the Virginia Quarterly Review and to Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing. We are delighted that he has accepted and look forward to a happy collaboration with him.

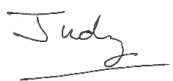
Meanwhile, our Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom on April 5th, had 27 attendees, including some of our overseas members. Fourteen of us read a poem each at the Open Mic which ended the meeting.

This Sunday we're holding the joint Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and Reuben Rose competition awards event – again via Zoom. We have a record 63 people registered to attend – 26 of them for the Bar Sagi event though we hope they will stay for the Reuben Rose event too. I do encourage our own members who are attending the latter, to join the meeting from the start and give encouragement to these talented young poets, all of whom have told me how excited they are to have won a prize or honourable mention and to be taking part in the event.

Finally – our Haifa group recently held a poetry reading for the Haifa branch of Hadassah, organized by Wendy Blumfield, at which several of our members read their poems. We were encouraged to see that the Hadassah members greatly enjoyed it.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Netanya workshop in a month's time!

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

APRIL 2021

ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>HAIFA AT EDIT GAVRIELY'S GARDEN 11a Sinai Street (near Mercaz Horev) Haifa SUNDAY, MAY 23 AT 5:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412 wendyb@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>TEL AVIV MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, MAY 20 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM MEETING VIA ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 AT 6:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 aemeallem@gmail.com</p>	<p>UPPER GALILEE MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 AT 5-7 PM 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 poetsprogress@gmail.com</p>
<p>ASHKELON MEETING VIA ZOOM CONTACT CHAIM FOR DETAILS</p> <p>Coordinator: Chaim Bezalel Mobile: 054-674-5900 bezalel.levy@gmail.com</p>	<p>NETANYA & SHARON MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, MAY 31 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Tel: 074-704-2736 olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p>	<p>WESTERN GALILEE MEETING VIA ZOOM CONTACT PHYLLSIE FOR DETAILS</p> <p>Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Tel: 052-874-6880 phyllsie@hotmail.com</p>	<p>LONDON UK FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ESTHER.</p> <p>Coordinator: Esther Lipton eblipton@talk21.com</p>
<p>SOUTHERN MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, MAY 27 AT 5:00-7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM MONDAY, MAY 10 AT 7:30 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Tel: 052 808 9365 Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>USA/CANADA NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

Netanya Workshop Draft Program

Location: King Solomon Hotel, 18 Hama'apilim St., Netanya 42264.

Contacts: Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel: president@voicesisrael.com; 054-741-7860
Chanita Millman, Treasurer: 15 Shachar St., Jerusalem 96263: millmanm@inter.net.il;
02-63-6770

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT US UNTIL FIRM PRICES AND DATES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.

Day 1: Sunday May 30 OR Sunday June 6

- 15:30 – 16:00: check-in and workshop registration
- 16:15 – 17:45: **Workshop:** Bible stories as the inspiration for paintings and poetry
Presenter: Dina Yehuda
- 19:00 – 20:00 Dinner
- 20:15 – ca. 21:15 **Panel Discussion:** How to get your poems published: everything you needed to know and didn't know to ask.
Panelists (all with experience of successful publishing):
Avril Meallem
Donna Bechar
Judy Koren

Day 2: Monday May 31 OR Monday June 7

- 8 – 9 am: Breakfast
- 9:15 – 11:15 am: **Workshop:** two one-hour sessions:
1. Eli Ben-Joseph: A Poem of Ambition
2. Luiza Carol: Cooking Up a Poem – cooking as the inspiration for poetry
- 11:15 – 11:30 am: Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00: **Workshop:** aubade poems and serenades [OR nocturnes]: the larks and owls of poetry. Presenter: Iris Dan.
- 13:00 – 13:30: Closing remarks and book sales.

Members who wish to sell their own books are welcome to do so, on their own responsibility – Voices Israel cannot be responsible for loss or non-payment of books.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS: FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

REUVEN'S FORMAL ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE POETRY

My "Formal Elements" class will meet on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 5-7 pm, on Zoom. This month we will focus entirely on the work of William Butler 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 or 04-697-4105.

WORKSHOPS

Mindy Aber Barad has announced her upcoming workshop on Tuesday, 4 May 2021 as part of the Jerusalem Women's Writers Seminar (JWWS) Monday, 3 May and Tuesday, 4 May. This will be the 2nd year as a virtual online summit! Go to the JWWS website to register and to read about the other speakers scheduled during the two-day conference. **See** attachments at the end of the newsletter. www.jwws.com

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, **see** <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/>. **See** also Frontier Poetry's 2021 Chapbook Contest now open – deadline **May 16**.

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/>

Winning Writers has found over 3 dozen free poetry contests with deadlines between April 15-May 31. **Free Contests**

Poetry Super Highway released their 23rd annual Yom HaShoah issue featuring 55 poets from around the world. **See** below in Kudos to Members our own poets who were published.

Mslexia Magazine has information about May writing opportunities: subscribe to Mslexia magazine <https://mslexia.co.uk/shop/subscriptions/>

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **The Haifa Group of Voices Israel** as reported by Wendy Blumfield: The Oren Haifa branch of Hadassah Women asked our Haifa Voices group to present some poetry at their monthly meeting on zoom. Attached is the certificate¹ they gave us and below is the President`s letter of appreciation with a link to their recording.

Dear Wendy, Judy, Susan, Iris, Edit, Debby, Miriam & Naomi

Thanks you so much for presenting such a special programme of your poetry. **‘Hearing our Voice – the Pleasure of Poetry’** gave us the opportunity to hear your thoughts and the wonderful ways in which you express them in words.

Thank you, Wendy, for organising the programme, which ran really smoothly and was so appropriate for Erev Yom Hazikaron. I have uploaded the recording to YouTube and the link is: <https://youtu.be/n1YUvwmcrt8> As I explained, the YouTube is ‘Unlisted’ so only those, who receive the link, can view it. I hope you like the certificate (attached), which was designed by our Board Member, Valerie Serkes.

Chag Atzmaut Same’ach!

Lee

Lee Freeman
President
Haifa Oren Chapter
Hadassah-Israel

To – **Judy Koren** whose poem *The Plane Truth* was accepted for the June issue of *Lighten Up Online*. In addition, Judy’s poem, *The X Factor* was accepted by *The Road Not Traveled*, a Journal of Formal Poetry for their August issue.

To – As reported by Ruth Fogelman: **Hayim Abramson, Simcha Angel, Mindy Aber Barad, Judy Belsky, Esther Cameron, Ruth Fogelman, Judy Koren, Michael E. Stone, and Miriam Webber (a.k.a. Rumi Morkin)** who have all been published in the *Deronda Review*, Vol. 9.1, 2021. And to the editors, **Esther Cameron** and **Mindy Aber Barad Golembo**, on producing another excellent issue.

To - **Rosemary Wolfson** who has recently had a poem accepted for the Palewell Press Anthology "Can You Hear the People Sing? Global responses to the pandemic".

To – As reported to us by Esther Cameron, the new issue of *The Deronda Review* is now online at www.derondareview.org.

To – **Mindy Aber Barad, Helen Bar-Lev, Wendy Dickstein, Judith Fineberg, and Larry Lefkowitz** who submitted poems read at the Jerusalem event *HaShoah thru Poetry* and published in *Halah, The literary magazine of Jerusalem*.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

To – **Judith Fineberg** whose poem *Better than Band-aids* was published in an online *Dream Doctors* newsletter.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev, Judith R. Robinson, and Judy Koren**, who each had a poem published in Poetry Super Highway's 23rd Annual Yom HaShoah issue.

To – **Rena Lopata**, who has published a collection of poetry dating from 1979-2019 including photography by her husband, Alex; the Australian Jewish News published Rena's poem, *There is a crack in everything* in their Literary Pages during the High Holy Days.

To – **Willa Schneberg**, who presented a poetry reading on April 11, 2021, at the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland, Oregon USA celebrating National Poetry Month in April.

To – **Michael J. Duke**, who has been published in the latest edition of Spotlight published by the Circle Foundation for the Arts.

Contributions published in this Voices Israel newsletter and files linked to it, including in our workshop chapbooks, are the sole copyright of the contributors themselves.

Any of the opinions in the content published in this newsletter are the sole opinions of the individual contributors and do not represent the views or opinions of Voices Israel Group of Poets in English.