



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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### **Shavuot**

May 25-26



Matan Torah



... and cheesecake!



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

I trust you all enjoyed Passover which between preparations and celebrations took up the first half of April; and are enjoying the relative lull, in the second half, of political controversy, activities in the Knesset having moved to the President's residence. For Voices Israel, this has been a time to rest and relax between the AGM in the second half of March, and the competition awards events right at the very end of April.

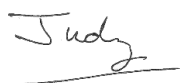
Apart from our monthly meetings, our only event this past month was indeed the joint Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and Reuben Rose Competition awards event, held by Zoom as usual, on April 30<sup>th</sup>. A few people came late, a few had to leave early, but in all fifty-three people attended: I think that's a record for the number of participants! This year we had four winners of the Bar Sagi Prize, since two poems tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place; and four Honourable Mentions: which just goes to show the quality of the poems entered. Thanks once more to Professor Joseph, Bar's grandfather, for sponsoring the competition. We heard instructive comments from one of the Bar Sagi Prize judges, Amiel Schotz, and from two of the Reuben Rose judges including our Overseas Judge, Yehoshua November, who didn't manage at the last minute to make it, but sent us his comments in advance. All but one of the winners of prizes and Honourable Mentions were with us; and about a dozen participants from abroad. Warm thanks to all the people who devote so much time and effort to running these competitions and making them a success – especially the judges and the two administrators, Michele Bustin for the Bar Sagi Prize and Mark Levinson for the Reuben Rose competition. As usual we ended the evening with an Open Mic for members, and by popular demand I recorded that too, separately. All the recordings will be up on our YouTube channel in due course and you'll all get the link to it.

The editorial team of the Anthology has also been busy and recently finalized its decisions. Everyone who entered should have received Accept or Decline notices for every poem. If a poem of yours didn't get in – take heart: there's no bar to re-submitting a poem the following year and trying again (I've done it myself...). We hope to have the printed volume ready for distribution by mid-August.

The less-happy news is that we still have no Publicity Officer. We've reduced the duties of this position to just sending out, by email, notices of upcoming national events. It isn't a lot of work. Please, if you can help, contact Wendy at [Blumfieldwendy@gmail.com](mailto:Blumfieldwendy@gmail.com).

Also, we're having trouble finding a suitable location to hold a workshop in the central area, so the one planned for May has been postponed to June while we continue to look for a place. If anyone knows of one, or can offer their own home to host a one-day workshop, please do get in touch with me at [president.voices@gmail.com](mailto:president.voices@gmail.com), or with Elana our workshop coordinator at [elanado@gmail.com](mailto:elanado@gmail.com).

With best wishes for a joyful Shavuot and fruitful poetry writing,



Judy Koren,  
President, Voices Israel.

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## MAY 2023

### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>SOUTHERN</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, May 11 at 17:00 – 19:00</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640</p> <p><a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438</p> <p><a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Tuesday, May 23 at 7:30 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998</p> <p><a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b></p> <p>No meetings scheduled. Contact Phyllsie for details.</p> <p>Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Mobile: 052-874-6880</p> <p><a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>HAIFA</b></p> <p>Wednesday, May 24 at 19:00 at the home of Wendy Blumfield</p> <p>Contact Debbie Golden for details</p> <p>Coordinator: Debbie Golden Mobile: 054-580-6209</p> <p><a href="mailto:deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il">deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il</a></p>	<p><b>NETANYA/SHARON</b></p> <p>Monday, 29 May 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><a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b></p> <p>Wednesday, May 17 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><a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, May 11 at 19:30 Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365</p> <p><a href="mailto:Y2nosh@netvision.net.il">Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</a></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

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

– Tal Wachsstock

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – all the Voices members who were published in the *Poetry Super Highway* special Yom HaShoah Poetry Issue:

- **Helen Bar-Lev** – “eighty years have passed”
- **Rifkah Goldberg** – “Always There For Me”
- **Judith R. Robinson** – “The Shock That Went Away”

The poems are published at [www.poetrysuperhighway.com/ps/25th-annual-yom-hashoah-holocaust-remembrance-day-poetry-issue/](http://www.poetrysuperhighway.com/ps/25th-annual-yom-hashoah-holocaust-remembrance-day-poetry-issue/)

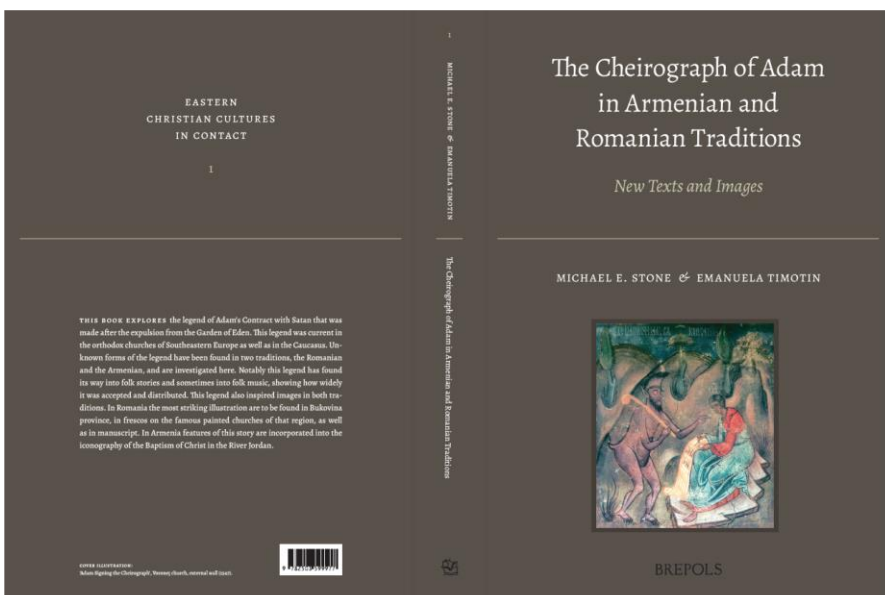
To – **Helen Bar-Lev**

- whose article “Isaac Rosenbloom” was published in *ESRA Magazine* at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/isaac-rosenbloom-1.html>
- whose flash story “Like a Penguin’s Flipper” was long-listed, and whose flash story “Meeting Beethoven in my Imagination” was short-listed, in the Fish Publishing Flash Fiction Prize Competition 2023. <https://www.fishpublishing.com/2023/04/10/flash-fiction-prize-2023-results/>
- whose poem “Spring Again” was read on the World Poetry Café radio program in Vancouver. You can hear it at [www.mixcloud.com/VictorSchwartzman/world-poetry-cafe-for-april-13-2023-including-ruth-kozak-and-anita-aguirre-nieveras/](http://www.mixcloud.com/VictorSchwartzman/world-poetry-cafe-for-april-13-2023-including-ruth-kozak-and-anita-aguirre-nieveras/) at 5:50 minutes.

To – **Wendy Blumfield**, whose article “Haifa Reborn” was published in *ESRA Magazine* at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/haifa-reborn.html>

To – **Isaac Cohen**, whose poem was translated into Spanish as “La Esperanza de la Libertad” and published in *Azahar Revista Poetica*.

To – **Michael E. Stone**, whose book *The Cheirograph of Adam in Armenian and Romanian Traditions*, co-authored with Emanuela Timotin, has been published by Brepols. [www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503599977-1](http://www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503599977-1)



## VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

To – **Yochanan Zaquantov**, who, under his pen name Ivan Labombarbe, has published his fourth book, *Under the Sakura Tree: Japanese Poetry forms and other poetry*. Ivan Labombarbe explores the different types of Japanese poetry styles in English. Writing to an English-speaking audience his poems use the standard syllabic count for these forms. Using both American and Japanese themes as well as personal experience. Many of the poems are romantic and day-to-day life. inspired by Takuboku Ishikawa's works translated into English he wrote some Tankas in both traditional and freestyle forms. Lastly, he returns to his traditional poetry styles at the end of the book.

[www.amazon.com/dp/B0C3CVQ7P8/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C3CVQ7P8/)



### BOOK LAUNCH FOR ESTHER CAMERON'S NEW BOOK

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, there will be a book launch at Matan (Rashbag 30, Jerusalem) for Esther Cameron's book *BeTsovet Or VeTsel: Halikhah im HaRav Avraham Yitzchak Kook vehameshorer Paul Celan (At the Junction of Light and Shadow: A Walk with Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook and the Poet Paul Celan)*. Speakers: Rabbi Ouri Sherki, Rabbi Aviya Cohen, Sivan and Avishar Har-Shefi, Sara Friedland ben Arza, Esther Cameron. Music by Shevet Achim Ensemble. In Hebrew. Admission free.

### 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).

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## THE BAR SAGI YOUNG POETS PRIZE AWARDS EVENT

The fourth annual Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize awards event was held via Zoom on April 30. The event was hosted by Judy Koren, president of Voices Israel, and featured remarks by Michele Bustin, administrator of the prize competition; by Professor Anthony Joseph, grandfather of Bar Sagi and sponsor of the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize; and by Amiel Schotz, one of the three judges of the competition. The highlight of the event was the eight prize-winning poets reading their award-winning poems:

**Reuth Katz**, age 14 – First prize: “The Little Things”

**Shilo Aloni**, age 18 – Second prize: “City Lights”

**Amit Shaham**, age 15 – Joint Third prize: “Feathers”

**Or Gordin**, age 17 – Joint Third prize: “Glass Skin”

**Eyal Bechor**, age 16 – Honorable Mention: “Like sin(x)”

**Marta Zorin**, age 15 – Honorable Mention: “Something very gentle”

**Reut Widawsky**, age 13 – Honorable Mention: “The Jewish Year”

**Yarden Or**, age 18 – Honorable Mention: “Tomorrow, Next Week, Next Year”

Everybody in attendance was astounded by the talent of these young Israeli poets.

The texts of the poems can be found at [www.voicesisrael.com/2023-Bar-Sagi-prizewinning-poems.pdf](http://www.voicesisrael.com/2023-Bar-Sagi-prizewinning-poems.pdf)



Reuth Katz, 1st prize



Shilo Aloni, 2nd prize



Amit Shaham, 3rd prize



Or Gordin, 3rd prize

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## THE REUBEN ROSE POETRY COMPETITION AWARDS EVENT

The thirty-third annual Reuben Rose Poetry Competition awards event was held via Zoom on April 30, immediately following the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize awards event. This event, too, was hosted by the indefatigable Judy Koren, president of Voices Israel, and featured commentary by Mark L. Levinson, administrator of the competition; by Yehoshua November, overseas judge of the competition, whose remarks were delivered by Mark L. Levinson; and by Yiskah Rosenfeld, last year's first-place winner and one of this year's judges.

The winners of the competition were:

**Iris Dan** – First prize: “The Fear of Slipping Through Letters”

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

**Judy Koren** – Third prize: “How to Write a Middle Eastern Symphony”

**Roy “Robin” Bass** – Honorable Mention: “How To Break (A Container)”

**Simon Constam** – Honorable Mention: “Jacob Wrestles the Angel”

**Alan Elyshevitz** – Honorable Mention: “Our Saturdays”

**Gabriel Emanuel** – Honorable Mention: “Einstein’s Brain”

**Solly Kaplinski** – Honorable Mention: “Until 120”

**Rochelle S. Kochin** – Honorable Mention: “The Wedding Canopy”

**Esther B. Lipton** – Honorable Mention: “Kol Nidrei Night Encounter”

**Celia Merlin** – Honorable Mention: “Pears”

**Jo-Ann Mort** – Honorable Mention: “In Lviv”

**Pamela Wax** – Honorable Mention: “1HLY 48”

The quality of the prize-winning and honorable-mention poems was uniformly excellent.

The texts of the poems are at [www.voicesisrael.com/2022-RR\\_winning-poems-and-HMs.pdf](http://www.voicesisrael.com/2022-RR_winning-poems-and-HMs.pdf)



Iris Dan, 1st prize



David Silverman, 2nd prize



Judy Koren, 3rd prize

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND POETRY WITH STEPHEN HORENSTEIN

I A W E

The Israel Association of Writers in English  
invites you to join us in an evening of

### *Music and Poetry: An Awesome Synergy*

Hosted by Stephen Horenstein



**Stephen Horenstein** is an American-born, Jerusalem-based composer whose works have been performed and recorded worldwide. He has been honored by the Prime Minister's Prize for Composers (Israel) and The National Endowment of the Arts (USA). Horenstein has taught at Bennington College, Brandeis University and the Jerusalem Academy of Music, with residencies at the California Institute of the Arts, Stanford University, and York University (England). He currently blogs at *The Times of Israel* and writes poetry. His hobbies include storytelling, cooking Indian curry and traveling to strange and exotic places

**Thursday, May 11, 2023, 19:30.**

**Zoom link to follow!**

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84362994423?pwd=MVYxUXVjLzIxMzZ0pCKzU4a1F2M1VRdz09>

## POETRY EVENTS AT THE TZFAT ENGLISH LIBRARY

**POETRY PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP**

**FREE!** **BRING YOUR WORDS!**

**WED.**  
**MAY 10**  
**7:30 PM**

at the **English Library**

Learn how to make your spoken words performance an engaging and entertaining experience for the audience

questions? email: [geigerlibrary.org@gmail.com](mailto:geigerlibrary.org@gmail.com)

38 Jerusalem St, Tzfat

**OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT**

**MAY 17**

**AT THE ENGLISH LIBRARY**  
38 Jerusalem St  
Tzfat

share your original poems and stories in a warm and friendly intimate space

Starts At **7.30PM**

space is limited!  
please rsvp:  
[www.geigerlibrary.com](http://www.geigerlibrary.com)

**FREE ENTRY**

More info: [www.geigerlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.geigerlibrary.org/calendar)



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## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

### The Deronda Review

For its 2023 issue, the Deronda Review is seeking poems about The Soul – its nature, its existence, and the ways that it is sensed. They are also interested in poems inspired by other poems, and poems about the seasons of the earth. Full details are at [www.derondareview.org/submit.htm](http://www.derondareview.org/submit.htm). Send poems to [derondareview@gmail.com](mailto:derondareview@gmail.com) or [maber4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com).  
Deadline: June 30, 2023.

### Last Stanza Poetry Journal

They want poetry on 'The Things We Carry' theme. "As with every issue, poems submitted do not need to follow the prompt/theme. A single \$100 award will be given for an outstanding poem." Poems can be any style; they prefer non-rhyming. Send up to 5 poems. The deadline is 30 June 2023. Details at <https://laststanzapoetry.blogspot.com/>.

### Blue Unicorn

Their website (<https://blueunicorn.org/>) says, "Blue Unicorn looks for poems that you couldn't possibly confuse with prose. That distinctiveness may come from form—we welcomed rhyme and meter when these tools were all but banished elsewhere. But the kick can come just as well (or also) from original imagery, gleaming sensory description, or the imaginative handling of idea. ... We also take translations, always looking for less familiar poets and languages, and the occasional piece of art." The magazine has been publishing since 1977. Contributors get two copies, and their six annual Pushcart Prize nominees receive honoraria of \$50 each. Details at <https://blueunicorn.org/submit-your-work-to-blue-unicorn/>.

### Contemporary Verse 2

This quarterly literary journal publishes poetry (up to 6 pages) and critical writing about poetry, including interviews, articles, essays, and reviews. They also welcome poetry submissions in French, as well as translation projects, including both French to English and English to French. Pay is \$30/poem, \$50-\$100 for interviews and articles, \$40-\$150 for essays, and \$50-\$80 for reviews. The deadline is 31 May 2023. Details at <https://contemporaryverse2.ca/submission-guidelines/>.

### Guernica

Guernica is a magazine of global arts and politics. They publish poetry (send up to 5 poems), translations are welcome, fiction, and nonfiction. Pay is \$50 for poems and \$100-150 for other genres. Details at <https://guernicamagazine.submittable.com/submit>. No deadline mentioned: they appear to accept year-round.

### Poetic Sun

They accept poetry (in Chinese or English, up to 3 poems) and creative nonfiction, "We like poems with concrete imagery and strong emotions; We like poems that surprise us and make us weep like soft children; We like beautiful music flowing in your lines." They accept simultaneous submissions and previously published. Details at <http://www.poetic-sun.com/submission.html>.

### 50 Haikus

"50 Haikus is a literary journal featuring only Haiku poetry in open form. Each issue contains exactly 50 Haiku poems by established and emerging poets." Send one poem per submission. Details at <https://50haikus.com/submit/terms.php>.

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