



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

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



**SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND
POETRY READINGS IN THIS
NEWSLETTER.**



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Shavuot in mid-May was marred by the latest round of Hamas rocket attacks and the IDF's response to them. Now that we have a cease-fire, let us hope it will hold; and meanwhile our condolences to the families who have lost a loved one, and we all wish a speedy recovery to the injured.

Coming back to our own small world: on May 2nd, before all this happened, we held a very successful **Zoom awards event for the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and the Reuben Rose competition**. All the winners of prizes and Honorable Mentions of the Bar Sagi prize managed to come, except for our first-prize winner who was only just out of hospital. Most of the thirteen prize- and honorable-mention winners of the Reuben Rose were also with us. We opened the Bar Sagi event with 57 attendees, and several of the young winners plus their families stayed for at least part of the Reuben Rose section. Professor Joseph showed another lovely video based on Bar's work, and after the event we received several appreciative emails from the families of the Bar Sagi winners. We ended the long event with a short Open Mike.

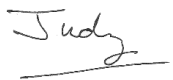
We have opened a YouTube channel for Voices (a big Thank You to our secretary Linda for handling this!) and **have uploaded to it the Zoom recordings of both events** – the Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose sections separately. The videos are not public but our members and all attendees at the event have received a link which enables you to view them. Anyone who did not and would like one – please email me.

Sadly, **we finally had to cancel the "Poetry By The Sea" residential workshop in Netanya** – the only hotel as yet open in Netanya being very upscale, with prices beyond our reach. **We are holding two one-day workshops instead:** one in Netanya, on June 7th hosted by Susan Olsburgh, and one in Haifa on June 23rd. Details have been circulated to our Israeli members and are in this newsletter. As for all workshops, the number of participants is limited so if you haven't already signed up please do so quickly!

Finally, **we have fixed the date of the Voices Israel 50th Anniversary Zoom celebration for Sunday 11th July at 7:30 pm Israel time**. Although in Israel we are mainly back to normal, we are Zooming the event so that as many members as possible can take part. We really hope to get a big attendance including from our overseas members. Wendy Blumfield has been working hard with our long-term members to collect their memories and sample early poems, and Chaim Bezalel is helping us to produce a chapbook of the event. Many thanks to both! We intend to print it so that we have a permanent souvenir, and distribute it to all of you together with the anthology. Again, the program of this event has been sent to you all and is also in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our June and July events, in person or via Zoom!

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

JUNE 2021

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>HAIFA AT WENDY BLUMFIELD'S 19 SD. WINGATE Haifa TUESDAY, JUNE 22 AT 6:30 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, JUNE 24 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, JUNE 17 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, JUNE 9 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 AT SUSAN OLSBURGH'S 2/6 ZALMAN SHAZAR (3RD FLOOR) RAMAT POLEG MONDAY, JUNE 28 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 SUNDAY, JUNE 13 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 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9 AT 7:00 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Alysara Green, Kibbutz Revivim, Israel

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, June 16, 2021, 5-7 pm, on Zoom and in person. The focus this month we will be on Yeats, Pound, and Eliot, with a coda by Auden. 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.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Calls for submissions will be sent in a separate mailing in order to keep the newsletter a reasonable length.

UPCOMING POETRY EVENTS

By Paul Rabinowitz:

Sunday, June 6

Sunday afternoon in Woodstock, CT at 2-4PM
I'll be reading new works from my new collection, *Retrospective with Reading Glasses*
For details of reading see

<https://www.paulrabinowitz.com/new-events/2021/6/6/reading-in-roseland-park-woodstock-ct>

By Judy Belsky and Shlomo Yashar (Sher)
An evening of poetry in the seminary garden

The Invisible Thread *Poems exploring ancestral connections spanning the generations*

Sunday June 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Ateres Bnos Yerushalayim

Shaul Adler 9, Jerusalem

(Located off Haneviim. Free parking at the end of Shaul Adler.)

Featuring poetry by Judy Belsky and Shlomo Yashar (Sher)

(The program was inspired by a connection established between our families in 1985.)

Followed by an open mic

(All are invited to read 1-2 poems about their ancestral connections.)

The event is sponsored by IAWE and Voices Israel.

(Contact Judy/052-604-2508 or Shlomo/055-660-8081 for more information, directions.)

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By Ricky Friesem:

I am having a launch for my new Hebrew collection, entitled, MIklat which is being published by Beit Eked in Israel. The launch (on June 21 at 7) will be in the garden of our home on the campus of the Weizmann Institute and if any Voices members would like to attend, they should contact me at: friesem.friesem@weizmann.ac.il and I will add them to the mailing list for invitations which will be sent early in June.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM JUDY KOREN, PRESIDENT

Dear winners, guests and attendees at the Bar Sagi Prize and Reuben Rose Competition awards event,

We have opened a YouTube channel and put on it the recordings of the awards event from May 2 - the Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose sections were recorded separately. They are not publicly available but are viewable via the following links:

Bar Sagi awards

event: <https://youtu.be/mOugRroQJxA>

Reuben Rose event: <https://youtu.be/TCQv8jkfVj0>

We also have audio-only recordings, if anyone would like them please let me know, but provided your Internet connection is reasonable, you should have no trouble viewing the video files.

Enjoy!

Judy.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ONE-DAY WORKSHOP IN NETANYA ON JUNE 7TH

Date: June 7th **Hostess:** Susan Olsburgh

Cost: 50 NIS + a small contribution to lunch. **IMPORTANT: in accordance with our hostess's request, please do not bring anything made at home, nor anything fleishig** – fruit and similar is fine, or something with a parve or chalavi kashrut certificate, from a kosher store.

Place: 2/6 Zalman Shazar St., Ramat Poleg, Netanya.

Nearest train stop: Beit Yehoshua (10 minutes from Susan's house): then bus no. 31 (travel time: about 7 mins) or share a taxi.

Corona restrictions: attendees must be fully vaccinated or recovered with proof (green passport or confirmation from their kupat holim).

Program:

10:30: arrival

11:00 Eli Ben-Joseph: Composing on Achievement: Frost's "After Apple Picking" for inspiration

The purpose of this session is to provide an example and suggestions to stimulate poetic composition. Robert Frost's 'After Apple-Picking' is used as the example; the issues regarding ambition and achievement brought up in the poem, as well as more general ones, then provide a list of possible subjects for the writing exercise.

12:00 short coffee break

12:15 Judy Koren: The Poetry of Emotion

A poem is only memorable if the reader can *connect* to it. And even a technically brilliant poem can fail to get the reader to connect because it lacks human emotion. Readers (including competition judges) have a need – often subconscious – for this emotional connection. The session explores this idea, using our reactions to various poems as examples, and discusses ways of arousing the reader's empathic response to a poem, as a prelude to the writing exercise.

13:15 Lunch

14:00 Luiza Carol: Cooking Up a Poem: Cooking as the Inspiration for Poetry

This session takes its inspiration from "the poetry of cooking" especially vegetarian food, using poems by Emily Dickinson and William Carlos Williams, the Jewish blessings on food, and a selection of paintings by famous artists, as inspiration for an exercise on writing about food, either growing or on the table.

15:00 Closing remarks

Please register asap with our President, Judy Koren: president@voicesisrael.com – since it's a workshop there is the usual limit on number of participants.

We hope to return to selling Voices Israel publications at the event; attendees will also be able to bring chapbooks for sale on their own responsibility.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HAIFA WORKSHOP ON JUNE 23rd

Date: June 23rd

Hostess: Susan Rosenberg

Cost: 50 NIS + a small contribution to lunch. **IMPORTANT:** vegetarian, vegan or chalavi only.

Place: 42 Leon Blum St., Apt 46A, Haifa.

If coming by train: from Hof haCarmel station, cross the road to the Egged bus station and take the no. 3 bus. There are bus stops opposite no. 34 and no. 54 Leon Blum St. Bus travel time: approx.. 25 mins.

Corona restrictions: attendees must be fully vaccinated or recovered, with proof (green passport or confirmation from their kupa holim).

Program:

10:30: arrival

11:00 Elana Dorfman (back by popular demand!): The Poetry of Sound

Using sensory description keeps our poetry in the moment and develops a strong connection with the reader. This workshop will explore the use of sound descriptions and sound words in our poetry including onomatopoeia and rhythmic repetition. The workshop will include two short associative exercises using free writing and then an extended time period to apply what we've discovered in the creation of a poem

12:00 short coffee break

12:15 Iris Dan: Aubades – the Daily Shock of the Dawn

As a song about the parting of lovers, the Aubade goes back to Provençal Troubadour poetry of the Middle Ages. The aubades we shall read together range from the 17th to the 21st century, and deal not only with love, but also with hope and fear, with the absurd of existence, and with the violence of war. We shall focus on the colors, the sounds, and the metaphorical (and not only metaphorical) explosion of dawn in the works of Shakespeare, John Donne, Philip Larkin, Richard Wilbur, Louise Glück, and Ocean Vuong, followed by a writing exercise.

13:15 Lunch

14:00 Dina Yehuda: Bible Stories as the Inspiration for Poetry

Great artists have painted their interpretations of the timeless story of Adam and Eve and the serpent. After displaying several paintings that portray characters and themes in the narrative differently, this session will explore some questions regarding portrayal of the actors in the drama (How is the tree portrayed? What is the connection between the tree, Eve and the serpent? How is the serpent portrayed?) as prelude to an exercise on writing a poem.

15:15 Closing remarks

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VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

VOICES AT 50

This summer Voices Israel Group of Poets in English is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding.

We are planning a gala event on Sunday 11th July at 7.30 p.m. Israel time – on Zoom so that our members far and wide can participate. **This is 5:30 pm UK time, 12:30 pm US East Coast time, 9:30 am Pacific time.** We look forward to seeing you all there!

Register for the event and the open mike with Judy: president@voicesisrael.com

Programme:

- Welcome from our President, Judy Koren
- A Brief History of Voices Israel
- Tributes to Voices Israel founders, with readings of their early poems.
- Reminiscences of some of our veteran members from the 1970`s and 1980`s who will personally each read a poem, some of them from the first published anthologies.
- Voices Lives On: Judy will pay tribute to our new generation of poets who are contributing so much to the running of the organization.
- Open Mike: We invite members from throughout Israel and overseas to read one of their poems.

Register for the event and the open mike with Judy: president@voicesisrael.com

VOICES AT 50 ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR CHAPBOOK

To commemorate this event, Wendy Blumfield our indefatigable Publicity Officer has compiled a colourful publication containing texts, pictures and poems from this event. Covering from the founding of Voices Israel up to the present day, the chapbook is illustrated with photos of our founders, pictures from our workshops and other activities, collages of our publications through the years, and more. It will be sent with the 2021 anthology free of charge to all paid-up members.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Reuven Goldfarb**, whose poem, “Cheering Gino Cimoli,” was a finalist in the Early Weaver Baseball Writing Prize competition, sponsored by *The Cobalt Review*, and appears there on-line. See www.cobaltreview.com.

To – **Judy Koren** whose poem *Tel Shikmona* is being published in the June issue of *The Orchards Poetry Journal*, and whose poem *Persimmon* was accepted for the October issue of the twice-yearly print-only literary magazine *Blue Unicorn*.

To – **Richard Shavei-Tzion**, director of the Ramatayim Men’s Choir on their Grand Finale Concert at the Jerusalem Theatre on 23.6.21, concluding 26 years of activity, over 250 performances across Israel and Europe, from London to St. Petersburg.

To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem “Bearing Witness” has been published in *Topical Poetry* at <https://topicalpoetry.com/bearing-witness-an-open-letter-to-darnella-frazier>.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose poem, *Ah, Moses*, has been published in *Poetica Magazine* at <https://www.poeticamagazine.com/helen-bar-lev>; and who has had two poems, *Mourning Irises* and *A May Storm*, published in the *International Writers Journal*, <https://iwj-magazine.com/iwj/2021/01>. In addition, – Helen’s poem, *Suggestions to the Young Poet* (which appeared in *Voices’ March* newsletter) was broadcast to youth groups on the *WORLD POETRY CAFÉ RADIO SHOW* on CFRO 100.5 FM, Vancouver, Canada.

From Esther Cameron: Before the current round of rockets and riots, we gathered poems about the blow that fell at the conclusion of Lag Ba’Omer on Mount Meron. Poems on this subject by Ruth Fogelman, Mindy Aber Barad Golembo, Hayim Abramson, Esther Cameron, Brenda Appelbaum Golani, Leah Leslie Gottesman, Shoshannah Somerville, Alana Schwartz and Gerson Moskowitz, Esther Fein, and Chananya Weissman are now posted on the *Deronda Review* website, [here](#).

May this not be forgotten, and may we find strength in our current straits.

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