



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

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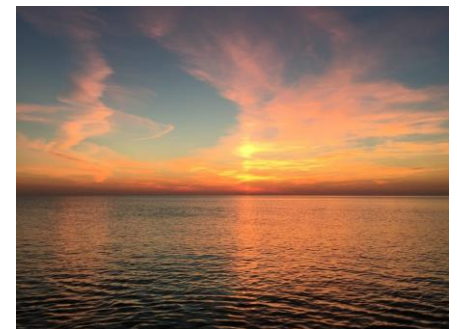
**Calls for Submissions**

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June 21



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

May was a quiet month from the viewpoint of Voices Israel activities, but a fair bit of planning for the future has been going on behind the scenes.

First, a reminder: following the Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose awards events, Zoom recordings of them, and of the Open Mic, are up on our YouTube channel. All three videos, and earlier Voices Israel YouTube content, can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@voicesisrael>.

**Stop-press news:** the American poet Nancy Shiffrin has just agreed to be our Overseas Judge for this year's Reuben Rose competition. Thank you to Ricky Friesem for recommending her!

And we've decided it's time to **update the prizes and entry fees for the Reuben Rose Competition**. They haven't been raised for a least a decade (we simply don't have records from earlier) and have become seriously undervalued. So we're raising the First, Second and Third Prizes to \$750, \$250, and \$100 respectively. That's just over a 50% increase altogether. The entry fees are going up by less: a quarter to a third: to \$8, \$16 and \$24 (instead of \$6, \$12 and \$18) for one, three and six poems respectively. For comparison: most competitions these days seem to charge \$15 to \$20 for "up to three poems" with no reduction for larger numbers.

On June 19th we have a **Zoom mini-workshop, "Crossroads,"** a consideration of the choices we make in life, as seen through the lens of Bible stories and a poem by Keats, led by Dina Yehuda. If you haven't registered and want a place, please see the notice in this newsletter.

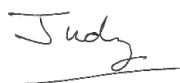
Dina's also been working hard on the Anthology, which is now in the final stages of preparation for printing. Those of you who have poems in it received the PDF for proofreading a couple of weeks ago. *Anyone who didn't, please contact me urgently! Anyone who got the file but didn't yet proofread their poem, please do so NOW because we'll be sending it to the printers soon.*

We were a little disappointed to see that several of our regular contributors didn't send in poems – apparently they forgot and missed the deadline. Please everyone do mark submission deadlines in your calendar – I'm sure we missed some lovely poems this year, purely out of forgetfulness!

As you may remember, we were looking for a place to hold workshops in the central area, i.e. Tel Aviv, but were having trouble finding a suitable location at a reasonable price. I'm happy to report that it looks like we'll be able to hold them at the Tel Aviv central Public Library, Bet Ariella. It's easily accessible from the Savidor train station and the room there has everything we need, at a very reasonable cost. We're planning one there in the Fall, after the High Holidays. Stay tuned!

As before, I have to remind you that, sadly, 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).

Looking forward to "meeting" as many of you as possible at our June 19<sup>th</sup> Zoom workshop,



Judy Koren,  
President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## JUNE 2023

### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>SOUTHERN</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Sunday, June 18 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, June 22 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 Monday, June 26 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, June 28 at 19:00 at the home of Edit Gavriely</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, 26 June 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>Summer Vacation! Next meeting in August</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, June 15 at 19:15 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 members:

- **Les Bernstein**, Mill Valley, California, USA
- **Leigh Hartzman**, Alfe Menashe, Israel

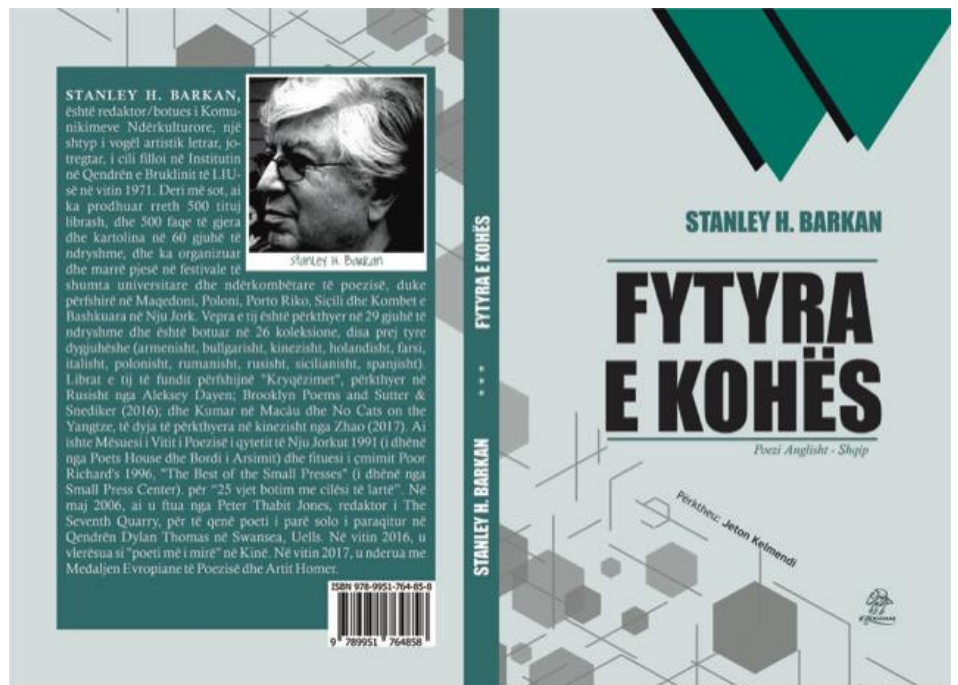
## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**,

- whose poem and drawing “Flying Home” were published as part of the City of Turin’s celebration of International Dylan Thomas Day at <https://dylantoday2023.jimdofree.com/poems-for-dylantoday-2023-10/>.
- whose poem “Between Six and Seven” was long-listed in the Adult division of the Love the Words International Dylan Thomas Day poetry competition. Winners, shortlist, and longlist at [www.discoverdylanthomas.com/love-the-words-2023](http://www.discoverdylanthomas.com/love-the-words-2023).

To – **Stanley Barkan**,

- who was awarded a Certificate of Honor for his participation in the Shanghai Huifeng International Literature · North American Poetry Association 2023 First Sino-foreign Poetry Exchange Meeting and Mother’s Day Poetry Recitation.
- whose latest book of poetry has been translated into Albanian.
- who had seven poems included in the bilingual English-Vietnamese book *American Poetry: A Memorable Time*.



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- To – **Isaac Cohen**, who was interviewed by Enlightenment. The interview is on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/jG7RY13Qk4g>.
- To – **Simon Constam**, whose second book of poems, entitled *Domestic Recusals*, has just been picked up for publication by AOS Publishing, [www.aospublishing.com](http://www.aospublishing.com), of Montreal. It will be published in early 2024. *Domestic Recusals* considers relationships between men and women as they age. Simon's first book, *Brought Down*, a book of Jewish poetry, was published in January 2022 by Wifp and Stock Publishers of Eugene, Oregon.
- To – **Ira Director**, whose poem "Food Court," originally published in the 2022 Voices Israel Anthology, has now been published in Hebrew translation in *George*, the weekly newspaper of Kibbutz Gezer.
- To – **Deborah Golden**, whose poem "At the Other End" was published in the Music issue of *Snakeskin* at [www.snakeskinpoetry.co.uk/Snake306.html](http://www.snakeskinpoetry.co.uk/Snake306.html).
- To – **Miriam Webber**, publishing as **Rumi Morkin**, whose poem "The Marine Muse" has been published in *Lighten Up Online* at <https://lightenup-online.co.uk/index.php/issue-62-june-2023/2516-interval-two-six-sixes>
- To – **Shlomo Yashar aka Steven Sher**,
- whose poem "Physiognomy 101" was published in the new book *New Voices: Contemporary Writers Confronting the Holocaust*, published by Vallentine Mitchell, UK/US, April 2023. The book is part of a larger, "ground-breaking" New Voices Project that hopes to increase awareness and educate this generation on the Holocaust, looking at it in new ways and through different lenses for a new era. Gili Haimovich and Steven Sher (aka Shlomo Yashar) are the two Israeli writers who were invited to contribute to the book. [www.amazon.com/New-Voices-Contemporary-Confronting-Holocaust/dp/1803710268/](http://www.amazon.com/New-Voices-Contemporary-Confronting-Holocaust/dp/1803710268/)
  - whose book *When They Forget*, a selection of Shlomo's poems on the Shoah that appeared over the years, was published at the end of 2022 by New Feral Press of New York.

## 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).



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CROSSROADS WORKSHOP WITH DINA YEHUDA



## You are invited to a Voices Zoom Workshop

### Crossroads

Looking at the story of Naomi, Ruth and Orpah  
and the choices we make.

**Dina Yehuda** will facilitate this workshop using paintings, verses from the Megillah, and a poem by Keats to consider the story of these three women. Then we will have a prompt on the topic of choices.

**When:** Monday, June the 19th, 19:00-20:45 Israeli time

**Where:** zoom

Please register no later than June 12th by using the following link: [REGISTER](#)

A zoom invitation will be sent to you a few days before the workshop.

Looking forward to seeing you,  
Dina Yehuda, Judy Koren, Elana Dorfman

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## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

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.

**Front Porch Review** is an online quarterly journal. *We are interested in poems which contain vivid images, resonating voice, rich language, discernible rhythm and thoughtful messaging.* Submit one to five poems. Submissions are accepted year-round. There is no deadline and no submission fee. They accept previously published poems as well as simultaneous submissions. Complete guidelines are at <https://frontporchreview.com/guidelines/>.

**Snakeskin** is a monthly poetry webzine based in the UK. They occasionally have a themed issue, but most months they are open to poems of any length, any style, and any subject matter. There is no fee to submit and, except for the occasional themed issue, there are no deadlines. They try to give you a decision within a month of submission. More information at [www.snakeskinpoetry.co.uk/submit.htm](http://www.snakeskinpoetry.co.uk/submit.htm).

**The 2023 Frontier Open Poetry Contest** is now open to submissions. First prize is \$5,000 (yes, that's five thousand dollars) plus publication; nine runners-up will receive \$100 plus publication. Send up to three poems per submission, for a total of no more than twelve pages. *We have no aesthetic or formal requirements and consider all styles of poetry.* The submission fee is \$20 and the submission deadline is July 16. Winners and finalists will be announced in the fall of 2023. More information at [www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/](http://www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/).

**The Ilanot Review** is an international English-language biannual online literary journal affiliated with the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. Submissions for the fall 2023 issue on the theme of "Parents" are open from June 1 to July 31. Submit up to five poems, not to exceed seven pages. Submissions are free until June 14 or until Submittable's submission caps are reached, whichever comes first. After that, they charge a submission fee of \$3. More information at [www.ilanotreview.com/submissions-page/](http://www.ilanotreview.com/submissions-page/).

**Epiphany** is a biannual literary journal published in both print and ebook formats. They are now open for submissions for the Fall/Winter 2023 print issue. Submit up to five poems at a time. Submission fee is \$5, submission deadline is June 30. Contributors receive \$75 per poem plus two issues of the print journal. More information at <https://epiphanyzine.com/features/submissions-for-fallwinter-2023>.

**Rock Paper Poem** is a triannual online poetry journal. *Poetry can be as foundational as rock, as light as paper, as incisive as honed scissors.* Deadline for the next issue is June 30. Submit up to five poems, maximum two pages per poem. *We look for the best poems, regardless of form or subject matter.* There is no fee to submit. More information at <https://rockpaperpoem.com/submit.html>

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