



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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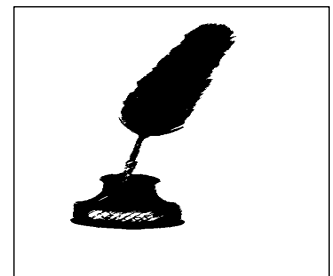
Other Poems by Our Members

Poems from Overseas Members

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



**DON'T MISS THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF
VOICES ISRAEL'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION ON PAGE 4
OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

We have had an invigorating past month! Though forced to finally cancel the two-day residential workshop, we refused to give up: we converted it into two one-day workshops, in Netanya on June 7th and in Haifa on June 23rd. Both were fully signed-up, though unhappily the Haifa workshop had a few last-minute cancellations due to illness. We were all happy to get back to "real" face-to-face meetings. Thank you to all our presenters – Eli Ben-Joseph, Luiza Carol, Elana Dorfman, Iris Dan, and Dina Yehuda who so flexibly accommodated themselves to the last-minute changes of plan.

The feedback on the Netanya workshop was very valuable, especially the comments. One or two people noted that "auditorium type" seating works better than seating around a long table for noise control and easy hearing of presenters; a couple also requested that we send out the handouts in advance, to give people time to read the example poems. I suspect this is something we got used to in the Zoom era and are now loathe to give up! We'll certainly keep both comments in mind for future workshops and look forward to getting the feedback on the Haifa workshop too.

We're returning to the practice of printing chapbooks from workshops, since we're back to holding them as "real" meetings. The Netanya workshop chapbook is in preparation while our Haifa participants are still in the grace period of polishing their rough drafts.

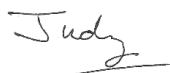
Going forward: our **50th anniversary event** is coming up - *registration is open for both the event and the Open Mike at the end of it*. It will be a really fun event – do join us! Wendy Blumfield has been working hard with our long-term members to collect their memories and sample early poems, and 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.

To register, contact me, Judy Koren, at president@voicesisrael.com, and say whether you would like to read at the Open Mike, and if so, the title of the poem. Please note that *we are limiting poems to no more than one page long – approx. 40 lines*.

Reminder: Linda our secretary is stepping down next March, and we're looking for someone to replace her. We're also considering splitting her role and having a separate Newsletter editor. **If you're interested in either role, please contact me at the above email address.** Voices Israel's success depends on the willingness of us all to volunteer and "give back" a little.

Finally, the 2021 Anthology is ready for the printer; we'll print it and the chapbook from the 50th Anniversary event together and distribute them both to all our paid-up members, hopefully ahead of the Chagim.

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

JULY 2021

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>HAIFA AT ELANA DORFMAN'S, 11 ELHANAN ST, (MERCZAZ HACARMEL) HAIFA. TUESDAY, JULY 20 AT 7:00 PM FOR DETAILS CONTACT WENDY BLUMFIELD</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, JULY 22 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, JULY 20 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, JULY 7 AT 5-7 PM Call 04-697-4105 or write to: poetsprogress@gmail.com for a link & guidelines.</p> <p>Note: This will be the last meeting until October.</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 No JULY MEETING; NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 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, JULY 11 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, JULY 7 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>	<p>VOICES AT 50 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON ZOOM!! July 11, 7:30 p.m. Israel time</p> <p>5:30 pm UK; 12:30 pm US East Coast; 9:30 am Pacific time</p> <p>Register with president@voicesisrael.com</p>

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Michal Mahgerefteh, Managing Editor of Poetica Publishing, Norfolk, Virginia USA

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE CHAPBOOKS

Thank you to **Eli Ben Joseph** for the reminder: an important attribution in preparing a chapbook of your poems is noting where a poem or poems have been published previously.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE) is calling for contributions to the next issue of **arc**, the magazine of IAWE. **Deadline for submission is 31 July 2021.** The theme for this issue is community in complexity. For Guidelines, see [HERE](#)

Winning Writers is inviting submissions to their 19th annual Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest. **Deadline: September 30.** See, [Poetry Contest](#) for guidelines.

Poetica Magazine has sent a **No Fee** Submission call for the 2021 Open eEdition of their magazine. **No deadline.** See [Guidelines to Submit](#).

2021 Rattle Poetry Prize Deadline: July 15. The Rattle Poetry Prize is back for its 16th year, and offers an incredible award of \$15,000 for a single poem. As always, the \$5,000 runner-up is chosen by subscribers as a Readers' Choice Award. The entry fee is only a one-year subscription or renewal at the regular \$25 rate. For complete guidelines: [Rattle Poetry Prize](#)

Frontier Poetry OPEN is a platform for New Voices. This is one contest a year where Frontier opens up their guidelines to accept all poets, no matter their publication history. **It closes on July 18.** Here are the guidelines: [2021 Frontier OPEN](#)

Flowers & Vortexes Creative Magazine is returning in the Fall of 2021. Submissions are now open for your best quality writing, **deadline August 1.** Guidelines for submissions can be found here: [Guidelines](#)

Poetry Super Highway has opened for submission **The Dreamquestone Poetry & Writing Contest – Summer 2021.** The call for submission "is open to anyone who enjoys expressing innermost thoughts and feelings into the beautiful literary art of poetry and/or writing a story that is worth telling everyone." **Deadline** is 22 September 2021. For guidelines, see [here](#)

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

From our member of the Jerusalem group, Ruth Fogelman, comes this interesting call for poetry and/or stories:

Dear Writers,

I am collecting stories for an ebook (perhaps it will be print-published at a later date) on Gratitude. The word for Jew (Yehudi) means someone who is grateful. There is no *simcha* without gratitude and we live in a world where we often take too much for granted. Gratitude opens the wellsprings of abundance. Gratitude makes us appreciative and humble. Gratitude makes us realize how lucky we are, and gratitude encourages continued acts of chesed and kindness which are the hallmark of the Jewish people. Gratitude is the motivation behind our every utterance of "Baruch Hashem!" If we can inspire and encourage others and ourselves to feel greater gratitude, we can be beneficiaries of all of Hashem's gifts, the greatest being recognizing how blessed we are; we can live lives rooted in the present with faith and with joy; and we can give our eternal gratitude to our Eternal Benefactor.

This time, there's no deadline. I will be collecting a hundred stories. when I reach that number, bli neder, I will go into production.

Please send me your true and uplifting stories on the topic of gratitude (up to 1000 words), or poetry (in one doc. please). And I will be eternally grateful. That is by the way, the name of the book:

Eternally Grateful

Inspiring true stories of abundance, blessings and the power of giving thanks

Please contribute to this important project and share with your lists.

Thanks,

Rosally
Rosally Saltsman <rosally_s@yahoo.com>

UPCOMING POETRY EVENTS BY MEMBERS

By **Paul Rabinowitz**, July 22, A Celebration of Works
Thursday at 7-8:15pm EST via Zoom

I will be reading from *The Clay Urn* alongside two incredible poets in a celebration of our works.

Please join me, Sara and Lake Angela with host Erin Jones. You can purchase *The Clay Urn* at my [website](#). Here is the [Zoom Link](#). See Paul's [website](#) for more 2021 events!!

KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Donna Bechar**, whose poems, "Aubrey's Voice," and "Stain," have been published in June in *Glacial Hills Review*, from Choeofpleirn Press, Kansas, USA, and is available on Amazon.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose poem "From the Window of the Pergola" was published in the *International Writers' Journal*, No. 2/2021 (April-June); and whose poem "Ageless" was long-listed for the *Fish Publishing 2021 Poetry Prize*.

To – **Stanley Barkan, Helen Bar-Lev, Sylvia Kofler** whose poems have been published in the *Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti Memorial Issue of Syndic No. 39*.

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To – **Judy Koren**, whose poem, “*A Camel or a Rock*” has been accepted by the light-verse online magazine *Lighten Up Online* for its September issue; and whose villanelle “*I Never Meant...*” has been accepted by the literary magazine *Better Than Starbucks* for its August issue.

Note from the Secretary: The following poem by Langston Hughes has always caught my heart. Would that his words would be true finally.

Happy 4th of July!



I, Too

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,”
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

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