



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

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Congratulations

Group Poetry Selections

Other Poems by Our Members

Poems from Overseas  
Members



Photo at 2019 Anthology Launch.  
From L-R: Dina Yehuda, Yair Yehuda, Mark  
Levinson, Wendy Blumfield, Judy Koren

Photo courtesy of Judith Fineberg

**Poems for Newsletter:** Poems  
must be only 40 lines long (**you also  
must count the breaks between  
stanzas**) in order to fit on the page.  
Send to:  
[secretary@voicesisrael.com](mailto:secretary@voicesisrael.com)

See 2020 Anthology Launch  
Announcement on page 5 in  
this issue.

Change in Reuben Rose  
submission dates: July 15 to  
**October 1, 2020**

Link to access website for joining  
or renewing membership:

<https://www.voicesisrael.com/join-us-or-renew-membership> -

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

Once again, we are meeting in the shadow of Corona and the need to hold all activities via Zoom. Sadly, this will probably be the situation for several months yet. We are lucky that in Zoom we have a tool which enables us to continue some semblance of normal activities. Many of our groups are happy to have guests at their Zoom meetings, including and perhaps especially members from abroad who would not normally be able to attend. To ask to attend a group as a guest (in the case of Israeli members: in addition to your own), just check the meeting times below and contact the relevant group coordinator.

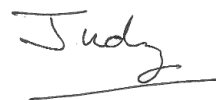
We have added to our website the option of paying membership dues and of buying extra copies of the Anthology, via PayPal – see the Membership and Anthology website pages for details. For those of us who hesitate to leave the house to send a cheque, or don't wish to make a bank transfer which from abroad is very expensive, this solves the problem. PayPal does not charge you for the transaction. When you click the appropriate "Pay Now" button, PayPal will ask you to sign in or, if you don't have an account, sign up. Signing up is free and takes only a couple of minutes. **If you pay by this method, please email our Treasurer, Chanita, that you have done so; and once she replies, please go back to your PayPal account, view the details for the transaction and click the "Confirm Receipt" button which should appear there.** This is because PayPal is suspicious of new accounts that have not yet established a track record and keeps the payment on hold for a few weeks instead of releasing it to us, unless the "buyer" has confirmed receipt of the "goods." Thank you.

**We will hold the Anthology Launch on Tuesday September 22 at 7:30 pm, via Zoom.** The Anthology is being printed and everyone should have received their copy by then. Please register with Linda if you plan to attend. **Please see the Anthology Launch announcement in this newsletter for full details and how to register.**

Recently the question arose, whether a person can be a member of more than one local group, and if so, whether both groups can vote that member's poem(s) for the newsletter in the same month. We decided that a member who *regularly* attends two groups can be counted a member of both, but if the group that meets first has voted to send that person's poem to the newsletter, the other group cannot consider their poems for the newsletter in that same month. Members who only occasionally attend a second group, should be counted as a guest of the second group.

Finally, congratulations to Linda, our hard-working secretary, on the "new look" of the newsletter. The old format has served us well for many years, but every so often it's good to renew, and Linda has produced an elegant and easy-to-read format, whose colour-scheme even matches that of the (also relatively new) Voices website – thank you, Linda!

With best wishes,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

**VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH**  
**AUGUST 2020**  
**ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES**

<p><b>HAIFA</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>MONDAY, AUGUST 17</b>  <b>AT 8:00 PM</b>  <b>CONTACT WENDY FOR DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Wendy Blumfield</b>  <b>Tel: 04-837-6820</b>  <b>Mobile: 054-524-0412</b>  <a href="mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il">wendyb@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 27</b>  <b>AT 7:30-10:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Mark Levinson</b>  <b>Mobile: 054-444-8438</b>  <a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>MONDAY, AUGUST 24</b>  <b>AT 6:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Avril Meallem</b>  <b>Tel: 02-567-0998</b>  <a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER WITH WESTERN GALILEE GROUP)</b>  <b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5</b>  <b>AT 5-7 PM</b></p> <p><b>GUESTS WELCOME</b>  <b>Call 04-697-4105 or write</b>  <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a>  <b>for a link &amp; guidelines.</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Reuven Goldfarb</b>  <b>Tel: 04-6974105</b>  <b>Mobile: 058-414-0262</b>  <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>BET SHEMESH / MODIIN</b>  <b>NO MEETINGS PLANNED</b></p>	<p><b>NETANYA &amp; SHARON</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 23</b>  <b>AT 12:00 NOON</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Susan Olsburgh</b>  <b>Tel: 074-704-2736</b>  <a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER WITH UPPER GALILEE GROUP)</b>  <b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5</b>  <b>AT 5-7PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Phyllsie Gross</b>  <b>Tel: 052-874-6880</b>  <a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>LONDON UK</b>  <b>FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ESTHER.</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Esther Lipton</b>  <a href="mailto:eblipton@talk21.com">eblipton@talk21.com</a></p>
<p><b>GUSH ETZION</b>  <b>PLEASE CONTACT MINDY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE GROUP RE-STARTING.</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Mindy Aber Barad</b>  <b>Tel: 05-4667936</b>  <a href="mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com">maber4kids@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>SOUTHERN</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 9</b>  <b>AT 4:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Miriam Green</b>  <b>Tel: 05-7388640</b>  <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>ASHKELON</b>  <b>MEETING VIA ZOOM</b>  <b>MONDAY, AUGUST 31</b>  <b>AT 7:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Chaim Bezalel</b>  <b>Mobile: 054-674-5900</b>  <a href="mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com">bezalel.levy@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>BERLIN, GERMANY</b>  <b>FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BRITTA.</b></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b>  <b>Britta R. Kollberg</b>  <a href="mailto:brkollberg@yahoo.de">brkollberg@yahoo.de</a></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Yochanan Zaqantov**, Beer Sheva (attending Jerusalem group)

**Anne Hall Levine**, Dennis, MA, USA

### FROM SUSAN OLSBURGH

For the attention of our long-standing Voices Israel poets.

To help with an enquiry from the National Library of Israel please can you contact me if you have any knowledge of a poet writing in English who spent some time in Israel between 1983-1992.

Her name; Sarah Jane/Jean Spencer

She may have lived/lives in Givatayim and spent some time in Israel as a volunteer in the army in 1988 as well as spending time in Jerusalem and in Egypt.

Thank you  
Susan Olsburgh  
[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

### 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).

**The Writing School**, established by award-winning poet Kathryn Bevis in the UK, offers a small-group online course via Zoom, called The Elements of Poetry. It starts on Wednesday September 2 at 7 pm UK time (9 pm Israel time) and consists of ten weekly two-hour sessions, each built around a theme or idea. We've heard a warm recommendation of this course from a Voices member in the UK who took it; usually it's given face-to-face but has moved online due to Corona and is therefore open to poets irrespective of where they live.

For details see the course website at

<https://www.thewritingschool.co.uk/tours>.

## CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

**Via Zoom**

**Wed., August 12, 5-7 pm, Hamlet, Act IV;**

**Wed., August 19, 5-7 pm, Hamlet, Act V**

### FORMAL ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE POETRY

Our exploration of the dramatic monologue and the soliloquy led us to a group reading of *Hamlet*, one act at a time, once a week, with breaks. Our next such meeting, via Zoom, is on August 12th, at 5 pm, when we will read Act IV aloud. On August 19th, we'll conclude with Act V. There are several roles in each act, and we do not have enough individual voices for all of them. To compensate for this deficit, players might take more than one role, and we often ignore gender distinctions. If you want to join our company, for at least the last two acts, send me a note, or call, and I'll update you.

Reuven Goldfarb, [poetprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetprogress@gmail.com) or 04-697-4105 (landline only). Here's a link to the complete text of *Hamlet*— <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/full.html>

On August 26th, we'll move back to lyric and narrative poetry, focusing on great women poets of the 19th century: Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861), Emily Bronte (1818-1848), Emily Dickinson (1830-1886), Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), and Emma Lazarus (1849-1887).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## 2020 VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

The 2020 Voices Israel Anthology is being printed and will soon be distributed to all our members.

It seems clear that the current Corona situation will not materially change in the next few months. Therefore, we will have to hold the official launch of the Anthology via Zoom. The launch is scheduled for **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.** (two days after Rosh Hashanah) – by then everyone should have received their copy of the Anthology. (Poets who wish to read their poems – please keep available the PDF you received for proof-reading, just in case there is a problem with the postal service).

The bad news is that we will each have to provide our own refreshment. The good news is that the event is free (no entrance fee!), nobody has to travel, and ***the event is open to all our members worldwide. Overseas poets, especially those with poems in the Anthology – this is a wonderful chance to attend the event.*** Let's all make the best of the situation and have a fun evening!

**Preregistration is required no later than Tuesday, 15 September. To register**, please email [secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com) or call Linda Suchy at her mobile: 054-497-8812. Optimally, fill in the form below and email it to Linda at the email address above.

A link to the meeting will be sent to registered participants, by email, before the meeting. Therefore, **if you wish to attend, you do need to register!**

Come and enjoy! Poets will be reading their published poems. Proxy readings are available. **If you wish to act as a proxy**, please email our President, Judy ([koren.judy@gmail.com](mailto:koren.judy@gmail.com)), no later than **Tuesday, 15 September**, with a choice of two poems. Readings are of course subject to requests by poets who will not be attending, to have a proxy reader. Judy will send confirmation of choice.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will **not** be attending      \_\_\_\_\_ I would like a proxy to read my poems

\_\_\_\_\_ I **will** be attending      \_\_\_\_\_ I will be reading my poem(s)

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

TU B'Love (happening on **August 4**, see below)

The Israel Association of Writers in English invites you to an evening of love poetry with featured readers:

Linda Zisquit

Celia Merlin Atias

Michael Kagan

Tuesday August 4th - TU B'Av

7:30 pm (Central Israel Time),

followed by open mic.

You may read two love poems – one of your own and one of your favorites. Please sign up [here](#).

**Last call: Deadline August 31, 2020.** The **Aesthetica Creative Writing Award** is an international literary prize that is a hotbed for new talent in Poetry and Short Fiction. Now in its 14th year, the Prize supports both emerging and established writers. By entering, writers can showcase their work to key industry figures and organizations including The Poetry Society, *Granta*, VINTAGE and more. Winners are selected for both categories and awarded with £1,000. Publication within the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Anthology*, is also awarded to a further 60 writers whose works are highly commended. Aesthetica is proud to champion new writing talent and supports its writing alumni beyond the Prize, offering print and digital publicity and continued exposure across our channels.

See <https://aestheticamagazine.com/>

**Winning Writers** is calling for submissions through membership in FanStory. Membership is \$9.95 a month. FanStory regularly sends information on all the writing contests available some with deadlines clear to the end of 2020.

See: <https://www.fanstory.com/index1n.jsp>

**Devour Art & Lit Canada** is calling for Panku Poem Submissions for a future book: "In These Strange Pandemic Days." Only uplifting, fun, light, amusing and/or entertaining pandemic poems in the form of a Panku will be accepted. **No deadline indicated.** Just send in your poems ASAP to: [pankupoems@gmail.com](mailto:pankupoems@gmail.com).

**Inner Child Press** is announcing several anthologies that are now open for submission. See the following link: <http://www.innerchildpress.com/>

The **Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE)** will be accepting submissions for the 28th issue of *arc*, their annual literary journal, from July 15<sup>th</sup> until September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. The theme for *arc* 28 is "The Kiss." See [IAWE arc 28 submission guidelines](#)

**Poetica Publishing** has announced their call for submissions to the **2020 Mizmor Poetry Anthology**. **Deadline is August 15**. The Theme: Braving the Spiritual Wilderness. Editors are looking for poems reflecting on the spiritual connection between human beings, nature and the environment." [Poetica Magazine](#)

Dr. Zhang Zhi, chief editor of "The World Poets Quarterly" invites Israeli poets to contribute to his magazine. His address: [iptrc@163.com](mailto:iptrc@163.com). You are also invited to visit their website: <http://iptrc.blogspot.com/>

**The Off the Grid Poetry Prize** (deadline August 31, 2020) for a [manuscript](#) submission

Founded in the fall of 2011 to provide a forum for older poets, who are sometimes overlooked by the current marketplace. We are looking for work by poets over sixty, ripened in craft and vision, and sufficiently sprightly to promote their work through readings and networks.

**Deadline:** August 31, 2020

**Entry Fee:** \$25

**Cash Prize:** \$1,000

**E-mail address:** [info@grid-books.org](mailto:info@grid-books.org)

**Website:** <http://www.grid-books.org/off-the-grid-press>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication by Grid Books is given annually for a poetry collection by a writer over the age of 60. Marilyn Nelson will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of at least 50 pages with a \$25 entry fee by August 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines. Grid Books, Off the Grid Poetry Prize, 24 Quincy Street, Somerville, MA 02143.

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**Winning Writers** is calling for submissions to the Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest 18th year. We have increased the Tom Howard Prize to \$3,000 for a poem in any style or genre, and the Margaret Reid Prize to \$3,000 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style. Ten Honorable Mentions will receive \$200 each (any style). The top 12 entries will be published online. The top two winners will also receive two-year gift certificates from our co-sponsor, Duotrope (a \$100 value). Length limit: 250 lines per poem. Entry fee: \$15 per poem. Final judge: S. Mei Sheng Frazier, assisted by Jim DuBois. Deadline: **September 30. [Submit online here.](#)**

**Winning Writers** publishes a monthly newsletter with pages and pages of writing contests (too many to mention in our Newsletter)! See [winningwriters.com](http://winningwriters.com).

## CONGRATULATIONS

To – **Seymour Mayne**, whose book, *Perfume: Poems and Word Sonnets*, has been published by St. Catharines, Ontario: Ronald P. Frye & Co., \$17.95 print, \$9.95 e-editions. See [here](#).

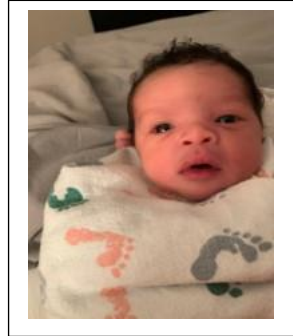
(See image of Seymour's book and his poem later in this newsletter in Overseas Poets page.)

To – **David Fellerman**, who is showing his paintings in an exhibition at the Ben Ami Gallery Summer Sale in Tel Aviv. The exhibit opened on July 30th and runs through to August 25th. As a bonus, each of his art pieces contains one of his poems that relates to the title of the painting. You can see his gallery of work on his website at [www.davidfellerman.com](http://www.davidfellerman.com).

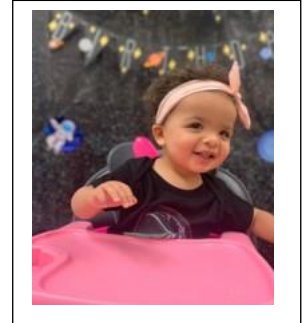
To – **Linda Suchy, Secretary**. Remember when I went to the United States last July and only returned to Israel at the beginning of November? Remember why I went to the U.S. for such a long period of time? Right!! For the birth of my granddaughter **Leila** born **5 days after my birthday**. On July 23, she had her first birthday!!

Forgive me but....As my birthday present, I send you these!

3 days old:



1<sup>st</sup> Birthday



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

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