



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome New Member(s)

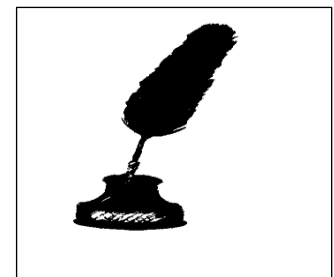
Announcements

Calls for Submissions

Kudos To Our Members

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

and Belated Happy Birthday to all
August birthdays!!



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

This newsletter is a bumper issue, including two months of poems from our local groups – since Linda was taking a well-deserved vacation last month. Thank you, Linda, for producing such a great issue!

The 2021 Reuben Rose competition is open for submissions. The submission rate this year is slower than usual – please do send in your best poems now, to avoid a last-minute rush and backlog!

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 president@voicesisrael.com.** Voices Israel's success depends on the willingness of us all to volunteer and "give back" a little.

During June-July we received poems for the Haifa workshop chapbook from almost all its participants and have now produced both chapbooks and mailed them to everyone who ordered one by mail. We're very happy with how they've turned out. **If anyone else would like a copy by mail – whether you attended either of the workshops or not – please email me.**

Our 50th anniversary celebration, held by Zoom on July 11th, was attended by 43 people, many of whom expressed their enjoyment and appreciation of the event to me afterwards. All our Israeli members, and hopefully even those abroad, should by now have received their copy of the chapbook produced to commemorate it, which was sent out to all our members in mid-August. Many thanks to Wendy Blumfield for doing most of the organization of this event, and to Chaim Bezalel who together with Wendy designed and produced this lovely chapbook.

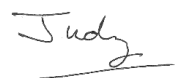
Together with the chapbook you should also have all received the 2021 *Voices Israel Anthology*. It's a beautiful volume, very professionally designed and produced. Many, many thanks to Avril Meallem who worked long and hard to make it so.

The next activity coming up is the Anthology launch event. Faced with the vagaries of Covid revivals, and the fact that September is largely taken up by the High Holidays, we've set the date for October 3rd. Right now, we're planning on holding it face to face, as before at the Karaoke Bar in Netanya, which is a convenient central location easily accessible by train and with ample parking for cars. And, of course, if we can't meet face to face, we'll hold it via Zoom. **Please see the notice in this newsletter and register with me at president@voicesisrael.com.**

Looking forward: following the results of last year's Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize, which was opened to UK entrants for a trial year, we've decided to revert to the original format – for Israeli young poets only. The trial year showed that it is indeed not fair to expect Israeli school students to compete against those from an English-speaking society where English poetry is extensively taught in schools.

Rosh Hashanah is nearly upon us and I want to wish all our members and friends the warmest best wishes for peace, good health, happiness and much writing of wonderful poems in the coming year. May it see us finally vanquish Corona – or at least learn to live with it the way we live with the flu!

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

SEPTEMBER 2021

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>HAIFA NO SEPTEMBER MEETING NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12 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, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 8:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 aemeallem@gmail.com</p>	<p>UPPER GALILEE NO MEETINGS UNTIL OCTOBER</p> <p>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 CONTACT CHAIM FOR DETAILS</p> <p>Coordinator: Chaim Bezalel Mobile: 054-674-5900 bezalel.levy@gmail.com</p>	<p>NETANYA & SHARON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 7:00 PM AT SUSAN OLSBURGH'S 2/6 ZALMAN SHAZAR (3RD FLOOR) RAMAT POLEG</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Tel: 074-704-2736 olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p>	<p>WESTERN GALILEE 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 NO SEPTEMBER MEETING MEETING VIA ZOOM NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 5:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 AT 6:30 PM (ISRAEL TIME)</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

The 31st Reuben Rose Memorial Poetry Competition

First prize \$500, second prize \$150, third prize \$50, ten honorable mentions. **Deadline is November 15, 2021.** Among the thirteen winners, no poet is included twice in the same year.

All prizewinners and honorable mentions will be published in the coming year's Voices Israel poetry anthology.

The competition is sponsored by the Voices Israel Group of Poets in English (<http://voicesisrael.com/>) but it is open to all. (You do not need to be a member of the Group.)

Submit original poetry, in English, on any topic. Challenging, humorous, and/or eccentric poetry is welcome, but typographical tricks are discouraged, and any illustrations will be discarded. Entry fee: \$18 for 6 poems, \$12 for 3 poems, or \$6 for 1 poem.

Line limit per poem: 41 lines, including any stanza breaks, dedication, epigraph, etc. but not including the title. Microsoft Word is the preferred format, but you may submit in PDF if you have an unusual structure to reproduce.

Poems must be unpublished and must remain unpublished until the list of winners is e-mailed to the entrants (target date is early February). Thereafter you may publish and republish as you like; copyright remains with you, and we claim only a non-exclusive license to publish and republish the winning poems and honorable mentions in any form, physical or digital. For our purposes, poems are not considered previously published if they have appeared in the Voices Israel newsletter or in a Voices Israel workshop chapbook.

Submit at <https://voicesisrael.submittable.com/submit>. Poems are judged without the poets' names. The judges' decision is not subject to appeal. Make sure that your name appears only on the Submittable page, not anywhere in the file you send or in the file's name.

The judges for the 2021 competition are:

Ricky Rapoport Friesem - last year's First Prize winner.

Jane Seitel - last year's Second Prize winner.

David Caplan - this year's Overseas Judge.

David Caplan is a Full Professor of English and assistant director of creative writing at Ohio Wesleyan University. He is a member of the executive Committee of the Modern Language Association's Creative Writing Forum. He has published two books of poems, has won the Virginia quarterly Reviews Emily Clark Balch Prize for Poetry, and is a contributing editor to the Virginia Quarterly Review and to Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing. In 2018, when on sabbatical in Israel, he gave us a workshop in Haifa, and we are very happy to welcome him back to Voices Israel as our Overseas Judge.

Questions may be sent to reubenrosepoetrycompetition@gmail.com.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LAUNCH OF 2021 ANTHOLOGY!

2021 VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

The 2021 Anthology was recently sent out to all members. Now let's celebrate it the way we want – with a Launch Event in a central location! Come and read your poem(s) from the Anthology, or just relax and enjoy with other members. You are welcome to bring guests.

Please register guests, as well as yourself, no later than September 26th, using the form below. Please also let us know if you will NOT be coming, again using the form below.

When: Sunday October 3rd, 6pm to 9 pm – right after the High Holidays.

Where: Karaoke Stage Bar: 9 Arieh Regev Street, Netanya. A convenient central location, with good parking and an easy two-minute walk from the Netanya train station.

Cost including a light supper: 55 NIS per person.

Preregistration is required no later than Sunday, September 26th. To register, please email Judy: president@voicesisrael.com - optimally, fill in the form below and email it to her. Please state clearly:

- **Whether you wish to read your poem(s) that appear in the Anthology.**
- **If you can't come but would like a proxy reader to read your poem(s).**
- **If you wish to act as a proxy reader.** If there are particular poems you would like to read, include that information and if the poet can't come you'll get your wish!

If Corona prevents us from holding this event in-person, we will hold it by Zoom on the same date. In that case of course the event costs nothing, and our overseas members can join us; but we'll each have to "bring" our own food. Let's hope we can hold this event as planned!

Please note: if too many people decide not to register because of the Corona situation, we need to cancel the room booking **at least 6 days in advance**. Therefore it is **important** to register not later than a week in advance. On September 27th we'll have to make the final decision: Zoom or in-person.

PLEASE HIGHLIGHT THE RELEVANT OPTIONS BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO president@voicesisrael.com. Please fill in a form for each person who is coming with you.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

RAZYA ADAM, HAIFA

LINDSAY SOBERANO, CANADA

AMY MCKINNEY-SMALL, PENNSYLVANIA, 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.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

THE DREAMQUESTONE POETRY & WRITING CONTEST - SUMMER 2021

<https://www.dreamquestone.com/dare-to-dream>

“Open to anyone who enjoys expressing innermost thoughts and feelings into the beautiful literary art of poetry or short story”. Poetry guidelines: Write a poem, thirty lines or fewer on any subject, form, or style. Multiple and simultaneous entries are accepted.

Deadline: September 22, 2021.

Prizes: Poetry First Prize: \$250; Second: \$125; Third: \$50.

Entry fees: \$5 per poem – plus \$2 per poem if entered online. Postmark deadline: September 22, 2021.

How to enter: preferably by post; entry online is possible via PayPal only. Especially important if entering online: for the official rules see <https://www.dreamquestone.com/rules>.

ORISON ANTHOLOGY EDITORIAL NOMINATIONS Orison Books

Editors of literary periodicals (print or digital) may nominate work in a single genre or in multiple genres to be considered for inclusion in our annual Orison Anthology, which reprints the finest spiritually engaged writing from a broad and inclusive range of perspectives. Work selected for inclusion will appear alongside the winners of The Orison Anthology Awards in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry, judged each year by different prominent writers. The author of any work selected for inclusion will receive a complimentary copy of the anthology; the periodical where the work originally appeared will also receive a complimentary copy.

The work may be by a single author or by multiple authors, as long as the total page count meets the requirements specified below.

By nominating work for inclusion in The Orison Anthology, you are indicating that you have acquired the permission of the author(s) to do so.

Editors may submit a scanned copy of print pages or a PDF file of the text.

Submission period: **August 1 - October 1** each year

Single genre submissions: Submit up to 6 poems (40 pp. max), or up to 2 works of prose (any genre; 60 pp. max). If the work is not easily classified, submit up to 60 pages of text. In the file, include the author's name and biography, the name of your periodical, and the issue number(s) in which the work appeared.

Multiple genre submissions: submit up to 3 poems (20 pp. max) and a work of prose (any genre; 25 pp. max). If the work is not easily classified, submit up to 60 pages of text. In the file, include the author's name and biography, the name of your periodical, and the issue number(s) in which the work appeared.

There is no fee to nominate work for The Orison Anthology.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest has announced a September 30 deadline for submission to their 19th annual contest. We will award the Tom Howard Prize of \$3,000 for a poem in any style or genre, and the Margaret Reid Prize of \$3,000 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style.

The entry fee is \$15 for each submission of 1-2 poems. 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. Submit published or unpublished work online via Submittable. Most countries eligible. Length limit per poem: 250 lines. This contest is recommended by Reedsy.

Nimrod International Journal is calling for submissions to its Spring/Summer 2022 thematic issue, *What Now?: The Future We Make*. We would love to see your poems, short stories, creative nonfiction pieces, or translations that explore micro- and macro-versions of the future: both our futures on an individual, relationship, or family level and our social, national, and worldwide future.

See the following link for all submission information and guidelines.

<https://artsandsciences.utulsa.edu/nimrod/call-for-manuscript-submissions/>

Winning Writers found some excellent poetry contests. See [here](#) for all the information.

KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Paul Rabinowitz** for the following new works published in August:

“Speeding Ticket” Grey Sparrow Journal

“Shirtless” and “Indigo” The Oddville Press, page 37 and 47

To – **Larry Lefkowitz**, whose e-book, *“The Revisionist Sherlock Holmes” 20 Holmes stories*, is available from Barnes & Noble for \$3.00.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose poem “Happy Passover” appears on SNAKESKIN, September 2021. See, <http://www.snakeskinpoetry.co.uk/>

POETRY ON PLANES: For those of you who have submitted poems to the contest Poetry on Planes, I have received Status Report 6 / August 6, 2021.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

Poetry on Planes – Status Report 6 / August 6, 2021

Note: If you missed a previous Status Report, go to www.PoetryonPlanes.com and scroll down to the bottom of the home page; you'll find them all archived there.

Fellow poets,

The dictionary speculates that the phrase “No news is good news” may have been coined by King James I of England in the year 1616, which, apart from William Shakespeare’s death on April 23rd, doesn’t seem to have been a particularly bad year.

And in the poetry world, it was the year Ben Jonson's First Folio was published, followed in 1617 by him being named England's first Poet Laureate.

Fast-forward to news of the Poetry on Planes project.

First, to those of you who have written requesting an update – thank you for your ongoing interest and support.

Second, well, we’re still working on it.

Between waves of pandemic and the out-of-the-mainstream idea of a poetry anthology designed to be sold in airport bookstores, publishers have thus far proved... reluctant.

We will, however, persevere. There are agents and publishers yet to pitch, and publishers, including those of both aviation books and airline in-flight magazines yet to be contacted.

In the words of Carthaginian General Hannibal (he of elephants through the Alps fame) “We will either find a way or make one.”

That said, we still can’t tell you if your poem is in or out... because we don’t know. Publishers will have their way. But we can tell -- and show -- you a few things (see attached PDF).

We have a draft manuscript that we feel is world-class. It currently comes in at 143 pages, including the cover, dedication page and introduction – see below – as well as table of contents, biographies, some blank pages where we encourage the reader to write a poem, and four pages of marketing plan (we’d be happy to hear from anyone with additional ideas, reality check, etc.)

The contents of Poetry on Planes is divided into categories, each with its own title page and an epigram from our contributors: At the Airport, Take-Off, Poems on Planes, Pilots & Air Crew, Deep Thoughts at Angels Forty, A Muse Amused, In-Flight Anxiety, Emergency, Landing, Post-Flight, Jet Lag, History and A Few Last Words From Almost There.

Regards,

Gerry Murphy / Peter Frey

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