



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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Get Well (Refuah Shlema)

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Congratulations

Group Poetry Selections

Other Poems by Our Members

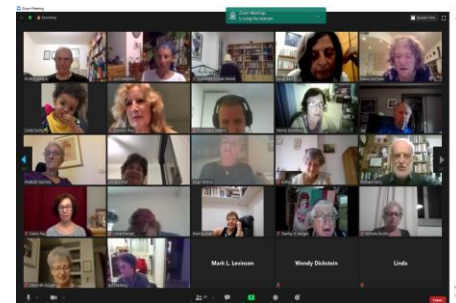
Poems from Overseas  
Members

### Bar Sagi/Reuben Rose 2020 Awards Event

27 October 7:30 pm (Israel time)  
VIA Zoom

Please fill in registration form  
attached to this newsletter and  
send to:  
[secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com)

Link to access website for  
everything you want to know but are  
afraid to ask:  
[www.voicesisrael.com](http://www.voicesisrael.com)



Screen shots of 2020 Anthology Launch  
via Zoom!!

We had many more poets who were  
present, but it was impossible to get all of  
us in one picture!

Courtesy of Yochanan Zaqantov



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

Being once again in lockdown – now more stringent than ever – does not prevent us from carrying on activities, as far as possible “as normal.” On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had very successful Zoomed Anthology launch event, attended by a record 51 members of whom 37 read their poems. **Many thanks to all the participants, especially our North American members who made a special effort to attend – it was wonderful to be able to share this event with you.**

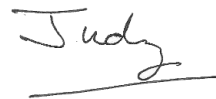
On September 13<sup>th</sup> we held a lovely poetry-reading event for our North American members, ably organized by Diane Ray of Seattle, WA (thank you again, Diane!). Nine US and Canadian members read their poems, with a focus on poems that have been published in the Voices Anthology. I as President and Dina Yehuda as Chief Editor of the Anthology were also invited to attend and read poems, and there were a few guests from both the U.S. and Israel. Zoom worked perfectly and another member, Ellen Jaffe, has already expressed hopes to organize a similar event from Canada, perhaps after Chanukah (thank you, Ellen!). **We hope to produce an e-chapbook of this event, so everyone who read at it is invited to send the poems they read to me at this address ([president@voicesisrael.com](mailto:president@voicesisrael.com)).** The chapbook will be distributed only to those who took part in the event, so that it will not count as “publication” and prevent members from submitting those poems elsewhere (or as contravention of copyright if they were previously published).

**North American members take note** – Diane is unable, due to other commitments, to coordinate the North American “local” Zoom group we’ve been planning. The group would hold monthly meetings (via the Voices Zoom subscription) where you can bring your poems for friendly critique and get to know each other, the way our Israeli members do. Optimally, for time-zone reasons, we’d like a separate Western and Central-and-Eastern group. **If any US or Canadian member is able to coordinate either group (or one North American one), please contact me** (address as above). This would be an exciting development, and we hope these groups will continue to thrive as virtual meeting-places long after Corona has been vanquished.

Meanwhile, **the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and Reuben Rose Competition’s joint awards event is upcoming on October 27<sup>th</sup>.** All the Bar Sagi winners have confirmed that they will be attending and I’m really hoping for a large registration to show our support for them, and our appreciation of the Reuben Rose winners and Honorable Mentions. Registration for this Zoom event has now started – **please all who wish to attend, including the winners of prizes or Honorable Mentions, register with Linda ([secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com))** to ensure that you get the Zoom invitation. **We need a few proxy readers for this event – please tell Linda when registering, if you would like to proxy read.** And we hope to have time for an open mike at the end of the event – **if you would like to read a poem at the open mike session, please say so when you register.**

The next Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize opens for submissions on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The announcement is included in this newsletter. Do you have a teenage child or grandchild who writes poetry in English (or in Hebrew but would like to try their hand at poetry in English)? Do let them know about this prize and tell their English teacher too!

All the best to you all, and chag succot sameah,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## OCTOBER 2020

### ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 8:00 PM CONTACT WENDY FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412 <a href="mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il">wendyb@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 7:30-10:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 <a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 6:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 <a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER WITH WESTERN GALILEE GROUP) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 5-7 PM</p> <p>GUESTS WELCOME Call 04-697-4105 or write <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a> for a link &amp; guidelines.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-6974105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>ASHKELON</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Chaim Bezalel Mobile: 054-674-5900 <a href="mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com">bezalel.levy@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>NETANYA &amp; SHARON</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Susan Olsburgh Tel: 074-704-2736 <a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER WITH UPPER GALILEE GROUP) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 5-7PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Phyllsie Gross Tel: 052-874-6880 <a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>LONDON UK</b> FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ESTHER.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Esther Lipton <a href="mailto:eblipton@talk21.com">eblipton@talk21.com</a></p> <p>***** <b>BERLIN, GERMANY</b> FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BRITTA.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Britta R. Kollberg <a href="mailto:brkollberg@yahoo.de">brkollberg@yahoo.de</a></p>
<p><b>GUSH ETZION</b> PLEASE CONTACT MINDY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE GROUP RE- STARTING.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Mindy Aber Barad Tel: 05-4667936 <a href="mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com">maber4kids@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>SOUTHERN</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM CONTACT MIRIAM FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>BET SHEMESH / MODIIN</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>USA/CANADA</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and Reuben Rose Competitions Awards Event, Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 7:30 pm Israel time – via Zoom

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### Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize:

Judges: Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield and Wendy Dickstein, Israel; Consultant: Ricky Friesem, Israel.

**Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel**

**Comments by Professor Anthony Joseph, Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize sponsor**

**Comments by Wendy Dickstein, judge and administrator, Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize**

### Readings of the Winning Poems 2019, by the poets and/or proxy readers

**First prize:** Ester Belokurov, age 18: *Fading Childhood*

**Second prize:** Yaara Heller, age 12: *Doors of Life*

**Third prize:** Haya Moukouri, age 17: *Guide to the Traveler*

**Honorable Mention:** Liraz Elizda, age 16: *Finally, at home*

### Reuben Rose Competition

Judges: John Gallas, UK; Donna Bechar, Israel; and Katherine L. Gordon, Canada – International judge.

**Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel**

**Comments by Mark Levinson, Reuben Rose administrator**

### Readings of the Winning Poems 2019, by the poets and/or proxy readers

**First prize** - Judy Belsky, Israel: *my son*

**Second prize** - Rumi Morkin (pen name of Miriam Webber), Israel: *Alzheimer's (Villanelle)*

**Third prize** - Jane Seitel, USA: *The Torah Pointer*.

### Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order of poem title)

Anne McCrady, USA: *Bug Collection*

Elisa Subin, USA: *One Final Storm*

David Silverman, USA: *Parting With My Prayer Shawl, Made By My Daughter, Upon the Zombie Apocalypse* -

Elizabeth Claverie, USA: *Prairie Flower*

Esther B Lipton, UK: *Quietude*

Ann Bar-Dov, Israel: *The Night Baker*

Helen Bar-Lev, Israel: *The Poetry of Gazelles*

Wendy Dickstein, Israel: *Verses from a Mediterranean Cruise*

Bernard Mann, Israel: *We Stumbled to the Singing Sea*

Reuven Goldfarb, Israel: *Who's Going To Play Me in the Movies?*

**Open Mike** – if time allows.

Registration form attached at the end of newsletter.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize Competition, 2021

The Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize competition commemorates a talented young Israeli poet, Bar Sagi, who died at the age of fifteen. The competition was established by Bar's family and is administered by the Voices Israel Group of Poets in English.

The 2021 competition is open to Israeli school students, and this year we are also opening it to students from Jewish schools outside Israel.

**Submission dates:** November 15, 2020 through January 15, 2021.

**Cash prizes will be awarded** to three winning poems: 600 NIS first prize, 400 NIS second prize, 200 NIS third prize – or the equivalent in the winner's local currency. One or more other poems may be awarded an Honorable Mention.

**There is no fee** for entering the competition.

### Competition rules and submission guidelines

- The competition is open to young poets aged 12 to 19 when the poem was written.
- There is no submission fee.
- Poets may use their whole name, first name, or a pseudonym. We will not publish any contact information.
- Poets submit by sending up to three poems, by email, in one file – either in the body of the email, or as an attached Word file – to [bar.sagiprize@gmail.com](mailto:bar.sagiprize@gmail.com).
- The parent or guardian's name and mailing address, and the child's age when the poems were written, must be included somewhere within the document.
- Poems may be in any style and on any subject, but each must have no more than 41 lines (not including title), and they must be in English.
- Poems must be previously unpublished. The poets retain sole copyright of their poems.
- Prizes will be presented by Bar Sagi's family, and the winning poets will read their poems, at a prize-giving ceremony held by Voices Israel, usually together with the prize-giving for the Reuben Rose competition, Voices Israel's annual poetry competition for adults.
- The winning poems, and Honorable Mention poems if there are any, will be published in the annual Voices Israel anthology. Upon acceptance, a parent or legal guardian must sign a release allowing us to publish the poem.

For information about the 2020 competition and its winners, and a PDF file of the 2020 winning poems, see <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>.

For further questions, contact Wendy Dickstein, the administrator of the competition, at [wendy.dickstein@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.dickstein@gmail.com).

Voices Israel is a fully accredited and approved organization registered since 1993 with the Israel Organizations Authority: number 580197036.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

ELANA DORFMAN, NEW FROM HAIFA

SUSAN SVORAI, NEW FROM EIN HAROD

### REFUAH SHLEMA (GET WELL)

We wish our very best to **Roy Runds** of our Tel Aviv group. May you continue to recover each day.

### 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).

### CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

#### FORMAL ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE POETRY

The class will meet on Wednesday, October 21 at 5pm on Zoom, with a focus on "The Two Emilys — Bronte and Dickinson." To come to the meeting and/or the class, notify Reuven Goldfarb, facilitator / instructor, and he will send you the link. If you've already saved it, just show up.

[poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com)  
04-697-4105

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

### HAPPY HUMP DAY FROM PALETTE POETRY DEADLINE OCTOBER 18.

Click this link for details [The Bruch & Lyre Prize](#)  
This prize of \$3500 will be awarded for Artfully Communicated Poetry.

Check Palette Poetry's website for additional poetry. [Palette Poetry](#)

### NO DEADLINES!!

**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>

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

**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/>

**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).

**Palette Poetry** announces that every middle of the month: new deadlines, new contests, and new opportunities for your voice to find the world. The next six weeks include: our own Palette Poetry Prize, Pank Book Awards, Black Warrior Review, Asian American Literary Review, multiple residencies and grants, and more. <https://www.palettepoetry.com/2020/08/16/deadlines-august-september-2020/>

**Poetica Magazine Contemporary Jewish Writing** has announced that it is now open for submissions to a new eEdition. No fee to submit! Open edition - No deadline! Selected works will be included in a special print edition - publication TBD. <https://www.poeticamagazine.com/>



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

**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).

**Winning Writers**, Our 2021 Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest is now **open for entries**. **We are doubling the top prize to \$2,000 and the second prize to \$500**. Our co-sponsor **Duotrope** will give the winner a two-year gift certificate (a \$100 value) to go with their \$2,000 prize. As always, this contest has no fee.

## Anthology Magazine

Entries are now invited for the *Anthology Magazine* Poetry Prize. Established to recognise and encourage excellence in the craft of poetry writing and to provide a platform for publication, it is open to original and previously unpublished poems in the English language. Entries are invited from poets of all nationalities, living anywhere in the world. Poems submitted must be on the theme of 'Expectations' and should not exceed 40 lines. There is no limit to entries per person. Go to their website for details and for the "Submit a Poem" button. [Anthology Poetry Prize](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS

To - **Susan Olsburgh**, who was awarded a Volunteer of the Year by AACI for her 10 years running the workshop, **Poetry Please**. The monthly Poetry Please activity is now in its tenth year. Selections are largely from English and

American poetry, as well as from translated Medieval Hebrew and modern Israeli poetry. Susan introduces a selection of poems on topics such as medicine, sports, music and place names. Susan taught English Literature and British Culture at colleges and universities in Northeast England. If you haven't come before, do join us and, if you are one of the loyal regulars, please keep coming. Our theme for October is **Farmers and Farming**.

To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem "Professor Hofstadter's Brain" was nominated for a Best of the Net Award by *Synchronized Chaos Magazine*, <https://www.facebook.com/synchchaos/posts/3296515140394937>.

To – **Rick Lupert** (of Poetry Super Highway) who has published his 25<sup>th</sup> book, "The Tokyo-Van Nuys Express," poems written last summer while Rick was in Japan, inspired by Richard Brautigan's book *The Tokyo-Montana Express*. Link to Rick's Newsletter with more information about his book. [Rick Lupert's Book](#)

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



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