



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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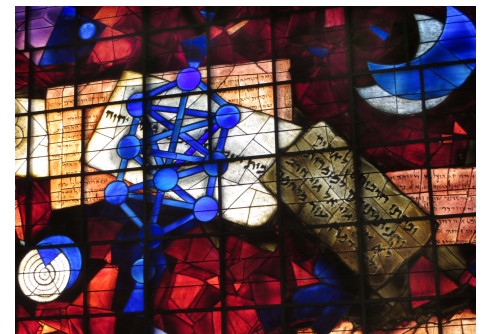


Photo courtesy of Judith Fineberg  
taken at National Library of Israel

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



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

October was a short month, the first half still taken up by the High Holydays, but we managed to get a fair amount of activity into the remaining couple of weeks.

Following the North American poetry-reading event, we produced an e-chapbook of the poems. In order to avoid copyright problems (most of the poems having been previously published, either in the Voices Anthology or elsewhere), we sent it only to the participants, so that it counts as a private distribution, not as a publication. I received a lot of appreciative comments about this chapbook and look forward to being able to have more Zoomed events abroad and to providing e-chapbooks for them.

The month's main event was the joint awards ceremony for the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and the Reuben Rose Competition, held by Zoom (of course!) on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 people registered and 41 managed to actually attend, including one from the UK and a few of our loyal members from the U.S. and Canada. We recorded each event separately, and within a few days the videos and audio-only versions will hopefully be available on our Google Drive - Linda will send out the link.

The Bar Sagi event: We greatly enjoyed hearing the four talented young poets read their winning poems. Prof. Anthony Joseph gave a moving account of Bar, and we showed two short videos he has had produced, based on her poems. I was so happy that we had such a good attendance for this part of the evening. Several of our members sent the winners praise and encouragement by chat as they were reading, and I have forwarded these comments to them, since I'm sure they'd like a permanent record of them.

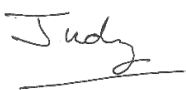
We are opening the Bar Sagi Prize to Jewish students abroad. We will see how many entries we get this year and decide how to proceed going forward. In order to make it more attractive to students, Prof. Joseph has very generously agreed to increase the prize money. Details of course are on the [Bar Sagi Prize page](#) of our website.

Wendy Dickstein has had to give up her Bar Sagi duties, but we're so fortunate that Susan Bell, the second judge, has taken over from her as administrator. Thank you, Susan! Itamar Blumfield continues as a judge, and Amiel Schotz has agreed to be the third judge, so we are all set to judge the next competition. Please do publicize it to anyone you know who has teenage children or grandchildren!

The Reuben Rose awards ceremony followed on the Bar Sagi Prize event. The two overseas judges, John Gallas and Katherine Gordon, sent moving messages which I read; the third judge, our talented Donna Bechar, and our wonderful administrator, Mark Levinson, each gave a brief account. We greatly enjoyed hearing all the poems - and in a reversal of the usual situation, the proxy reader for an Israeli member who could not attend was from Seattle USA! We truly live in a global village. Following the readings, we had time for a short Open Mike with over a dozen members participating.

Going forward, I'm hoping to run mini-workshops in a 2-hour Zoom format, each featuring two presentations / exercises, around a common theme. Anyone who has an idea for such a presentation, please contact me with brief details. Thank you.

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## NOVEMBER 2020

### ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 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, NOVEMBER 19 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, NOVEMBER 10 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, NOVEMBER 11 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, NOVEMBER 23 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, NOVEMBER 30 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, NOVEMBER 11 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 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 5:00 PM (NOT WITH VOICES ZOOM ACCOUNT)</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>*****</p> <p><b>USA/CANADA</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL LOCAL GROUP</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Judy Koren Tel: 054-741-7860 <a href="mailto:koren.judy@gmail.com">koren.judy@gmail.com</a></p>

# 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 [barsagivoices@gmail.com](mailto:barsagivoices@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, but including stanza breaks), 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. The winning poets will read their poems at a prize-giving ceremony held by Voices Israel. This is held in conjunction with the Voices Israel adult's prize in the Reuben Rose competition.
- The winning poems and honorable mention poems 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 further questions, contact Susan Bell, the administrator of the competition, at [sujubell@gmail.com](mailto:sujubell@gmail.com)

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>.

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

## PHOTOS FROM OUR RECENT COMBINED PRIZE MEETING.

### PROF. ANTHONY JOSEPH, BAR SAGI'S GRANDFATHER



We are truly happy to acknowledge that Voices, Israel did more than all others combined to honour the legacy of our beloved grand-daughter Bar Sagi.

### REUBEN ROSE COMPETITION ZOOM MEETING



Screenshots courtesy of Yochanan Zaquantov

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

DR. LEAH LIVESEY, JERUSALEM  
PAUL RABINOWITZ, NEW JERSEY, USA

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

To – **Susan Rosenberg** who welcomed her 44<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild! Mazal Tov – may you enjoy much nachas from your lovely family!

### 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 Formal Elements in English Language Poetry class (featuring Christina Rossetti and Emma Lazarus) will meet on Wednesday, November 18, at 5 pm. Contact Reuven Goldfarb for more details: [poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com) or 04-697-4105.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM STEVE KLEIN (OF HA'ARETZ)

I am excited to announce my new online Sunday speaker series featuring representatives from 12 different non-Jewish communities in Israel. If you didn't know there were that many, well now you do! The series is based on a course I have taught since 2014 at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, where I have witnessed the beauty and power of the interaction between members of these communities and my students. This series is a unique opportunity for people of all ages who are curious to learn about other cultures and identities and/or generally interested in Israeli society. You can sign up for as many 90-minute meetings as you like. The first lecture, November 1, will be free. For more info visit [stevekleinteachingonline.com](http://stevekleinteachingonline.com) or email Steve at [stevekhaaretz@gmail.com](mailto:stevekhaaretz@gmail.com).

**Please note** that Steve has advised us that the first month of his course is fully booked. He has a little space for December. If there is no space for this series, please still contact him about the next series, which should start in March.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Zichron Yaakov runs a support group for grandmothers who are especially missing their grandchildren abroad whom they now cannot visit. The group meets monthly via Zoom. It now has members from all over Israel and even a few from abroad. To join (no charge) contact Heidi at [heidig.zichron@gmail.com](mailto:heidig.zichron@gmail.com).

### CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

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. Just send in your poems ASAP to: [pankupoems@gmail.com](mailto:pankupoems@gmail.com).

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**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/>

**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. **Deadline April 1, 2021.**

## 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.

**Black Dog & One-eyed Press** is currently seeking submissions of up to five poems. They anticipate the 2021 print publication of a book of paintings along with poems which speak to or in some reflect upon the state of the world in 2020 and the ways in which we, as individuals and as societies, have responded, and/or how we might imagine going forward. **Deadline for submission 31 December 2020.** For more information and for guidelines for submission see <http://hmsnonesuch.com>.

**CALYX** is currently accepting unpublished poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction through **December 31**. Submit up to 3 poems or up to 5,000 words of prose per submission. Accepted material will be published in *CALYX Journal* Vols. 32:3 and 33:1, 2021/2022. Material that is held for discussion by the editorial collective but not accepted will receive personalized feedback. Read the full guidelines and submit [here](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS

To – **Miriam Webber** (pen name **Rumi Morkin**). Two of her poems have been accepted for publishing in *Lighten Up Online*, a quarterly light verse webzine. One poem will be published in March 2021, the other probably in June 2021. Watch these announcements for a link to read her poems once they are published!!

To – **Louise Gluck**, an American **poet** who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature!! Read about her in *The New Yorker* and check out her poems through Google. Very proud that a poet has won the Nobel Prize for Literature! [The New Yorker-Louise Gluck](#)

To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem "A Republican Senator of Integrity" was published in *Headline Poetry & Press* at <https://headlinepoetryandpress.com/2020/10/21/breaking-news-a-republican-senator-of-integrity-by-pesach-rotem/>

To - **Susan Olsburgh**, whose poem, "Human Footprints" was published in "An Anthology of Poems about The Planet" for Newcastle University's **Alumni** Day of Action 2020.

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



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