



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

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**November Meeting Dates**

**Welcome New Member(s)**

**Announcements**

**Calls for Submissions (Listed in  
a separate email this month)**

**Congratulations To Our  
Members!**

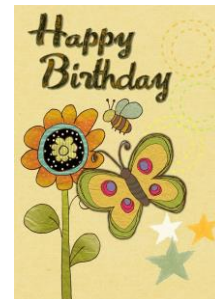
**Upcoming Events by Members**

**Group Poetry Selections**

**Other Poems by Our Members  
(for members who are unable to be  
part of a Voices group)**

**Poems from Overseas  
Members**

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



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

We held **the launch event for the 47<sup>th</sup> Voices Israel Anthology** on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, once again by Zoom. 33 people attended, including a few from abroad who of course usually can't manage to come. 29 people (and one proxy) read their poems. **The page for this event is up on the website at [47th Voices Israel Anthology Launch](#).**

As usual, **we recorded the event, and the video (around an hour and a half) is up on our YouTube channel.** Linda has sent everyone a link, but here it is again: to see the video on YouTube click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJTvvBy9iTg>.

**Upcoming:** on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm: Dr. Judy Belsky is treating us to another webinar on the theme "Between the Lines of Family Stories: the Poetics of Ancestry." Response was exceptional – this webinar was fully booked within a couple of days, and we have a waiting list. **If anyone who registered cannot attend, please let me know (to [president@voicesisrael.com](mailto:president@voicesisrael.com)) so that we can offer the place to someone on the waiting list.**

**Reminder: we extended the submission period for the Reuben Rose competition until November 15<sup>th</sup> but then it ends.** If you haven't yet sent in your best poems and highest hopes, you only have two weeks left to do so! The judges' decisions will also be announced a month or so later than usual – in mid-January 2022 rather than mid-December.

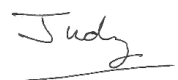
**As a result, we've also moved the dates for submitting to the Anthology by one month** – the submission period will now start on January 15<sup>th</sup> and run until April 15<sup>th</sup>. This allows you all to get the results of the Reuben Rose competition, and if your poem did not win a prize or Honourable Mention, you then have plenty of time to enter it for the Anthology!

**The submission period for the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize** starts when the Reuben Rose prize closes – on **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please everybody do remind all your family, friends and others who may be interested, and direct them to the information on the Bar Sagi Prize page of our website: <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>. This year we're reverting to the original format of the competition – it is open to Israeli students only.

Finally, we were approached by the Washington College, an Israeli teacher-training institute, to give their TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) students a 2-hour Zoom workshop about writing poetry, plus a poetry-writing exercise. Dina and I will do so together, on December 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to publicize our existence, and that of the Bar Sagi Prize, to those who in a year's time will be teaching English to Israeli kids.

I wish everyone a joyful Chanukah, and a healthy, happy and productive year ahead!

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## NOVEMBER 2021

### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:00 PM AT JUDY KOREN'S 10 COSTA RICA STREET DANYA</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412 <a href="mailto:wendyblumfield@netvision.net.il">wendyblumfield@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:00 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> NO MEETING IN DECEMBER</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 PERSONAL ZOOM AND IN PERSON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 5:00-7:00PM</p> <p>Call 04-697-4105 or write to: <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> CONTACT CHAIM FOR DETAILS</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> MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29 7:00 PM AT SUSAN OLSBURGH'S 2/6 ZALMAN SHAZAR (3RD FLOOR) RAMAT POLEG</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> CONTACT PHYLLISIE FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Phyllisie Gross Tel: 052-874-6880 <a href="mailto:phyllisie@hotmail.com">phyllisie@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>SOUTHERN</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 5:00-7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b> MEETING VIA PERSONAL ZOOM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 6:45 PM (ISRAEL TIME)</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Shoshana Kent Tel: 052 808 9365 <a href="mailto:Y2nosh@netvision.net.il">Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>USA/CANADA</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>Judy Belsky Workshop</b> <b>23 November 2021 is full.</b></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Not only is it possible to win cash prizes, but you are also contributing to Voices Israel!! Send in your poems through Submittable before November 15, 2021.**

## IMPORTANT!!

### 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](mailto:reubenrosepoetrycompetition@gmail.com).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the Third Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize Competition, 2022

The Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize 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 in consultation with Prof. Anthony Joseph, Bar's grandfather.

The competition is open to Israeli school students aged 12 through 19.

**Submission dates:** November 15, 2021, through January 15, 2022.

**Cash prizes will be awarded** to three winning poems: 400 NIS first prize, 250 NIS second prize, 100 NIS third prize. 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.
- 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 postal 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. This may be held separately, or 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 competition and its winners, and PDF files of the winning poems from previous years, see <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>.

For further questions, contact Susan Bell, the administrator of the competition, at [sujubell@gmail.com](mailto:sujubell@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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

AMY SCHNITZER, HADERA, ISRAEL

RACHEL R. NEIMAN, BET SHEMESH, ISRAEL

SIMON CONSTAM, TORONTO, CANADA

## 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).

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

A separate document is attached to the email from Voices Secretary dated 1 November 2021.

## KUDOS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Judy Koren, Israel**, whose pantoum “Hypnosis” has been accepted by the Society of Classical Poets for publication on the homepage of their website [www.classicalpoets.org](http://www.classicalpoets.org), provisionally from November 7<sup>th</sup>.

To – **Helen Bar-Lev, Israel**, whose poem “Where the Song Began” was published in the International Writers’ Journal No. 3, July-September, 2021.

To – **David Ades (Australia)** whose poem, “The Mensch” was published in the 2021 eEdition of Poetica Magazine. Read his poem at <http://www.poeticamagazine.com/david-ades> .

To – **Paul Rabinowitz (USA)** whose three poems recently workshopped in the Tel Aviv Group appear in the October 2021 Montreal Review this week: “Spin Cycle,” “Rose,” and “Softcover.” You can enjoy his poems at <http://themontrealreview.com/2009/Three-Poems-Paul-Rabinowitz> .

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Invitation from Paul Rabinowitz, New Jersey, USA

Paul has sent a personal invitation to the opening of his solo show “Retrospective with Reading Glasses on Friday October 1, from 6-9 pm (East Coast time in USA) at CCM Gallery, Sherman H Masten Library in Randolph, NJ.

Retrospective with Reading Glasses is a mixed media exhibition that uses a combination of photographs, short poems and videos by Paul Rabinowitz to tell the story of an evolving artist. **The show will be up through**

**November 18 if you are unable to attend the opening.**

**Questions: [info@paulrabinowitz.com](mailto:info@paulrabinowitz.com)**

Info on **Parking** and for special assistance and wheelchair accessibility **Stop by Public Safety** (MAP

#12) <http://www3.ccm.edu/accessible.html>

**Workshop by Judy Belsky on 23 November 2021 [FULL]**– this workshop was previously announced by email to members. The workshop filled up in a flash! You can register for the waiting list. If you registered and find that you now CANNOT attend, please let Judy Koren know immediately so we can free up the place for someone else.

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## THE BAHRAIN CONNECTION

by Wendy Blumfield

Poetry from Israel has now joined with diplomacy, trade and travel, as one of the benefits of improved relations with Bahrain.

A story of serendipity from Susan Olsburgh illustrates how the printed word can travel far. When Susan was Voices Israel President, she offered a prize to the Poetry Super Highway annual competition in 2019: *A Second Decade of Poems from Voices Israel* edited by Ezra Ben Meir.

The prizewinner was Rohini Sunderam, a Canadian of Indian origin, who has lived in Bahrain for 27 years. She is the former president of the Bahrain Writers Circle. Her winning poem, *First Catch*, was praised for its literary prowess.

Since the announcement in 2019, Susan had kept in touch with Rohini by e-mail but there was no direct postal service between the two countries. After a period of two years, Susan sent the book which arrived in Rohini's post-box on August 3rd 2021.

She was interviewed by Amal Sarhan of the Bahrain English newspaper and said: "To my everlasting pleasure and delight I received the book, a lasting and fitting tribute to the positive power of friendship."

As soon as the parcel arrived, with its Hebrew postmark, Rohini knew what it was. "I think that communications are still magical."

In turn, Susan received a gift of Rohini's writing with a selection of Bahranian stamps. The postmistress was very excited to be sending a parcel to Israel.

(I wish my mail arrived so quickly from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv to Haifa) W.B.



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