



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

The High Holydays have come and gone, and Voices Israel is looking ahead to yet another year filled with activity. After returning from the festival month, we started off the new year with the **launch of the Voices Israel Anthology**, on October 25th. There weren't enough people interested in a face-to-face event to hold it in Netanya as we did pre-Covid: the majority of members preferred to hold it by Zoom, so that's what we did. As usual, this had the advantage that members (and even one or two non-members whose poems were in the Anthology) could join us. So 41 people gathered from Israel, the USA, Canada, the UK and even Ireland, and heard poems from 34 of us. Many thanks to our proxy readers; to our three judges who worked so hard (as usual around 300 poems were submitted); to Dina Yehuda, our Chief Editor, for once again producing a volume ordered in a seamless progression of themes; and all of you whose poems make the Anthology the quality publication that it is.

Looking forward, the next item on our agenda is the start of the **Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize competition**, which opens for submissions on November 15th. **We need your help to publicize it to teachers.** If you know any English teachers – your children's or grandchildren's; former or current colleagues; friends – please do suggest it to them. Our announcement and the guidelines can be downloaded from the Voices Israel website (<https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>). This year the competition is administered by our active member Michele Bustin (michbus2@gmail.com) (thanks you, Michele, for taking over!) who will be happy to hear from anyone who has ideas or can help in spreading the word.

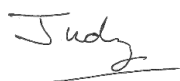
Also in November comes **our next workshop, to be held in Haifa on November 24th** (*note the change of date*), when Wendy Blumfield will lead us into the field of dreams, and Iris Dan into the kind of fruitful mental conflict that results (we hope) in poetry. Full details are in this newsletter. It's already fully booked, but if you're interested and haven't yet registered – do register via the online form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12Dgh9vU-IFJqilubYYZg11S-whypY9JOk1ZYOAeVfri/edit>) and if we're overbooked enough, we *may* be able to rerun it (no promises but we'll try).

A few weeks later comes the announcement of the winners and Honourable Mention recipients of the **Reuben Rose Competition**, which recently closed for submissions. Hopefully that will be in the first half of December.

Finally, we'll round off 2022 with the opening in mid-December of the submission period for the 2023 Anthology.

Looking ahead to 2023: our energetic Workshop Coordinator, Elana Dorfman, is dreaming up more workshops in different venues. If you have a suggestion for a subject you'd like a presentation on, or one you yourself could give a presentation on, or a presenter (member or not) whom you'd like us to invite to give one – please contact Elana (elanado@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing many of you in Haifa on November 24th and at future events we'll be planning. Meanwhile, happy writing!



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

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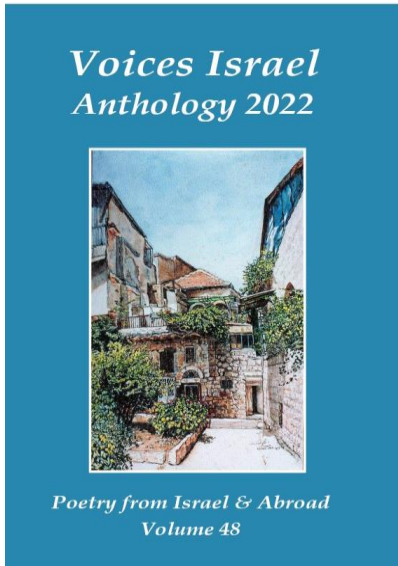
NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>SOUTHERN</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, November 17 at 17:00 – 19:00</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640</p> <p>miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p>	<p>TEL AVIV</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438</p> <p>nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, November 24 at 7:30 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998</p> <p>aemeallem@gmail.com</p>	<p>WESTERN GALILEE</p> <p>No meetings scheduled. Contact Phyllsie for details.</p> <p>Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Mobile: 052-874-6880</p> <p>phyllsie@hotmail.com</p>
<p>HAIFA</p> <p>Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Wendy Blumfield</p> <p>Contact Wendy Blumfield for details</p> <p>Coordinator: Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412</p> <p>blumfieldwendy@gmail.com</p>	<p>NETANYA/SHARON</p> <p>Monday, 28 November at 19:00 at Susan Olsburgh's home</p> <p>2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575</p> <p>olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p>	<p>UPPER GALILEE</p> <p>Wednesday, November 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the home of Reuven and Yehudit.</p> <p>128 Keren HaYesod Artists Quarter, Tzfat</p> <p>Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262</p> <p>poetsprogress@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, November 16 at 19:00 (Israel time)</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365</p> <p>Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</p>

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THE 2022 VOICES ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

The official launch of the 2022 Voices Israel Anthology took place on our Zoom platform on October 25. Expertly moderated by Voices President Judy Koren, the festive event featured readings of some excellent poems by 34 poets from all over Israel as well as the United States, Canada, the UK, and Ireland. The entire launch event is now available for your viewing pleasure at <https://youtu.be/3saD3AKsvuQ>.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Wendy Blumfield**, whose poem “Yearning” was published in *The Jerusalem Report*.

To – **Isaac Cohen**, whose poem “To My Mother Mazal Cohen, Blessed Memory 1936-2010” was published in *MA: An Anthology of Poems in Memory of Bengali Poet Kazi Masuda Saleh* (www.amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD34TV).

To – **Judy Koren** whose poem "Tel Shikmona" tied for 9th place (out of over 1,300 poems) in the Poetry Super Highway contest.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS (A CINQUAIN)

Sukkot
Has come and gone.
The autumn rains are here.
The winter rains will soon bestow
Their gifts.

Pesach Rotem

(previously published in *The Blue Nib*)

DREAMS AND OTHER PARADOXES: A VOICES ISRAEL WORKSHOP

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Voices workshop scheduled for Thursday, November 24, in Haifa, is all filled up, but registration nevertheless remains open. If enough people register, we might (*bli neder*) schedule a second session.

The Program:

A brief warm-up exercise
led by Elana Dorfman

Fearful Symmetry: Poetic Expressions of the Coexistence of Opposites in the Mind
(or: How Come We Are Still Normal?)
Presented by Iris Dan

The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of:
The Play Within the Play
Presented by Wendy Blumfield

Cost: The fee for the workshop is 50 NIS (pay at the workshop).

Registration: Please click to register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12Dgh9vU-IFJqilubYYZg11S-whypY9JOk1ZYOAeVfrI/edit>

HELP WANTED: PUBLICITY OFFICER (NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY)

Wendy Blumfield has announced her intention to retire from the position of Publicity Officer of Voices Israel as of the next AGM in Spring 2023. It is an important position: the Publicity Officer is responsible for letting the world know who we are and what we do. If you are interested in taking on this vital role, please email Judy Koren at president.voices@gmail.com and/or Wendy at blumfieldwendy@gmail.com. Wendy will be happy to explain what she does and provide a list of contacts. No prior experience necessary. Compensation consists of the gratitude and esteem of your peers.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

CALL TO VOICES ISRAEL MEMBERS FOR EKPHRASTIC SUBMISSIONS

Kibbutz Gezer is planning a group exhibition of ekphrastic poems by Voices Israel members in April 2023. Both the poem and the visual art must be creations of the poet. No submission fee. No simultaneous submissions. Submission deadline December 30, 2022.

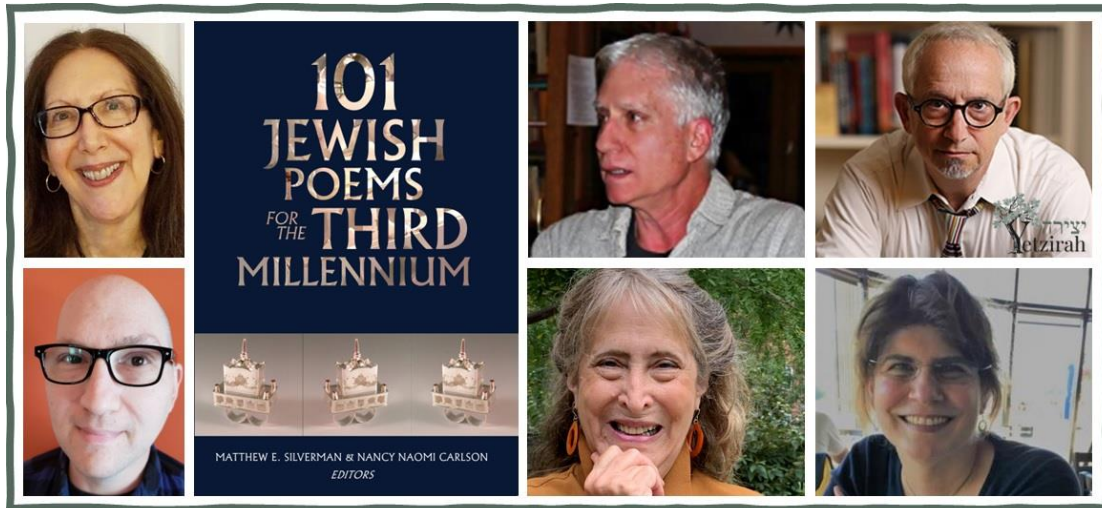
Please email submissions or inquiries to Ira Director at ira.saul.director@gmail.com

- Bio of 100 words.
- Poem printed separate from the artwork.
- Photo of the entire work.
- The total size of the poem and artwork.
- The subject of your email and attachment MUST have your last name - ekphrastic submission.
Example: Moshe Cohen – ekphrastic submission

There will be a festive opening to the exhibit.

101 JEWISH POEMS FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

Our friends at Yetzirah ("a hearth for Jewish poetry") are holding an online reading on Sunday, November 13, at 5 pm Eastern time — midnight the 13th/14th Israeli time — celebrating the anthology *101 Jewish Poems for the Third Millennium*.



For details and registration:

<https://yetzirahpoets.org/yprograms/november-13-101-jewish-poems-for-the-new-millennium-anthology-event/>

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

THE BAR SAGI YOUNG POETS PRIZE

Bar Sagi was a young Israeli poet who wrote in English. Born in Rehovot in 2001, she lived from age five to eleven with her parents in the United States and English became her preferred language. Sadly, on her return to Israel she was diagnosed with bone cancer, and after putting up a courageous and protracted battle, finally succumbed in 2017 after over four years, before reaching her sixteenth birthday.

During these last years, Bar wrote 25 poems which documented her journey with illness and hope and her remarkable life force. These poems, written in her own hand-illustrated book entitled "See Me Soar and Spread My Wings," reflect her many-sided character and unusually mature understanding. The publishing house Gvanim has published them in a book, illustrated with original water-colourings mostly by Ellie Makar-Limanov with others by Anna Melnikov (available from Steimatsky). In addition, the Israeli Education Ministry has selected six of them to be taught in Israeli schools: these can be freely viewed and the file downloaded at

https://meyda.education.gov.il/files/Pop/Ofiles/english/Chativat-Beynayim/Selected_Poems_of_Bar_Sagi.pdf.

Bar's family decided to endow a prize in her name, to preserve her memory and to encourage other young poets. Voices Israel is delighted to partner with them in this initiative, and to help encourage the voices of the young in Israel.

The competition is open to Israelis aged 12 to 19 when the poem was written.

Full submission rules and guidelines are at www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize-guidelines.

The competition is free to enter, and awards three cash prizes (First Prize: 400 NIS; Second Prize: 250 NIS; Third Prize: 100 NIS) plus a variable number of Honorable Mentions at the judges' discretion.

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. Prize winners and Honorable Mentions will also receive a dedicated signed copy of Bar's poetry book at the award ceremony. The winning poems, and Honorable Mention poems if there are any, will be published in the annual Voices Israel anthology.

The fourth Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize will open for submissions on November 15, 2022; the submission period will close at the end of February 2023.

The Fourth Bar Sagi Prize (2022-2023 competition)

Administrator: Michele Bustin

Judges: Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield, Amiel Schotz

Please spread the word. If you know any English teachers, please tell them about the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize. If you know any parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles, tell them about it too. And of course, if you know any young poets, you absolutely must tell them about it. Voices members: we are counting on your help!

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.

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CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Liennek Journal is a new online monthly journal based in the South West of England. (“Liennek” is Cornish for “literary.”) Submit poems up to 50 lines maximum. *We are looking for writing that is confident and engaging, innovative and thought-provoking—perhaps even a little daring. The theme is up to you.* No submission fee; no deadlines. Full guidelines are at <https://liennekjournal.co.uk/submit/>

The Baltimore Review publishes an online quarterly journal that is also collected and published as an annual print volume. They accept submissions from all over the world. Submit up to three poems. No submission fee. They pay \$40 for accepted poems. The submission deadline is November 30, 2022. Full guidelines are at <https://baltimorereview.org/submit>.

Shooter is a biannual print literary magazine based in the UK. The theme for their upcoming issue is “On the Body.” Submit up to three poems. No submission fee. They pay £5 per poem upon publication. The deadline for submission is November 20, 2022. Full guidelines are at <https://shooterlitmag.com/submissions/>.

Shooter Poetry Competition, unlike Shooter’s general submissions, has no theme but instead offers *a chance to write about whatever most compels you, in any style. We’re looking for sharply observed poetry with strong ideas, imaginative use of language, and meaningful form: in short, arresting poems that appeal to both the head and the heart.* Prizes are £150 for the contest winner and £50 for the runner-up. Entrance fee is £3.50 for a single poem or £8.00 for three poems. Poems may be up to 100 lines long. The deadline is November 27, 2022. Details at <https://shooterlitmag.com/poetry-competition/>.

Great Weather for Media is based in New York City and publishes an annual anthology of poetry and prose. *Great Weather for Media focuses on the unpredictable, the fearless, the bright, the dark, and the innovative...* Submit one to four poems of any length. There is no submission fee. All accepted writers receive one contributor’s copy of the anthology; writers based in the USA also receive \$10 payment. The submission deadline is January 15, 2023. Complete guidelines are at www.greatweatherformedia.com/submissions.

Contrary Magazine is an online quarterly journal based on the South Side of Chicago. *We believe poetry is contrary by nature, always defying, always tonguing the tang of novelty. We look especially for plurality of meaning, for dual reverberation of beauty and concern.* Submit up to three poems per issue. They are always open for submissions. The deadline for the upcoming Winter issue is December 1; the issue will appear on January 1. There is no submission fee. They pay \$20 to accepted writers. Full guidelines are at <http://contrarymagazine.com/submissions/>.

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