



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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**End of Year Workshop –**  
**December 29, 7:30pm**  
**(Registration Full) (See**  
**notice in President's Letter)**

**COVID EDITION TO ARRIVE**  
**SEPARATELY AND**  
**WRAPPED TO AVOID**  
**CONTAMINATION**



**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



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

As winter arrives with the first real rainfalls of the year, I feel we are all hunkering down in our houses waiting for the COVID vaccines to finally let us back into normal life! Luckily, we meanwhile have Zoom to enable us all to keep each other company.

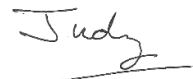
The submissions period for the second Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize opened on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This year it has been widened to include entries from students in Jewish schools abroad (mainly in the UK), and has also been well publicized by our indefatigable Publicity Officer, Wendy Blumfield, so we are hoping for a good number of submissions this year.

In mid-month too we held the first meeting of our new Zoom group for people without a convenient local one; most participants were Israeli but several were from the UK and USA; our sole African member, Bob Mwangi of Kenya, registered but a slow Internet connection let him down. Better luck next time, Bob! Since we still didn't have a good name for this group, I invited suggestions; the winner is Global Zoom Group – Global Group for short (Multinational Zoom Group was a close second but we went with the shorter, alliterative name). Thank you to those members who sent in suggestions! Anyone who wishes to join is invited to email me – note that if the group grows too big, preference will be given to people who don't have a local group that they can attend (whether in Israel, or overseas members).

We were approached by EBSCO, a supplier of databases to thousands of academic and public libraries worldwide, to include our Anthology in their poetry database, and I'm happy to say that the Board voted unanimously in favour. The Anthology will not be available for free download; rather, individual poems will be viewable, together with the bibliographic citation of the Anthology and a link to our website where those interested can purchase the anthology from us. This is a great opportunity to publicize more widely Voices Israel, our poets and their work; it counts as publicity not re-publication. The agreement is ongoing – we will upload future years as soon as each volume has been published.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are restarting our workshops in shortened (two-hour) Zoom format, with what I hope will be a series, one workshop every couple of months, at least until we can un-Zoom sometime next year. As you've all seen from the notice Linda sent out, I'll be giving the first such workshop, on metrical poetry, on December 29<sup>th</sup>. I was happily surprised to see the amount of interest in this somewhat technical subject – within two days of the announcement, we had 20 registrants! We have now reached the limit of 25, but since these are Zoom workshops, it's very easy to re-run them, so please continue to register for the waiting list, and if we have enough interest – for this or any future Zoom workshop – we can easily offer it again. We have another workshop planned for the end of February, after that we'll either try to organize one for end April – May, or, possibly, be able to hold our much-delayed two-day Poetry By The Sea workshop in Netanya, in May or early June (I can dream can't I?).

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## DECEMBER 2020

### ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>HAIFA</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM<br/>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23<br/>AT 7:30PM<br/>CONTACT WENDY FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Wendy Blumfield<br/>Tel: 04-837-6820<br/>Mobile: 054-524-0412<br/><a href="mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il">wendyb@netvision.net.il</a></p> | <p><b>TEL AVIV</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM<br/>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17<br/>AT 7:30-10:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Mark Levinson<br/>Mobile: 054-444-8438<br/><a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p> | <p><b>JERUSALEM</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM<br/>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8<br/>AT 6:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Avril Meallem<br/>Tel: 02-567-0998<br/><a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>   | <p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER<br/>WITH WESTERN GALILEE GROUP)<br/>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9<br/>AT 5-7 PM</p> <p>GUESTS WELCOME<br/>Call 04-697-4105 or write<br/><a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a><br/>for a link &amp; guidelines.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Reuven Goldfarb<br/>Tel: 04-6974105<br/>Mobile: 058-414-0262<br/><a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p> |
| <p><b>ASHKELON</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM<br/>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27<br/>AT 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Chaim Bezalel<br/>Mobile: 054-674-5900<br/><a href="mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com">bezalel.levy@gmail.com</a></p>   | <p><b>NETANYA &amp; SHARON</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM<br/>MONDAY, DECEMBER 28<br/>AT 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Susan Olsburgh<br/>Tel: 074-704-2736<br/><a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER<br/>WITH UPPER GALILEE GROUP)<br/>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9<br/>AT 5-7PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Phyllsie Gross<br/>Tel: 052-874-6880<br/><a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></p> | <p><b>LONDON UK</b><br/>FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE<br/>CONTACT ESTHER.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Esther Lipton<br/><a href="mailto:eblipton@talk21.com">eblipton@talk21.com</a></p>   |
| <p><b>GUSH ETZION</b><br/>PLEASE CONTACT MINDY IF YOU<br/>ARE INTERESTED IN THE GROUP RE-<br/>STARTING.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Mindy Aber Barad<br/>Tel: 05-4667936<br/><a href="mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com">maber4kids@yahoo.com</a></p>                                    | <p><b>SOUTHERN</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM<br/>MONDAY, DECEMBER 21<br/>AT 5:00-7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Miriam Green<br/>Tel: 05-7388640<br/><a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>                | <p><b>BET SHEMESH / MODIIN</b><br/>NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p> <p>*****</p> <p><b>USA/CANADA</b><br/>NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>   | <p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b><br/>MEETING VIA ZOOM<br/>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22<br/>AT 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b><br/>Judy Koren<br/>Tel: 054-741-7860<br/><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 [sjubell@gmail.com](mailto:sjubell@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.

### **BAR SAGI – TEENAGE GIRL**

A new video has been released called "Teenage Girl" using one of Bar Sagi's poems set to music. The video has beautiful artwork and special glimpses of Bar and family. Please watch when you can - it's an amazing production in her honor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leEiVou3tCc&feature=youtu.be>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Welcome back, Rosemary Wolfson, UK

### REFUAH SHLEMA (GET WELL)

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

And our wishes for good health and recovery from any and all illnesses to all our members.

### 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

The Formal Elements in English Language Poetry class: TBA.

### 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).

### POETRY ON PLANES STATUS REPORT

For those of you who submitted poems for the Poetry on Planes project, there is a new status report from Peter Frey.

See, <http://www.poetryonplanes.com/>

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Helen Bar-Lev (TY Helen) sent the following information about the **2021 Rattle Chapbook Prize** that ends on **January 16, 2021**, Submission fee \$25.00 USD. The following link will give you all the information:

<https://rattle.submittable.com/submit/46759/2021-rattle-chapbook-prize>

**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).

**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** The 2021 Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest is now [open for entries](#). They are doubling the top prize to \$2,000 and the second prize to \$500. Their 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.**

Our Voices Israel (Ashkelon) member, **Adam Prockstem Smith**, has launched his "Saturday Poetry Special" (he also interviews on Fridays). He conducts an interview of poets from around the globe using a 30-minute call over Zoom with a chance to read three original poems. Here is a link to his first interview of Isaac Cohen, Tel Aviv Voices member: <https://youtu.be/wzTuSO80yec>

**Ruth Fogelman** has sent along an announcement from The Cultural Centre of Vijayawada & Amaravati (CCVA) located in Andhra Pradesh, India. Calls are out for submission to their annual flagship literary program "**Amaravati Poetic Prism**", an International Multilingual Poets' Meet, for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Amaravati Poetic Prism 2020.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CONGRATULATIONS

To - **Wendy Blumfield**, whose article “Celebrating young poets” was published in the Jerusalem Report. Wendy’s report describes both the Reuben Rose competition and the first Bar Sagi Young Poets Competition along with photos of Bar and of the three young prize winners.

<https://www.jpost.com/jerusalem-report/an-award-ceremony-celebrating-young-poets-650011>

To – **Wendy Blumfield**, who has written a special article on the Bar Sagi competition that is now published in the ESRA magazine and is available online. The printed edition will soon be distributed. Wendy has provided a link to her article:

<https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/the-legacy-of-a-young-poet-1.html>

To - **Yochanan Zaqantov**, whose second e-book of poetry was published on Amazon. It is titled “Modern Romantic Poetry” under Yochanan’s pen name, Ivan Labombarbe.

To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem “Light and Darkness” was published in Open Arts Forum at [https://openartsforum.com/elections-matter/-Pesach\\_Rotem](https://openartsforum.com/elections-matter/-Pesach_Rotem)

To – **Donna Bechar**, whose poem, “Hers” is published in the new 2020 IAWA Anthology, *arc28*, The Kiss, to be launched on December 17 on Zoom.

To – **David Fellerman**, who has been interviewed by Judaica Spotlight highlighting his life, his art, and his poetry. <https://judaicainthespotlight.com/meet-the-artist-david-fellerman/>

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



## END-OF-YEAR WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL.** but, as per our president letter above, we can add you to a waiting list - and there is a possibility of running the workshop again.

We are happy to announce that we're restarting our workshops in a shortened Zoom format: two presentations + exercises instead of three as in face-to-face meetings. They will be open to all our members world-wide. We have several planned; this is the first.

To ensure useful discussion, the maximum number of participants is 25 (as for face-to-face workshops) so if the subject interests you, hurry to enroll!

DATE: TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 AT 7:30 PM ISRAEL TIME

EXPECTED LENGTH: 2 hours (two one-hour sessions).

TOPIC: METRICAL POETRY

Free verse has long been predominant but over the last decade or so, metrical poetry has been making a comeback, and an increasing number of literary magazines are publishing it - or even solely devoted to it. For all of you who'd like to know more about metre and what you can do with it - this workshop is for you.

First talk: The Metrical Menagerie: trochees, anapests and other poetical pets

The basics of metre; accentual versus syllabic verse; types of metre; which type suits which subject?

Examples and writing exercise

Short coffee break

Second talk: Variations on a Theme: How to get your metre out of its rut

“Tricks of the trade” to avoid lulling your readers to sleep.

Examples and writing exercise.

PRESENTER: Judy Koren, Haifa Group

PRICE: **free!** - this is Zoom, the coffee and cake are on you.

TO ENROLL: please contact Linda at [secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com)



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CONDOLENCES

We have recently learned of the passing in 2010 of one of our long-time members, **Hillel (Hillie) Feldman**, who with his wife made Aliyah in 1993 from South Africa to Kibbutz Yizreel. Mr. Feldman's son, Ronnie Feldman, has written to us after finding many of Mr. Feldman's poems. Ronnie has written a blog about his father which you are welcome to read any time. <https://hillelsons.blogspot.com/>

Any who might remember Hillel, might be interested in his war Memoir "Hillie's War Story: From Rommel to Patton" by Hillel Feldman. He was a Jewish prisoner of war in Italy and Germany for over 5 years and survived to live to the age of 91.

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Hillies+war+story&i=stripbooks-intl-ship&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Hillies+war+story&i=stripbooks-intl-ship&ref=nb_sb_noss)

Here is a poem of Mr. Feldman's that was published in an issue of Voices Israel's newsletter.

### *Seine Insane*

In gay Paree  
Along the River Seine.  
There is a man,  
I cannot explain.

In full view of Thousands,  
With fantastic zest.  
He dives from the Bridges,  
Fully dressed.

In winter, when the River's,  
Icy cold.  
He puts on a show,  
Amazingly Bold.

He pirouettes along the parapets  
Escapes the Gendarmes.  
Swallow dives into the river.  
In to his mother's arms.

Every time I see him  
I say again and again.  
This crazy Frenchman,  
I'm sure is in Seine.

HILLEL FELDMAN

May his memory be a blessing.



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FROM MARK LEVINSON

Our next Voices Tel Aviv meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm December 17 on Zoom, and so is the launch of arc 28, the latest issue of the literary journal of the Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE). The launch will presumably include readings from the contributors to the arc issue, who slightly overlap our own group. I expect to be able to arrange with the IAWE folks that if the arc contributors among us participate first in the Voices meeting, they will still be able to zoom over to the arc launch and participate there too. And presumably, like other IAWE events on Zoom, the arc launch will be available later as a recording so everyone can catch up on what they missed.

## FROM POETICA PUBLISHING

### NEW BOOK RELEASE:

PSALMS FOR CONTEMPLATION, Translations by Max D. Ticktin

Max Ticktin (1922-2016 ז"ל) received BA from University of Pennsylvania; Rabbinic Ordination/MA/Honorary Doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Max was Hillel director at University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, and assistant national director in Washington, DC. In his 2nd over thirty-year career, Max taught Hebrew literature and humanities at George Washington University.

*Excerpt from Rabbi Ticktin's book, Psalms for Contemplation:*

*From Psalm 77 verses 3-7*

*In troubled times I sought the Eternal. At night, my hand was outstretched unceasingly. All of me refused to be eased.*

*I but bring Adonai to mind, and I groan. I muse and my spirit is enveloped.*

*You had a tight hold on my eyelids. I lay pulsating without words*

*I counted out the days of old. Considering the years long ago*

*I had my night-time song in my heart. I muse and my spirit goes exploring*

Available for purchase from: [www.PoeticaPublishing.com](http://www.PoeticaPublishing.com)

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