



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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December 18 - 26



נס גדול היה פה



נר של חנוכה



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

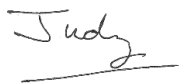
November saw the opening of the submission period for the **Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize** and I'm happy to say that we've already had a few submissions. Our new competition administrator, Michele Bustin, who is herself a retired English teacher, has been networking hard to "spread the word" among her many contacts, and we have high hopes that this year we'll get considerably more entries than we did last year. But we still need your help! So 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>).

Also in November: our last workshop of the calendar year took place in Haifa on November 24<sup>th</sup>, at the home of our workshop coordinator, Elana Dorfman. At one point we had 29 people registered to attend! – but many dropped out en route, several from illness very near the date, so that we ended up with 18, which was just the right number to avoid overcrowding and ensure an enjoyable experience! After a warm-up exercise from Elana, Iris Dan guided us on producing poetry from the conflict of opposites, and Wendy Blumfield on doing the same from dreams. Many thanks to Elana for organizing and coordinating the event *and* providing the venue! As usual, Yochanan Zaqantov is providing an online feedback form which Elana will invite all attendees to fill out.

And, also as usual, we'll be producing a chapbook of the workshop; all attendees who would like edited versions of the poems produced or started at the workshop to appear in the chapbook, please send your poems to me (a maximum of one poem per session) at [president.voices@gmail.com](mailto:president.voices@gmail.com), **by mid-December**.

The next item on our agenda will be the announcement of the winners and Honourable Mention recipients of the **Reuben Rose Competition**. The judges are in the throes of judging the last batch of poems, and once they've reached a decision, the competition administrator, Mark Levinson, will announce the results. Hopefully that will be in the first half of December. Remember that up to three of the poems that didn't win a prize or Honourable Mention in the Reuben Rose competition (or of course any other poems, up to three in all) can then be entered for the 2023 Anthology, whose submission period opens in mid-December. When the submission period starts, a Submit button will appear on the Submitting To The Anthology page of our website (<https://www.voicesisrael.com/submitting-to-the-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](mailto:elanado@gmail.com)).



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Voices Israel is pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new member:

– **Julian Alper**, Tiberias, Israel

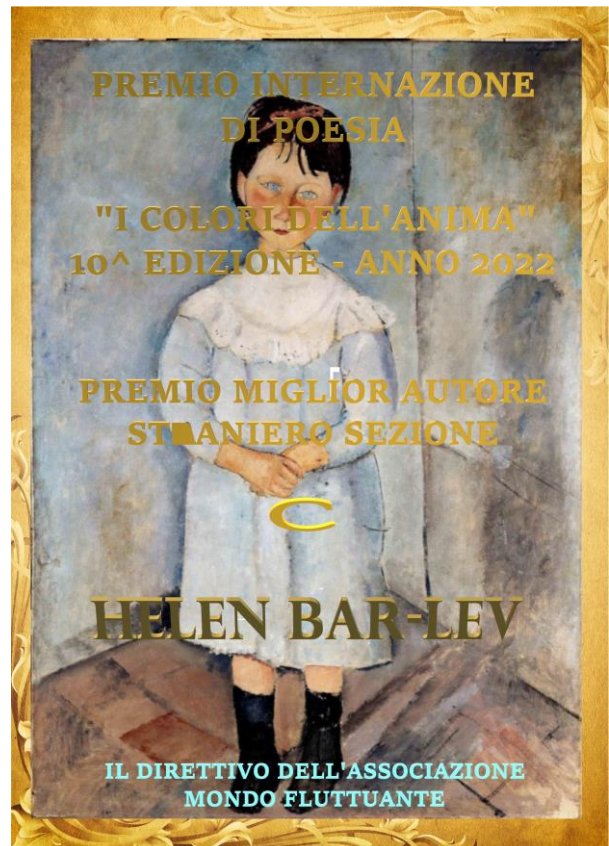
## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

### Kudos to Isaac Cohen

- who was the subject of the article "Poetic Labyrinth of Isaac Cohen" in *Humanity Magazine*
- who had a poem published in the thirty-third edition of the "Garavi Sokak 2022" of the Literary Club "Miroslav Mika Antić"
- whose Hebrew translation of Paramita Mukherjee Mullick's poem "What If?" was published in *Atunis Galaxy Poetry* at <https://atunispoetry.com/2022/11/15/dr-paramit-mukherjee-mullick-india-translated-from-english-to-hebrew-by-isaac-cohen/>
- who was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation in a poetic evening with The Fertile Brains

### Kudos to Helen Bar-Lev

- who was awarded a Best International Poetry Award by the Italian cultural association Mondo Fluttuante
- whose poem "The Man on the Train" was published in the anthology *101 Jewish Poems for the Third Millenium*, [www.amazon.com/101-Jewish-Poems-Third-Millennium/dp/0912592842/](http://www.amazon.com/101-Jewish-Poems-Third-Millennium/dp/0912592842/)
- whose chapbook of poetry and artwork, *Late Life Love*, has been published by New Feral Press (details below).



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## Kudos to Rumi Morkin (aka Miriam Webber)

– who regularly has poems, long and short, accepted for publishing in the quarterly digital webzine *Lighten Up Online*.

## Kudos to Eli Ben-Joseph

– whose poem “Salamander Lamp” and whose artwork, which it describes and comments on, have been accepted for the ekphrastic exhibition planned for the spring on Kibbutz Gezer.



## Salamander Nightlight

Most sea-glass is brown,  
but green and clear abound.  
Blue, red and yellow are rare  
but make a salamander  
if glued bit by bit,  
amber aside scarlet,  
from head to curved tail,  
and round it cool bits  
of green and lucid teal.

Such an amphibian  
adorns a lamp crafted  
out of a pickle jar  
flipped and set on a slab  
of olive driftwood waxed,  
to counterpoise the darkness  
with gems of artifice.

**Eli Ben-Joseph, May 2022**

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## **LATE LIFE LOVE BY HELEN BAR-LEV**

We are very pleased to announce the publication of Helen Bar-Lev's poetry chapbook, with her artwork (60 pages): LATE LIFE LOVE by New Feral Press, Oyster Bay, New York, in cooperation with Shabdagucha Press, Woodhaven, New York.

Excerpts of reviews:

LATE LIFE LOVE. This collection is a symphony in three parts: the joyous odes of discovery of a deep and mutual passion, the erosion of this wonder by an unstoppable and cruel illness, the sadness of irretrievable loss as illness destroys and takes away the essence of the beloved... How do we accept this unfair loss of a great mind and heart that accompanied and gave us joy in life? The poet does find the acceptance we all must, and the prayer that somehow there will be peace for the beloved.

Katherine L. Gordon. Poet, publisher, judge, reviewer.

...These poems exist ... as moments in the life of a love between two humans, a biological and emotional wonder... evolving over time into the period of physical decline and from there on to final farewell.

John B. Lee, Poet Laureate of the city of Brantford in perpetuity, Poet Laureate of Norfolk County for life

The poems in this collection are like pearls set on a silver necklace: each gleaming in its own right but enhanced by its setting. Ms. Bar-Lev's artist's eye, so evident in, for instance, the similes from Nature of the title poem "Late Life Love", is complemented by her command of poetic technique: the bouncy rhythm and rhymes of "As Ode To Joy", the assonances of "Shout It", the metaphors of "Quickly." This is a collection that invites reading and re-reading.

Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

In the USA, the book may be purchased by sending a cheque for US\$20 (includes shipping) to Joan Digby, the New Feral Press, 30 Kellogg Street, Oyster Bay, New York 11771. It will be available on Amazon appx mid-December.

Outside of the USA, the book may be purchased from Helen for US\$20 or NIS 65, including shipping. Write to Helen for details at [helentbarlev@gmail.com](mailto:helentbarlev@gmail.com).

## **SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2023 VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY**

Submissions to the Voices Israel Anthology 2023 will open on December 15 and will remain open until March 15, 2023. Everybody — members and non-members alike — may submit up to three poems for consideration. Poems may be on any topic, but may not exceed 41 lines including stanza breaks. There is no fee for submitting. Full guidelines may be found on our website at [www.voicesisrael.com/submitting-to-the-anthology](http://www.voicesisrael.com/submitting-to-the-anthology).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## DREAMS AND OTHER PARADOXES: A VOICES ISRAEL WORKSHOP



Our hostess and workshop coordinator:  
Elana Dorfman



Our presenters:  
Wendy Blumfield and Iris Dan

## STANLEY BARKAN: THE 2023 U.S.-CHINA NEW YEAR POETRY READING GALA

北美诗歌协会 2023 美·中 隔空新年诗会  
U.S. - China New Year Poetry Reading Gala

鼻烟壶中的信  
*Message in A Snuff Bottle*  
Stanley H. Barkan  
美国著名诗人。American Poet  
跨文化交流的编辑/出版商  
在 2020 年庆祝了 50 周年，出版了  
500 本书。他自己的作品已出版 29  
种诗歌版本，其中许多是双语的，  
包括中文。  
2017 年，获荷马欧洲诗歌与艺术奖章。

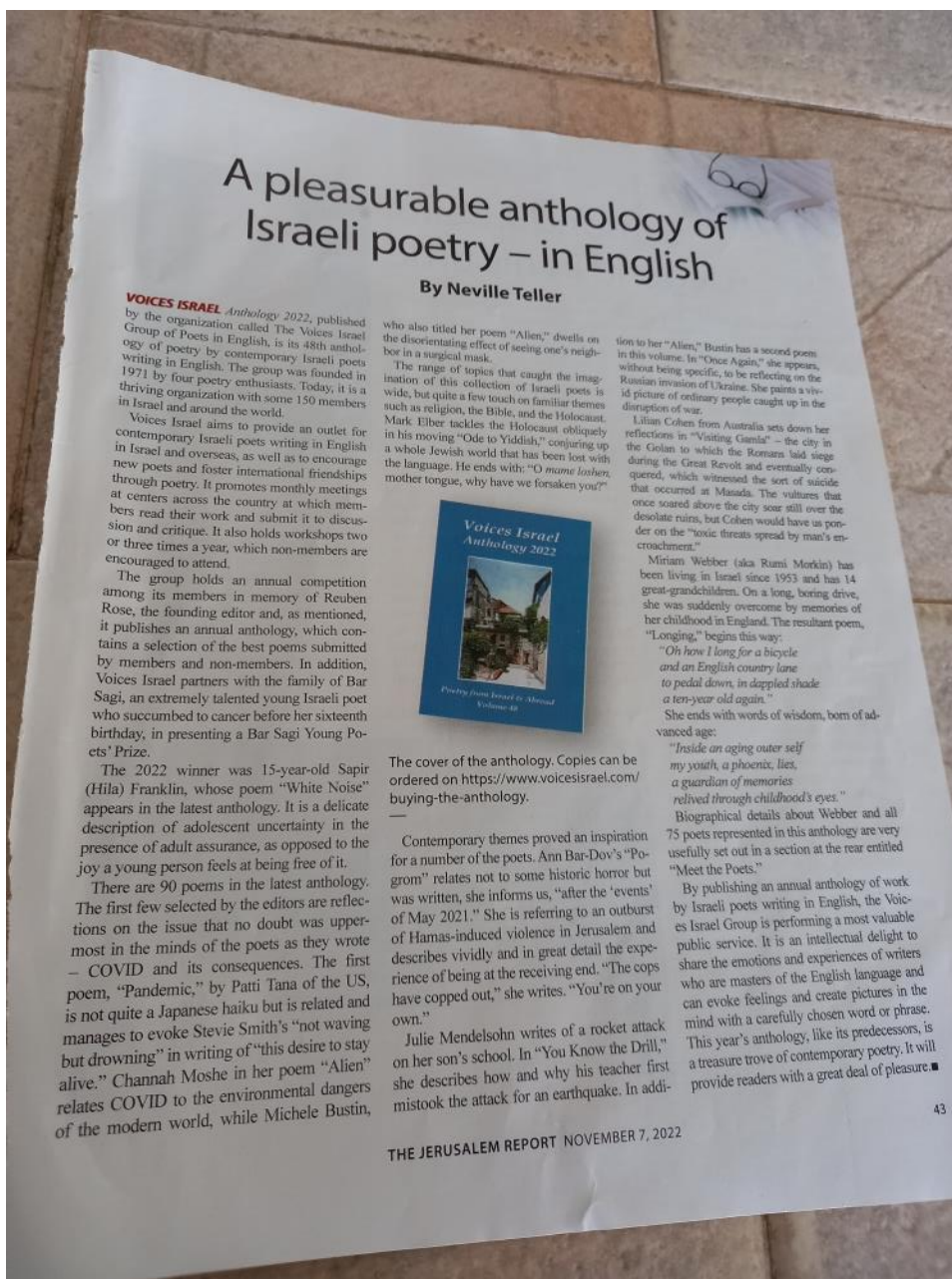
休斯顿 Houston 北京 Beijing

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## VOICES ISRAEL IN THE JERUSALEM REPORT

In its November 7 issue, The Jerusalem Report published a rave review by Neville Teller of the Voices Israel Anthology 2022. Titled "A pleasurable anthology of Israeli poetry — in English," the review bestows individual praise on Bar Sagi prize winner Sapir (Hila) Franklin and on poets Patti Tana, Channah Moshe, Michele Bustin, Mark Elber, Ann Bar-Dov, Julie Mendelsohn, Lilian Cohen, and Miriam Webber (aka Rumi Morkin), and concludes with sweeping admiration for the Anthology as a whole:

"By publishing an annual anthology of work by Israeli poets writing in English, the Voices Israel Group is performing a most valuable public service. It is an intellectual delight to share the emotions and experiences of writers who are masters of the English language and can evoke feelings and create pictures in the mind with a carefully chosen word or phrase. This year's anthology, like its predecessors, is a treasure trove of contemporary poetry. It will provide readers with a great deal of pleasure."





# 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](mailto: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.

## RONNY SOMECK ON DECEMBER 4

Our friends at the Israel Association of Writers in English will be hosting acclaimed Israeli poet Ronny Someck on Zoom on Sunday, December 4, at 8:00 pm Israeli time. For the Zoom link, write to [karenalkalaygut@gmail.com](mailto:karenalkalaygut@gmail.com).

*I A W E*

**The Israel Association of Writers in English  
invites you  
to an evening of poetry and conversation  
with one of Israel's most popular poets,  
Ronny Someck.**

**Ronny Someck** was born in Baghdad in 1951 and came to Israel as a child. He has published 14 volumes of poetry and has written two books for children with his daughter Shirley. Among the 41 languages into which he has been translated, the most recent is an edition in Arabic, with a forward by the noted Syrian poet, Adonis.



Photo: Liora Someck

The evening will be hosted by Jerusalem poet **Sarah Sassoon** and introduced by **Rafi Weichert**, prominent poet, critic and editor.

Translations of poems into English will be read by **Karen Alkalay-Gut**.

**December 4<sup>th</sup> 2022, 20:00 on Zoom.**

For link, contact: [karenalkalaygut@gmail.com](mailto:karenalkalaygut@gmail.com)

# 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/0files/english/Chativat-Beynayim/Selected\\_Poems\\_of\\_Bar\\_Sagi.pdf](https://meyda.education.gov.il/files/Pop/0files/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](http://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. 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 opened for submissions on November 15, 2022, and will remain open until 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](mailto:johnmichaelsimon@gmail.com).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**Passages North** is the annual literary journal sponsored by Northern Michigan University. It publishes one annual print issue plus weekly bonus content on its website throughout the academic year. Submissions for poetry are open through April 15, 2023. There is no fee to submit. Accepted writers receive two free copies of the journal. Full guidelines are at [www.passagesnorth.com/submit](http://www.passagesnorth.com/submit).

**Bennington Review** is a national biannual print journal of innovative, intelligent, and moving poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and film writing, housed at Bennington College. For poetry submissions, send no fewer than three and no more than five poems per submission. *In the spirit of poet Dean Young's dictum that poets should be "making birds, not birdcages," we are particularly taken with writing that is simultaneously graceful and reckless.* There is no submission fee. They pay accepted poets \$25 per poem, in addition to two copies of the issue in which the piece is published and one copy of the subsequent issue. Full guidelines are at [www.benningtonreview.org/submit](http://www.benningtonreview.org/submit)

**Cerasus Magazine** is a quarterly print journal based in North London. *Poetry can be anything between a 1-line epithet and a sequence of epic verse (short of the Iliad) and everything between. Send us one brilliant poem, or a clutch to choose from, or a short themed collection.* There is no submission fee. Upcoming submission deadlines are December 15 for the January issue and March 15 for the April issue. Each contributor will receive a complimentary PDF of the Magazine in which they are featured and the opportunity to buy a paperback copy at an exclusive discounted price. Full submission guidelines are at <https://cerasusmagazine.com/submissions/>

**The Rumen** is a new (born in 2022) online literary journal. You may submit up to five poems at a time. There is no submission fee and no deadline. *We want poems with interesting forms, strong sonics, and striking images flawlessly rendered. Traditional forms are welcome but we lean more toward works that take risks and challenge notions of traditional poetics.* Guidelines are at [www.therumen.com/submissions](http://www.therumen.com/submissions).

**Slipstream** is an annual printed poetry anthology based in Niagara Falls, New York. They are now *seeking poetry that explores the theme "Red."* Creative interpretations are highly encouraged and welcome. Submit up to five poems. There is no submission fee. Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2023; the volume will be published in fall 2023. Submission guidelines are at <http://www.slipstreampress.org/guide.html>.

**Beechwood Review** is a digital and print journal of minimalist writing and art. Send up to 10 poems. In total, no longer than 50 lines. Poems of 5 lines or fewer preferred. Haiku and micropoetry heavily favored. *We're partial to themes of time, nature, humanity, philosophy, chaos, reason, the ridiculous, and the whimsical.* Previously published work is acceptable. There is no submission fee. Deadline is December 31. They pay \$5 per published poem. Submission guidelines are at <https://beechwoodreview.com/>.

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