



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter

August Meeting Dates

Welcome New Member

Kudos to Our Members!

Voices Israel Anthology

Reuben Rose Competition

Calls for Submissions

Summertime ...



... and the living is easy.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Two weeks ago our long-term website-hosting company dropped a bombshell: **they are closing down at the end of August.** For technical reasons the website cannot be transferred to a different company: it must be rewritten. That's not part of your President's job but it is part of your webmistress's (and that's me too).

After checking out various possibilities I decided to move to WordPress. The plan which gives all the options we need is very close in price to what we were paying up to now, and includes online chat support with a Real Human, which is highly useful since I'm learning WordPress as I write the site.

Bottom line:

- **At some point in August, we will switch from our present site to the new one.** The deadline is the 31st but I'm hoping to switch before then, to leave time for trouble-shooting. **All the pages currently needed will be up and functioning** (the home page and everything members need to do, such as renewing membership, submitting to the Reuben Rose, the Bar Sagi prize and Anthology, etc.) I aim to have *all* the pages finished, but if necessary, archive pages such as reports of previous workshops and events from a few years ago, can be added later.
- **Our website address will remain the same:** www.voicesisrael.com. One day you will simply go there and see the new site instead of the old one. **The "look" will be different but the organization of information and functions will be the same or very similar.**
- **I am not recreating the Membership Directory or the Resources List.** They are both very out of date, it's too time-consuming to keep them updated, and very few if any members use them. **If anyone does use some links from the Resources list:** please bookmark them asap!

Now for this month's other news:

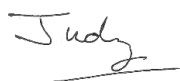
The **Reuben Rose Competition** opened on July 10th. Remember to send in your best poems!

In early July we produced the PDF chapbook for the Zoomed "Crossroads – the choices we make" workshop and sent it to all workshop participants. If anyone would like a copy of the PDF, email me. We also printed the Anthology and sent it out to all paid-up members. Thank you to all involved in the production process, especially Chanita for the physical mailing!

We are close to an agreement with Proquest (see last month's Newsletter) **to add all available years of the Anthology to their database.** We will supply the e-versions (printer-ready PDFs) that we have and Proquest will source print copies of older ones from libraries (e.g. the National Library, and the British Library which also has copies) and digitize them. Let's all remember that these databases are one way of publicizing our work – so again, do submit poems to both the Reuben Rose Competition and the Anthology!

Sadly, we still have no Publicity Officer. I'm therefore appealing to all our members to **publicize our events – e.g. now, the Reuben Rose Competition – in your Facebook pages, blogs, and other social media accounts.** Spread the word!

And meanwhile, happy writing!



Judy Koren,
President, Voices Israel.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER

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

– **Viviana Cohn**, Haifa, Israel

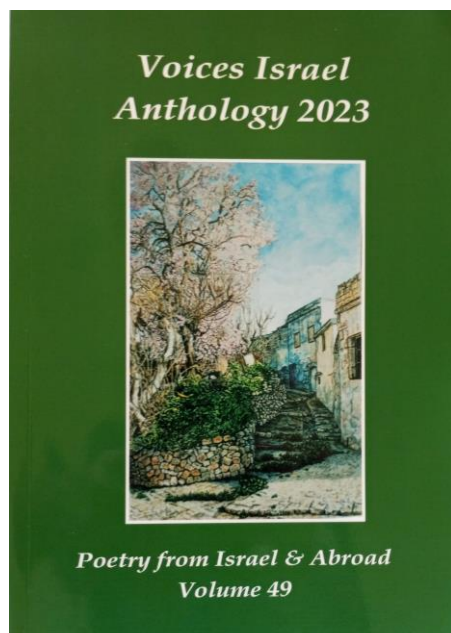
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Isaac Cohen**, who participated in the “Loss and Comfort” event, in memory of Dr. Zeev Susek, z”l, in Ra’anana.



THE VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY 2023

The Voices Israel Anthology 2023 has been published and distributed to members. Prepared under the direction of editor-in-chief Dina Yehuda along with editors Eli Ben-Joseph, Wendy Blumfield, and Elana Dorfman, the anthology features a cover painting by Helen Bar-Lev and 104 poems by 65 poets from 7 countries. There are also special sections showcasing the winning poems from the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and the Reuben Rose Poetry Competition. It is a beautiful book in every respect. Additional copies of the Anthology may be purchased at www.voicesisrael.com/buying-the-anthology.



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THE REUBEN ROSE MEMORIAL POETRY COMPETITION

The 34th annual Reuben Rose Memorial Poetry Competition is open for entries until 10 October 2023.

First prize has been increased to \$750, second prize to \$250, and third prize to \$100. The entry fees have been increased by a smaller factor — to \$8 for submitting one poem, or \$16 for submitting three, or \$24 for submitting six.

As before, there will be ten honorable mentions. Among the thirteen winners, no poet will be included twice. All prizewinners and honorable mentions will be published in the coming year's Voices Israel poetry anthology.

Judges are award-winning poet, novelist, and essayist Nancy Shiffrin; Iris Dan, last year's winner of first prize; and David Silverman, last year's winner of second prize. The contest is open to everyone in the world.

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. Line limit per poem: 41 lines, including any stanza breaks, dedication, epigraph, etc., but not including the title. Exceptionally lengthy lines count as more than one line.

Poems must be unpublished and must remain unpublished until the list of winners is e-mailed to the entrants. (Target date is December.) Thereafter you may publish and republish as you like; copyright remains with you, and Voices Israel claims only a non-exclusive license to publish and republish the winning poems and honorable mentions in any form, physical or digital. For this competition, poems are not considered previously published if they have appeared in the monthly Voices Israel newsletter or in a Voices Israel workshop chapbook.

Poems are judged without the poets' names. The judges' decision is not subject to appeal. Make sure that your name appears only on the online entry form, not anywhere in the file you send or in the file's name.

To enter, go to <https://voicesisrael.submittable.com/submit> and select the appropriate Submit button.

Questions may be sent to reubenrosepoetrycompetition@gmail.com.

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.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The **2023 Poetry Super Highway Poetry Contest** is now open. Enter as many poems as you'd like. Poems may be of any style, length, or subject matter. Previously published poems are accepted. The entry fee is \$1 per poem. The judges are Ashley Cline of New Jersey, U.S.A.; Jan Harris of Nottinghamshire, U.K.; and Kathryn Axton of Saskatchewan, Canada. A prize pot consisting of all the entry fees collected plus \$500 will be divided among the three contest winners: 50 percent to the First Prize winner, 30 percent to Second Prize, and 20 percent to third prize. A large number of non-cash prizes donated by contest sponsors — including three copies of the 2021 Voices Israel poetry anthology — will also be handed out, with the goal that every single person who enters the contest will get something. Deadline to enter is October 7, 2023. Full guidelines are at <https://www.poetrysuperhighway.com/psh/2023-poetry-contest/>.

Gyroscope Review is a quarterly journal whose motto is “fine poetry to turn your world around.” It publishes as both a printed journal available for purchase and as a PDF available for free download. Women over age 50 are invited to submit up to four previously unpublished poems of any length for their Crone Power issue. *We want poems that celebrate the Crone, the older woman with wisdom and life experience.* There is no fee to submit. Deadline is September 1. Full guidelines at <https://gyroscopereview.submittable.com/submit>.

Passager is a biannual print journal based in Baltimore, Maryland, for writers over 50. Their *mission is to publish the work of older writers, encourage the imagination in the later stages of life, and create beautiful and welcoming publications.* Submit up to five poems, maximum 40 lines each. The submission fee is \$5. Deadline is September 15. Contributors in the U.S. receive a complimentary print copy of the journal; others receive a digital copy. Guidelines are at <https://www.passagerbooks.com/submit/>.

Rattle is a quarterly print poetry journal whose Summer 2024 issue will be A Tribute to the Ghazal. Submit up to four poems. *The poems may be any subject or length, but must be ghazals.* There is no submission fee. Contributors will receive \$200 and a complimentary one-year subscription to Rattle. Deadline is January 15, 2024. Guidelines are at <https://rattle.submittable.com/submit>.

Samjoko is an online quarterly English-language literary magazine based in South Korea. *Samjoko Magazine is devoted to publishing exemplary work from content creators around the world.* Submit one to five poems, 3 to 50 lines per poem. There is no submission fee. They pay \$20 to each poet whose work is accepted. Deadline for the Fall issue is September 10. Guidelines are at www.samjokomagazine.com/submission-guidelines.

The Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest is now open. This contest awards the Tom Howard Prize of \$3,000 for a poem in any style or genre; the Margaret Reid Prize of \$3,000 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style; and ten Honorable Mention awards of \$300 each. The twelve award winning poems will be published online by **Winning Writers**. Entry fee is \$22 per submission; a submission may contain up to three poems. Enter as many submissions as you want. Previously published poems are accepted. The final judge is Michal “MJ” Jones, assisted by Briana Grogan and Dare Williams. Deadline is September 30, 2023. Guidelines are at <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>.

The Mantelpiece is an online monthly English-language literary magazine published in Reykjavik, Iceland. Submit up to six poems at a time. There is no submission fee and no deadlines. They pay a minimum of 40 Euros for accepted work. Guidelines are at <https://themantelpiece.org/submissions>.

The Shore is an online quarterly poetry publication *seeking cutting, strange, and daring work from new and established poets alike.* Submit three to five poems at a time. There is no submission fee. Deadline is September 1. Guidelines are at www.theshorepoetry.org.

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