



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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September 15-17

Yom Kippur



September 24-25



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Congratulations Voices Israel! Our website has been recreated at its new home and is up and running. If you haven't already seen it, go take a look – as promised, it looks a little different and the longer menus have been rearranged for easier access, but otherwise it works just like the old one. Hopefully you'll all like the new look and feel.

Meanwhile the **Reuben Rose Competition** has been open for submissions for a month and a half, so we're about halfway through the submissions period. It closes on October 10th. Do remember to submit your best poems for a chance to win our newly increased prizes!

September through early October we'll all be busy celebrating the High Holidays, but in mid-October Voices Israel returns in style:

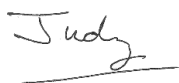
- On October 18th we'll be holding a **Zoom mini-workshop**, led by our long-term member Eli Ben-Joseph who you may remember gave a well-received workshop session on Ambition, using Robert Frost's "After Apple-Picking" as an example, at the Netanya one-day workshop a couple of years ago. An announcement with details is in this newsletter.
- And the **2023 Anthology launch** will take place, as a hybrid in-person/Zoom event, at the Karaoke Stage Bar in Netanya, on October 23rd from 6 to 9 pm Israel time (that's 4 pm UK time, 11 am US East Coast, 8 am Pacific). Save the date! **The price for the in-person event will be 60 NIS per person and includes a light supper (meat or vegetarian options) and soft drinks.** Many thanks to our Israeli members whose willingness (even eagerness) to hold an in-person event has enabled us to do this. *Anyone who said they could come in person and finds they are unable to – please contact our secretary Pesach as soon as you know this, because we are only just above the 20-person minimum and need to cancel the room 10 days in advance or else pay a hefty cancellation fee.* We'll start firm registration for the event soon.

We have two big national events a year: the Reuben Rose/Bar Sagi Prize awards and the Anthology launch. If enough people will come in person, we could turn them both into hybrid in-person/Zoom events. If not, I'd like at least the Anthology launch to be in-person or hybrid (the Reuben Rose will be either hybrid or Zoomed, because in most years so many people involved in it, both winners and judges, come from abroad). Any in-person event that we don't get 20 people for, will revert to Zoom-only, but I'm hoping we won't end up with only the couple of one-day workshops a year when just a few of us can meet in person. That would be a pity.

We didn't yet sign an agreement with Proquest to add the Anthology to their database – they all seem to be on vacation in August! – but it's probable that this will be finalized during the next month.

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 New Year to all of you, and well over the fast!



Judy Koren,
President, Voices Israel.

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SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

SOUTHERN Closed for the holidays! Next meeting will be in October Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640 miriamsgreen@gmail.com	TEL AVIV Meeting via Zoom Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 PM Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il	JERUSALEM Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30 PM Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 aemeallem@gmail.com	WESTERN GALILEE No meetings scheduled. Contact Phyllsie for details. Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Mobile: 052-874-6880 phyllsie@hotmail.com
HAIFA Wednesday, September 20 at 19:00 at the home of Iris Dan Contact Debbie Golden for details Coordinator: Debbie Golden Mobile: 054-580-6209 deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il	NETANYA/SHARON Monday, 11 September at 19:00 at Susan Olsburgh's home 2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575 olsburgh.susan@gmail.com	UPPER GALILEE Wednesday, September 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the home of Reuven and Yehudit. 128 Keren HaYesod Artists Quarter, Tzfat Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 poetsprogress@gmail.com	GLOBAL GROUP Meeting via Zoom Thursday, September 21 at 19:15 Israel time Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365 Y2nosh@netvision.net.il

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Isaac Cohen**, who was featured in a full-length article “Isaac Cohen: The Multifaceted Artistic Force from Tel-Aviv, Israel” in *Writers Edition* that concluded: “Isaac Cohen’s enduring commitment to culture and the arts has made him a cherished figure in Israel’s creative landscape. His multifaceted contributions have left an indelible mark on the world of literature and beyond, showcasing the transformative power of art to bridge gaps and foster understanding among diverse cultures and communities.” The full article is at www.writersedition.com/isaac-cohen-the-multifaceted-artistic-force-from-tel-aviv-israel/,

To – **Rumi Morkin**, whose poem “Company” was published in *Lighten Up Online* at www.lightenup-online.co.uk/index.php/issues/issue-63-september-2023/rumi-morkin-company.

To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem “Success” was published in *Topical Poetry* at <https://topicalpoetry.com/success/>.

To – **Elana Wolff**, whose cross-genre work, *Faithfully Seeking Franz*, is now available for preorder. The book will be in stores on November 1, and launched in Toronto on December 3. The itinerary of *Faithfully Seeking Franz* comprises an irregular quest for dead mentor, modernist author Franz Kafka—in places he lived, worked, vacationed and convalesced, and in the body of work he left: fiction, diaries, notebooks, and correspondence. The search for the man inside the writer is both a personal journey and a joint venture of two in the field: E. and M. in pursuit of K. The story might even be said to unfold as a love note to triangulation. Preorder at www.amazon.com/Faithfully-Seeking-Franz-Essential-Essays/dp/1771838205/.

PRESIDENT HERZOG RECEIVES A HELEN BAR-LEV



Isaac Herzog, president of the State of Israel, receiving a painting by Helen Bar-Lev in Metulla, 2 August 2023

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

A “FERN HILL” WORKSHOP WITH ELI BEN-JOSEPH

You are invited to a
Voices Workshop
inspired by Dylan Thomas’s poem *Fern Hill*

The workshop will be facilitated by **Eli Ben Joseph**
Wednesday October 18th at 19:00 by Zoom.



After reading and discussing the poem Eli will present a few prompts to inspire us to write about our own life and childhood.

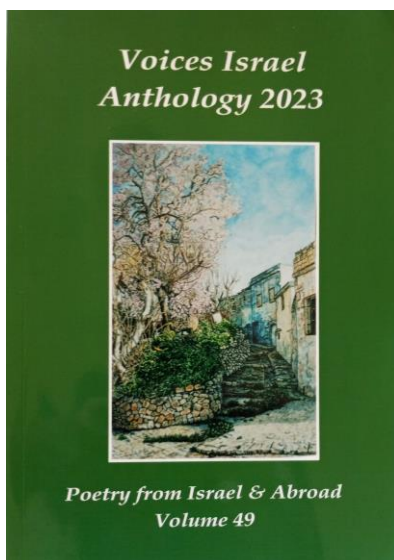
In his poem ‘Fern Hill’ Dylan Thomas has the persona trace his life from the magic years of childhood through an adulthood of exuberance to old age. He looks back in self-approval despite having been heedless of his own mortality.

To register follow the link in the Newsletter below.

To register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ8KFxgOan3rz__b_U3-dn4RyZwrevYHilxfTEp882Hx0emQ/viewform

THE VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH



*Voices Israel
Anthology 2023*



*Poetry from Israel & Abroad
Volume 49*

The Launch of the 2023 Voices Israel Anthology will take place on Monday, October 23, from 6 to 9 PM. It will be a hybrid event: live and in-person at the Stage Karaoke Bar, 9 Arieh Regev Street, Netanya, and via Zoom to the entire world. Everybody’s invited. The price for the in-person event will be ₪60 per person and includes a light supper (meat or vegetarian options) and soft drinks. Price for the Zoom event is free but you have to provide your own snacks.

Registration information will be coming soon.

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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.

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CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Trio International Poetry Competition is being held by Trio Uganda, a volunteer-led micro charity. First prize is £1,000, second prize is £300, third prize is £100, and four commended poems will be awarded £25 each. All poems, winning or otherwise, will be considered for publication in the next edition of *Red Poets*. Poems may be on any subject, but must be no longer than 40 lines. The judge of the competition is Mike Jenkins, winner of the Wales Book of the Year for *Wanting to Belong*. The entry fee is £5 for one poem; £8 for two poems; or £10 for three poems. Deadline to enter is 30 September. Guidelines are at www.triouganda.org/poetry-competition.

The Broken Spine is a poetry and arts collective proudly published on the coastal edge of North-West England. They publish poetry both on their website and in printed anthologies. They accept submissions during the months of March, June, September, and December. *We prefer Narrative poetry that shines and has a sense of flair/voice/style*. There is no fee to submit. Guidelines are at <https://thebrokenspine.co.uk/submission-guidelines/>.

Stonecoast Review is a print literary journal edited by students and alumni of the Stonecoast MFA program in creative writing at the University of Southern Maine. Submit up to three poems, with no more than 50 lines each. There is no fee to submit, but they do accept donations. Contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the issue in which their work appears. Submission deadline is October 1. Guidelines are at www.stonecoastreview.org/submissions/.

Tabula Rasa Review is an independent literary journal that publishes in both print and PDF format. They accept submissions of any genre or style. They accept previously published work. There is no limit to the number of poems you may submit. There is no submission fee. Deadline for submissions is December 31. They also offer virtual “workshops,” in which, for a fee, the entire editorial board will read your work (up to five poems) and provide in-depth feedback. Guidelines are at <https://tabularasareview.com/submit/>.

Chestnut Review appears four times per year online and once per year in print in an annual anthology. *We are drawn to beautiful language, resonant images, and we crave narrative*. They pay \$120 for each accepted piece. They are always open for submissions. Submit one to three poems for free, or four to six poems for a \$5 fee. There is no limit on the length of the poems. They promise to respond within 30 days. You may also request feedback for a fee. Guidelines are at <https://chestnutreview.com/submissions/>.

Split Lip Magazine is a voice-driven literary journal with a pop culture twist. They publish online monthly and in print periodically. They are always open for submissions, but in some months, including September, submissions are free; in other months there is a \$3 fee. Submit one — only one — poem. They pay web-issue contributors \$75 and print-issue contributors \$20 plus two complementary copies. Guidelines are at <https://splitlipthemag.com/submit>.

filling Station is a Canadian print journal that accepts and encourages submissions from everywhere in the world. The theme for their upcoming issue is Language. *This may include work with linguistic subject matter, or works that incorporate language(s) into their creative process*. Submit up to six pages of poetry. There is no submission fee but they do accept optional donations. Deadline is September 30. Guidelines are at www.fillingstation.ca/submissions-1.

The Main Street Rag is a print quarterly literary magazine based in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is open for submissions year-round. Submit three to five poems of any length, but no more than six pages total. Submission fee is \$2.50. Guidelines are at www.mainstreetrag.com/magazineliterary-magazine/.

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