



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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September 29 – October 6

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October 6-7



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Shana tova and chag sameach yet again! I hope all of you are enjoying Succot and will find the time during chol ha-mo'ed to write more poetry and try your luck with submissions 😊. Especially to our Reuben Rose competition, which closes on October 10th, Real Soon Now. Submit your best poems for a chance to win one of our newly increased prizes or an Honourable Mention!

On a more sombre note: it happens now and then (and happened again last week) that a scammer gets to our website, copies the email addresses of our officers listed there, and sends requests for help or money (the former always turns into the latter) purporting to be from the President to everyone else. **Please note: this does NOT mean my email address has been hacked! The scammer is not sending from it but from a different one. Always check the address such a mail is coming from.** In this case the address wasn't remotely like your President's; more sophisticated scammers open a gmail account that is as close as possible to the one they're trying to impersonate, such as presidentvoices@gmail.com without the dot between "president" and "voices", or voicespresident... etc. etc. **If it isn't exactly president.voices@gmail.com, it isn't coming from me.** The bottom line: **don't hit Reply to such messages, they will never be for-real.** And check for logic – e.g. this latest message, asking for "urgent help" with a "project", was sent on Yom Kippur and its English wasn't exactly native 😊. Or if it's asking directly for money: your President would never send a request concerning money to anyone but your Treasurer. It's a pity to be worried by these scams: let's all just get into the habit of checking the sender's email address etc. (If you're on your phone and can't see the sender's address, just don't reply).

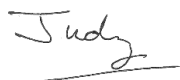
Back to happier things! We have two events coming up in October:

- Eli Ben-Joseph's Zoom mini-workshop "Fern Hill" on October 18th. We currently have 23 people registered and we're all looking forward to the event.
- The Anthology launch event on October 23rd. **We currently have 16 in-person participants registered, which is a little under the minimum needed. In advance registration 20+ people said they would come. If you haven't registered for the in-person event yet, and want to come, please register asap. We have to confirm or cancel by October 13th.** To register, click the following link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEnU_ICGTHoVaKRfIi_YlxtbGKZTHPX4c_iLnCsZJ6OG7pww/viewform. We also only have 7 Zoom participants registered, which is a big surprise. Please, Zoomers, do register to get the link to the hybrid event!

Looking ahead: the submission period for the Bar Sagi Prize opens on November 15th (till the end of February 2024). For the 2024 Anthology, submissions usually open on December 15th, but since that's both the last day of Chanukah and erev Shabbat, we'll probably choose December 17th this year.

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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OCTOBER 2023 MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

SOUTHERN Sunday, October 8 from 17:00 to 19:00 Meeting at Miriam's house in Be'er Sheva (call her for details) with a zoom link for those who can't make it. Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640 miriamsgreen@gmail.com	TEL AVIV Meeting via Zoom Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 PM Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il	JERUSALEM Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, October 25 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, October 11 at 19:00 at the home of Edit Gavriely Contact Debbie Golden for details Coordinator: Debbie Golden Mobile: 054-580-6209 deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il	NETANYA/SHARON Monday, 30 October 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, October 11 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 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, October 19 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 – **Julian Alper**, whose essay “The Call of the Frog” was published in *ESRA Magazine*, in print and at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/posts/entry/the-call-of-the-frog.html>, and whose essay “Photography, poetry, and nature in Israel” was published in *The Jerusalem Report*.
- To – **Stanley H. Barkan**, whose poem “Tashlich,” which was read every Rosh Hashanah by Rabbi Jeremiah Wohlberg during his almost 50-year tenure at Ohav Sholom, has now been translated into Chinese by Anna Keiko at <http://www.52hrtt.com/ar/n/w/info/ifm202309221727216845938>.
- To – **Donna Bechar**, whose poems, “Two Days” and “Rain-in-the-Face,” were published in the new IAWE Anthology, *arc30*.
- To – **Wendy Blumfield**, whose article “London and Winchester: A tale of two British Jewish communities” was published in *The Jerusalem Report* in print and at <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-759006>.
- To – **Isaac Cohen**, whose poems “The Whirlpool,” “What is Love,” and “Again with Love,” were published in their English original along with a Greek translation in *Poetic Galaxy Atunis* at <https://atunispoetry.com/2023/09/28/poems-by-isaac-cohen-israel-2/>.
- To – **Gabriel Emanuel**, whose short story “‘Hamakom’ (The Place)” was published in *The Jerusalem Report* in print and at <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-759034>
- To – **Kaila Shabat**, whose poem “In Front of the TV” was published in *ESRA Magazine* in print and at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/posts/entry/in-front-of-the-tv.html>

A TRIBUTE TO SUSAN ROSENBERG

SUSAN ROSENBERG, our much loved and treasured Haifa Voices member, is relocating to Jerusalem to be closer to her family.

Our Haifa group will miss her gentle presence, her wit and humour and her beautiful poetry. In her nineties she is still inspired by the good things in life. On the other hand we know that she will be happy and more in contact with her very large extended family of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even a couple of great-greats.

Susan has been a member of Voices since 1980. She was national secretary for many years until we switched to on-line communications and then co-ordinated the Haifa group until 8 years ago. Susan was also founding president of the Haifa Hadassah chapter. After her beloved husband Dick passed away, she stayed on in her Haifa apartment, but now she is making the move and starting a new phase in her life.

We hope she will stay in touch with us and we wish her all the best in her new home.

Wendy Blumfield

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:

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

You are invited to

The Voices Anthology Launch

The 2023 Anthology launch is a **hybrid in-person/Zoom event**.

The in-person event will take place at the **Stage Karaoke & Bar in Netanya,**

On October 23rd

At 18:00 to 21:00 Israel time

(4 pm UK time, 11 am US East Coast, 8 am Pacific).

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..

To register: follow the link below and fill out the registration form.

Guests are welcome but please have them register as well

The Launch will take place at the Stage Karaoke Bar, 9 Arie Regev Street, Netanya (near the Netanya-Sapir train station). Kosher under the supervision of the Rabbinat Netanya.

To register (for in-person or Zoom):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEnU_ICGTHoVaKRfli_YlxtbGKZTHPX4c_iLnCsZJ6OG7pww/viewform

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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.

INVITATION TO IAWE'S ARC LAUNCH IN TZFAT

Our friends at the Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE) invite everybody to attend a launch of their literary journal *arc* on Wednesday, October 25, at 5:00 PM in the Geiger English Library at 38 Jerusalem Street in Tzfat. The theme of this edition of *arc* is Serendipity and the editors are Michael Kagan and Simon Lichman. Admission is free.

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 Rattle Ekphrastic Challenge is a monthly online feature of Rattle Magazine. *There's a long tradition of poetry responding to visual art (and vice versa), and we thought it would be fun to post a challenge.* Every month, Rattle posts an image of a piece of art, and poets are invited to submit poems relating to that piece. Each month, two winners—one chosen by the artist and the other by Rattle's editor—receive online publication along with a prize of \$100 each. There is no fee to submit. The deadline is the last day of each month. Details are at www.rattle.com/ekphrastic/.

The Amilcare Solferini International Poetry Contest, based in Italy but open to poets all over the world, is now open. Submit one poem of up to 20 lines, in English, on any topic. There is no fee to submit. The deadline is April 28, 2024. Winners will be notified in May 2024 and the winning poems will be published online. Details are at <https://imagespoetry.wordpress.com/2023/09/19/amilcare-solferini-international-poetry-contest/>.

Does It Have Pockets? is a monthly online literary journal. Submit three to five poems in one document. Previously published poems are accepted. There is no deadline. The submission fee is \$3. Upon acceptance, they pay \$10 per group of poems. Details are at www.doesithavepockets.com/subs.

The Poeming Pigeon is an annual print poetry journal from The Poetry Box in Portland, Oregon. Submit one to three poems on any topic. *We enjoy poems of all styles: formal, free-verse, metered, non-rhyming, experimental, nostalgic, political, erotic, abstract, lyrical, etc.* The deadline for submission is November 15. The fee to submit is \$5. All contributors will be able to order a copy of the journal at an extra-special discount. Guidelines are at <https://thepoetrybox.com/the-poeming-pigeon>.

Only Poems is a new online weekly poetry site. They say "We publish poets (as opposed to poems). We would like to spend time with your voice and see your range." In practice, this means that every Sunday they publish several poems by one selected poet. They are open for submissions the first seven days of every month. Submit up to 10 pages of poetry. There is no fee to submit. They generally respond within two weeks, and they pay \$55 to accepted poets. Complete guidelines are at www.onlypoems.net/submit.

Portland Review is an online journal produced by the graduate students in the English Department of Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. They publish one new piece on their website each week. Submit up to three poems with a total length of no more than ten pages. There is no submission fee. Deadline is October 20. Guidelines are at <https://portlandreview.org/submit/>.

Verklemt! is a quarterly printed Magazine of Jewish Art and Literature produced by Havura, a collective of young Jewish artists, painters, writers, poets, musicians, filmmakers, photographers, and creative souls of all kinds in New York City. The theme of their next issue is Seuda. *A Seudah is not just about the food — it's also about everything surrounding the food. What we wear. What we talk about. How we set the table. Who should sit next to who, and so on. We are seeking submissions that contemplate these ideas related to Seudah, with the care and nuance they necessitate. Submitters are encouraged to approach the theme from any angle they wish.* Submit up to three poems, no word limit. There is no submission fee. Deadline is October 15. Guidelines are at www.havurah.art/seudah.

The Passionfruit Poetry Prize 2023 is open for submissions. *The theme is love – and it's yours to interpret as broadly, as interestingly, and as tenuously as you wish.* Submit up to three poems of up to 40 lines each. First prize is £100; second prize is £50. The judge of the competition is Amlanjyoti Goswami. In addition to the two prize-winners, the judge will also select up to 20 commended entries to be published in a special issue of *The Passionfruit Review*. Deadline is 31 October. Guidelines are at <https://passionfruitreview.com/single-poem-competition/>.

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