



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

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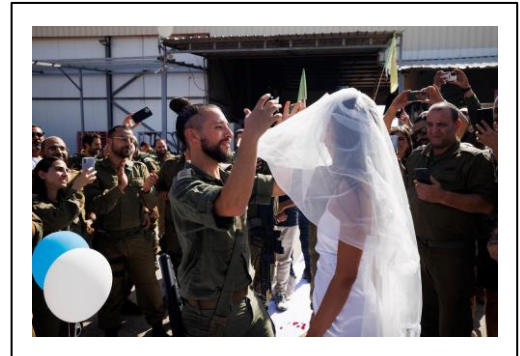
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# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Following the tragic death of our Southern Group member, Judih Weinstein Haggai, and her husband Gad Haggai, in the Hamas attack on October 7<sup>th</sup>, we're planning to produce a memorial chapbook of Judih's poems, and poems by members who knew her. Her family have been enthusiastic, and her son Al Haggai has lent us several chapbooks Judih self-published. Miriam Green, our Southern Group coordinator, and Dina as editor of the Anthology, are working with me on the project. We're in the process of choosing from Judih's poems, and from those commemorating her that we've already received from the Southern Group and other members. Depending on the form we decide on for the chapbook, we may put out a call for poems from those of you who would like to contribute one for possible inclusion.

Earlier this month we finished producing the e-chapbook (PDF) of poems from our December 4<sup>th</sup> workshop, "Broken Things" led by Iris Dan, and sent it to all the workshop participants.

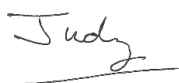
As announced in my last President's Letter, Pesach is stepping down as secretary at the next AGM. He's working with Bob Findysz from our Jerusalem group, who's taking over as secretary, and with Julian Alper from Tiberias, who's taking on the new position of Newsletter Editor, to ensure a smooth transition. (If you don't know Julian's Nature of Israel blog (<https://natureofisrael.blogspot.com/>) – take a look, it's always fun and informative and you can read it via its WhatsApp group too).

All these changes will be voted on at the AGM, which will be held at the end of March or early April. We'll most probably hold it this time by Zoom. There's no regulatory reason not to, and hopefully we'll get more participants than the stalwart 12 to 15 or so who take the time and make the effort to travel for a purely administrative meeting. We'll put out an email blast with full details as soon as we've fixed a date.

The results of the Reuben Rose competition have been finalized and everyone who entered it notified. Mark, our competition administrator, is just about to send out a general notice and release the texts of the winning poems and Honorable Mentions, which we'll put on the website as usual. Many thanks to Mark for all his hard work, and congratulations to all the winners of prizes and Honourable Mentions! And remember -- now we have until mid-March to choose the best three of those poems that didn't win anything in the competition, and submit them to the 2024 Anthology.

The submission period for the Bar Sagi Prize is also ongoing, until the end of February. Despite the energetic publicity efforts of its administrator, Michele Bustin, there have been few submissions. This was perhaps expected considering the upheavals, in schools especially, of the last few months. Nonetheless, we still have a month to try to improve the situation: **please everyone who has any connection to English teacher or to teenagers who might want to enter, get the word out!**

**We still have no Publicity Officer.** I'm therefore appealing to all our members: please publicize our events – e.g. now, the Bar Sagi Prize and the Voices Israel Anthology submission periods – in your Facebook pages, blogs, and other social media accounts. Spread the word!



Judy Koren,  
President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## FEBRUARY 2024

### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>SOUTHERN</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Sunday, February 18 at 5:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640</p> <p><a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, February 29 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark L. Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438</p> <p><a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998</p> <p><a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b></p> <p>No meetings scheduled. Contact Phyllsie for details.</p> <p>Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Mobile: 052-874-6880</p> <p><a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>HAIFA</b></p> <p>Wednesday, February 14 at 19:00 at the home of Naomi Yalin</p> <p>Contact Naomi Yalin for details</p> <p>Coordinator: Naomi Yalin Mobile: 054-794-3738</p> <p><a href="mailto:naomiyalin@gmail.com">naomiyalin@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>NETANYA/SHARON</b></p> <p>Monday, 26 February at 7:00 pm at Susan Olsburgh's home</p> <p>2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575</p> <p><a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b></p> <p>Wednesday, February 14 at 10:30 AM at the home of Reuven and Yehudit.</p> <p>128 Keren HaYesod Artists Quarter, Tzfat</p> <p>Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262</p> <p><a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, February 22 at 19:30 Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365</p> <p><a href="mailto:Y2nosh@netvision.net.il">Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</a></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Julian Alper**, who won first prize in the Reflection category of the ESRA Summer Scavenger Hunt 2023 Photo Competition, in print in *ESRA Magazine* and online at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/summer-savenger-hunt-2023-photo-competition.html>.



To – **Helen Bar-Lev**, whose poem “Spirit Captive” was published in *ESRA Magazine*, in print and at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/spirit-captive.html>.

To – **Isaac Cohen**, whose poem “The Shame” was published in *Azhar Revista Poética* at <https://www.calameo.com/read/0051662612f1a0e4863e6>, page 393.

To – **Reuven Goldfarb**, whose poem “Jane’s Body” was accepted for publication *Mudfish 24*, and whose poem “Living Off the Land Around the Bay” was accepted for publication in the upcoming anthology *Savor: Poems for the Tongue*.

To – **Pessy Krausz**, whose poem “Soldiers’ Tales” was published in *ESRA Magazine*, in print and at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/soldiers-tales.html>.

To – **Mark L. Levinson**, whose poem “Carrots” was accepted for publication in the upcoming anthology *Savor: Poems for the Tongue*.

To – **Elana Wolff**, whose poem “Impromptu with an Emptying Pen” was published in *Dusie* at <https://dusie.blogspot.com/2024/01/tuesday-poem-564-elana-wolff-impromptu.html>.

## CHAPBOOK FOR JUDIH

Voices Israel is planning to produce a memorial chapbook in honor of our member Judih Weinstein Haggai z”l, who, along with her husband Gad Haggai z”l, was murdered by Hamas terrorists on Simchat Torah, October 7. The chapbook is being produced by Judy Koren, president of Voices; Dina Yehuda, editor of the Voices Anthology; and Miriam Green, coordinator of Voices’ Southern Group, with the cooperation of Judih’s family. The chapbook will include poems by Judih along with poems about and in honor of Judih. All Voices members are invited to contribute to this project. Poems should be no longer than one page, preferably not longer than 35 lines including stanza breaks, and should be submitted by the end of February. Please send your poems as a Word document attached to an email to the chapbook team: Judy ([president.voices@gmail.com](mailto:president.voices@gmail.com)), Dina ([bestdj@gmail.com](mailto:bestdj@gmail.com)), and Miriam ([miriamsgreen@gmail.com](mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com)). Inclusion is not guaranteed but all submissions will be considered and appreciated.



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## REUBEN ROSE COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 34th Annual Reuben Rose Poetry Competition have been announced as follows:

First Prize — “Sabras,” by Dina Yehuda (Israel)

Second Prize — “The Creator of Memories,” by Judy Koren (Israel)

Third Prize — “on love,” by Michelle Malis (Israel)

Honorable mentions, in random order:

“Ultimately, It Wasn’t the Paint Color,” by Elisa Subin (Israel)

“The Bomb Shelter,” by Helen Bar-Lev (Israel)

“This Poem Is Innocent,” by Reuven Goldfarb (Israel)

“Quantum Entanglement,” by Mark G Hammerschick (USA)

“The Drummer,” by Judy Isenberg (Israel)

“Why Verify That Rain,” by Elana Wolff (Israel/Canada)

“The Wish,” by Esther B Lipton (England)

“The Light You Wear,” by Adam Paul Davis (USA)

“Casa Bianca Mikveh Speaks,” by Diane Ray (USA)

“Eggs and Onions,” by Wendy Dickstein (Israel)

Congratulation to all the winners and honorable mentions, and grateful appreciation to Mark L. Levinson, administrator of the competition, and to the judges Iris Dan, David Silverman, and Yvonne Altman O’Connor. Full texts of the winning poems will be published in the forthcoming Voices Israel Anthology and will soon be posted on the Voices Israel website. Details of the awards ceremony will be forthcoming.

## SUBMIT TO THE 2024 VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY

The Voices Israel annual anthology opened for submissions on December 17, 2023, and will remain open until March 15, 2024. Submit up to three poems. Submission is free of charge. All the details are on our website at

<https://voicesisrael.com/anthology/submitting-to-the-anthology/>.

## THE BAR SAGI YOUNG POETS PRIZE

The Bar Sagi Young Poet’s Prize opened for submissions on November 15, 2023, and will remain open until February 29, 2024. The competition is open to Israelis aged 12 to 18 when the poem was written. It is free to enter, and it awards three cash prizes (First Prize: 400 NIS; Second Prize: 250 NIS; Third Prize: 100 NIS) plus a variable number of Honorable Mentions. The winning poems, and Honorable Mention poems if any, will be published in the annual Voices Israel anthology.

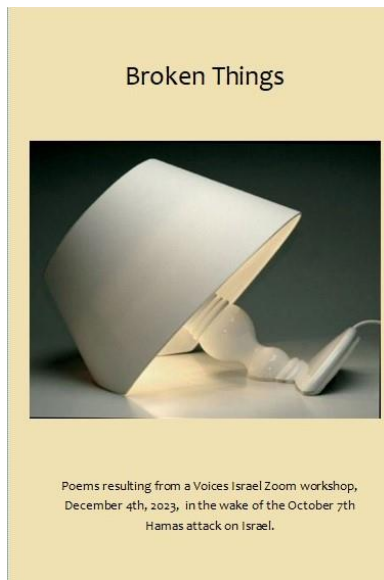
Full submission rules and guidelines are at <https://voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize/bar-sagi-prize-rules-and-guidelines/>.

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 ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## “BROKEN THINGS” CHAPBOOK IS OUT



“Broken Things” was the title of a workshop led by Iris Dan on December 4, 2023, in the wake of the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel. The workshop was attended by nineteen members of Voices Israel. Twelve of them submitted a total of fourteen poems for the resulting chapbook that was beautifully designed and produced by Judy Koren and distributed to the workshop participants.

## 2023 VOICES ANTHOLOGY REVIEWED BY ESRA MAGAZINE

The Voices Israel Anthology 2023 received a glowing review by Morty Leibowitz in the latest edition of *ESRA Magazine*. Mr. Leibowitz starts by stating “this beautifully organized, edited and designed Volume once again has an outstanding collection of Poems.” After praising the overall quality of the anthology, he gives special individual praise to two poems by Channah Moshe and one by Michael Sandler, and concludes “the Anthology is a package of profundity, humor, and enjoyment.” The full review is at <https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/voices-israel-anthology-2023.html>.

## PAY YOUR DUES, GET THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

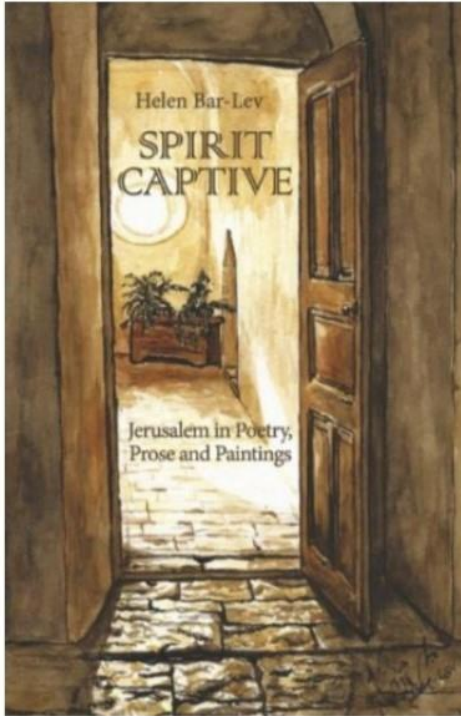
We’re already a month into the new year, and that means it’s time for Voices members to pay their annual dues. Regular dues are 120 shekels or 40 dollars, but if you pay before March 31 you can take advantage of the Early Bird rates of 100 shekels or 35 dollars. Payment methods — bank transfer, PayPal, and check — are detailed on our website at <https://voicesisrael.com/about-voices-israel/membership/>. And please remember: your dues are always appreciated. They are what enable Voices Israel to continue existing and functioning.

## 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

## BOOK LAUNCH WITH HELEN BAR-LEV ON MARCH 4 IN KARMIEL



### Spirit Captive with Helen Bar-Lev

🕒 Monday, 4 March 2024 at 17:00 - 19:00

Kehilat Hakerem, 6 Sheizaf St., Karmiel

ESRA members NIS 20 | Non-members NIS 30

🔗 [Register](#)

ESRA Karmiel/Misgav Branch

Helen Bar-Lev is an artist and a poet, currently living in Karmiel after being evacuated from Metulla, where she has been living for the past 16 years.

"Jerusalem is the center of Helen Bar-Lev's universe. In *Spirit Captive*, she explores — through poetry, prose, and painting — every aspect of her decades-long love affair with the holy city. It is an intense relationship, replete with faith and despair, break-ups and reunions, danger and beauty, passion and obsession and escape. Bar-Lev's remarkable gifts make it all come alive." Pesach Rotem, Secretary of Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

This evening we will meet Helen in person and she will introduce us to her new book. Copies will be available for purchase for NIS 40 (cash or bit).

Helen Bar-Lev was born in New York City and arrived in Israel after High School in 1959 with a scholarship to study at the Haim Greenberg Teachers' Institute in the Ba'aka neighborhood of Jerusalem.

In 1963 she was accepted to study art at the Cooper Union School for Art and Architecture, and finally graduated with a B.A. in anthropology.

In 1973 she made Aliyah with her family and within the year the beauty of the landscape helped her again to focus on art.

She has lived in Rehovot and Tsfat but the most colorful, memorable phase of her life were the years she spent in Jerusalem.

In 2004 she began writing poetry and has won many accolades for her art and poetry.

Cheese and wine will be provided.

Mamad close by in the building.

**Registration:** Click on the register link above or contact the Booking Office at 09-9508371 (ext 2).

Proceeds support the ESRA Emergency Fund to help those affected by the war. Read more

**Registration:** <https://ireneo.formtitan.com/Event-Registration-English?fld86=Karmiel-Spirit-Captive-4.3.24#/>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## RIVEN: THE HOLY LAND IN CRISIS

Lily Poetry Review is planning a special print anthology titled “Riven: The Holy Land in Crisis.” They explain:

We invite you to submit poetry and art you have been creating or have been wanting to make surrounding the crisis in the Middle East. We envision an anthology of poetry and visual art from diverse voices responding to the ongoing crisis in Palestine-Israel and aim to examine our current reality through the perspective of poets and artists from around the world, to build a document of first-hand testaments to carry us into the future. We remain hopeful for the strength of poetry’s transformative power to engage and promote compassion and shared humanity.

Submit up to five poems. Submission fee is \$5. Deadline is July 31, 2024.

All those whose work appears in the anthology will receive a complimentary copy as payment.

Information at <https://lilypoetryreview.blog/poetry/riven-the-holy-land-in-crisis/>.

## GREEN GOLEM: THE ZIONIST LITERARY MAGAZINE

*Green Golem* is a brand new online Zionist literary magazine that is now open for submissions.

We’re calling the project *Green Golem: The Zionist Literary Magazine*. The golem, a stone creature from Jewish mythology, is a symbol of Jewish innovation and self-defense. The color green represents Israel’s farmers and kibbutzniks; Israel’s green energy advancements; and the green uniforms of the IDF, who protect Israel today.

Green Golem will consider quality fiction, nonfiction, and poetry of any kind, but with special preference to works that include Jewish or Zionist elements; works that are set in the State of Israel; works by Jewish authors; works by Israeli authors of any faith; and works by U.S. and international authors who support Israel. Besides writing, we will also ask for submissions from painters, drawers, and other visual artists.

There is no fee to submit, and apparently no deadline. Details at <https://greengolemmag.com/submission-guidelines/>.

## SAVE THE DATE: AGM – SUNDAY, APRIL 7

The Annual General Meeting of the Voices Israel Group of Poets in English has been provisionally fixed for Sunday, April 7. Details and registration to attend will follow nearer to the event.



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**The Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest** will award prizes of \$2,000, \$500, \$250, and ten Honorable Mentions of \$100 each. The top thirteen poems will also be published on the Winning Writers website. Unpublished and previously published poems are accepted. Submit one poem only, 250 lines maximum. There is no fee to enter. Deadline is April Fools Day (April 1). Details at <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free>.

**The Jewish Book Council** seeks poems to be published in its print journal **Paper Brigade** and its online poetry series **Berru**. Submit up to two poems. Submission fee is \$3. Deadline is February 15. Details at [www.jewishbookcouncil.org/paper-brigade/submissions](http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/paper-brigade/submissions)

**Canyon Voices** is a semiannual online literary journal published by students and faculty of Arizona State University. Submit up to six poems, no longer than two pages each. There is no submission fee. Deadline is March 1 for the spring issue. Details are at <https://newcollege.asu.edu/canyonvoices/submission-guidelines>.

**The 3rd Wednesday Poetry Contest** awards three prizes of \$100 each. The three prizewinners and ten honorable mentions will also receive a free copy of the 3rd Wednesday quarterly print journal. Submit up to three previously unpublished poems of any style and subject matter. There is no limit on length. Entry fee is \$6. Deadline is February 28. Details are at <https://thirdwednesdaymagazine.org/contests/annual-poetry-contest/>

**LIT eZINE** is a literary e-magazine that publishes poetry, stories and articles three times a year. *We are looking for work that is sensitive, thought-provoking, intelligent, and humorous. We encourage artistic expression that portrays depth in characterization & ideas and exhibits a nuanced perspective of the mundane.* Submit up to three poems, each poem 50 to 1,000 words long. The next issue will focus on the theme of Transformation and Renewal. The deadline is February 29. There is no submission fee. Details at <https://manicsylph.com/lit-ezine-submissions/>

**The Montreal International Poetry Prize** awards one prize of \$20,000 CAD to a poet for a single poem of 40 or fewer lines. A jury of internationally reputed poets and critics will select a shortlist of approximately 60 poems, from which the judge A.E. Stallings will choose one winner. The shortlist will be published in *The Montreal Poetry Prize Anthology*. The prize is run by the Department of English at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The entry fee is \$20 CAD for a first entry during the early entry period (until May 1), \$25 CAD for a first entry during the later entry period (until May 15), and \$17 CAD for every additional entry. Details are at <https://www.montrealpoetryprize.com/>.

**Home Planet News** is an online journal of literature and art. It publishes several times a year, at irregular intervals. Submit up to six poems. No restrictions on style or length. Submissions are accepted year-round; there are no deadlines and no submission fee. Previously published poems are accepted. Details at <https://homeplanetnews.com/12-submissions-mm/>.

**Lothlorien Poetry Journal** publishes four to six issues per year, both online and in a printed journal. *Discover poems of enchantment, fantasy, fairy tale, folklore, dreams, dystopian, flora and fauna, magical realism, romance, and anything hiding deep in-between the cracks.* Submit one to five poems, each poem preferably less than 150 lines. Submissions are always open and always free. Details at <https://lothlorienpoetryjournal.blogspot.com/p/submission-guidelines.html>.

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