



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

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# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

We are continuing to prepare the memorial chapbook for our member Judih Weinstein Haggai z"l, who was killed in the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack together with her husband Gad Haggai z"l. Along with some of Judih's poems, we plan to have a section of memorial poems for her, and a section of poems by members that "echo" or "respond to" one of hers. We put out a call for poems for both those sections in early February, and a reminder a week ago, with a deadline of end-of-month. That deadline has now passed, but if you have a poem in preparation and can send it in within the next few days, please do! – to any or all of the co-editors: myself ([president.voices@gmail.com](mailto:president.voices@gmail.com)), Miriam Green ([miriamsgreen@gmail.com](mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com)) and Dina Yehuda ([bestdj@gmail.com](mailto:bestdj@gmail.com)).

Our Global Group is full and we're opening a second one: GG2. It already has 9 members registered! It's limited to members who don't attend any other group, with preference given to our overseas members if it too fills up. Details are in the Meetings list in this newsletter.

The submission period for the Voices Israel Anthology is still open – until March 17<sup>th</sup> inclusive, Israel time. So if you haven't done so already, please choose your 3 best unpublished poems and send them in! And of course any poems you submitted to the Reuben Rose competition that didn't win one of those top 13 slots, can now be submitted for the Anthology, provided it has remained unpublished.

The submission period for the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize, however, has just closed. Judging has been ongoing so I expect our administrator, Michele Bustin, will be able to announce the results within a couple of weeks.

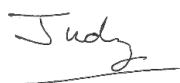
The results of the Reuben Rose Competition have been announced to all members and entrants, and the texts of the top 13 poems are up on the website: go to <https://voicesisrael.com/2023-reuben-rose-competition/> and click on the link at the bottom of that page (PDF file).

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will also be held via Zoom this year, at 7 pm on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>, and as usual will end with an Open Mic. We hope to get many more participants than we do when it's in-person! At the AGM we'll be voting on the nomination of Bob Findysz as Secretary to replace Pesach, and on a resolution I'm proposing to adopt general guidelines for group meetings.

The awards events for both the Reuben Rose Competition and the Bar Sagi Prize will be held together via Zoom a week later, on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. **Save the date!** If there's time we'll hold an Open Mic at the end of this event too. (Please don't read the same poem at both events 😊). We'll send out an email notice to you all when registration for each of these two events starts.

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

Happy writing!



Judy Koren,  
President, Voices Israel

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## MARCH 2024

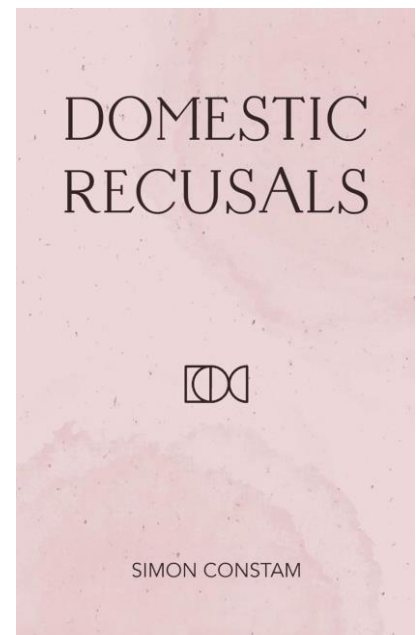
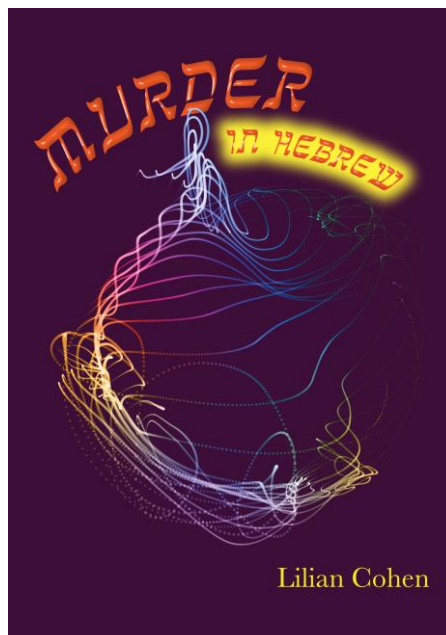
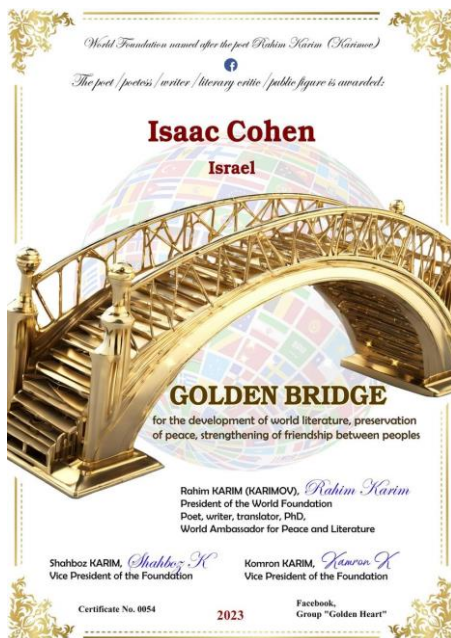
### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>SOUTHERN</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Sunday, March 17 at 17:00</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 Tuesday, March 19 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 Wednesday, March 20 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>UPPER GALILEE</b></p> <p>Wednesday, March 20 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>HAIFA</b></p> <p>Wednesday, March 13 at 19:00 at the home of Judy Koren</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>Meeting via Zoom, Thursday, 28 March at 16:00</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>GLOBAL GROUP 1</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, March 28 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>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP 2</b></p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Sunday, March 17 at 19:00 Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Judy Koren Mobile: +972-54-741-7860</p> <p><a href="mailto:koren.judy@gmail.com">koren.judy@gmail.com</a></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

- To – **Julian Alper**, whose essay “Israel-Hamas War: Learning from nature to work together” was published in *The Jerusalem Report* in print and online at [www.jpost.com/opinion/article-783478](http://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-783478)
- To – **Isaac Cohen**, who was awarded a Golden Bridge for the development of world literature, preservation of peace, and strengthening of friendship between peoples.
- To – **Lilian Cohen**, on the publication of her book *Murder in Hebrew*, a crime thriller set in the Carmel Market in Israel. [www.underthesun.net.au/product/murder-in-hebrew-ebook/](http://www.underthesun.net.au/product/murder-in-hebrew-ebook/)
- To – **Simon Constam** on the publication of his book of poems, *Domestic Recusals*. It is a book for men and women of a certain age. Not a lot of poetry is written these days about older age experiences, particularly experiences between men and women. It is very accessible poetry. But difficult subject matter at times. (See excerpt on page 16.) [www.amazon.com/Domestic-Recusals-Simon-Constam/dp/1990496474/](http://www.amazon.com/Domestic-Recusals-Simon-Constam/dp/1990496474/)



- To – **Ira and Debbie Director**, who organized an exhibition at the Gezer Gallery of poetry and photography on “Women in the Eyes of Women.” **Wendy Blumfield** and **Judy Koren** both had poems included in the exhibition.
- To – **Yiskah Rosenfeld**, whose poem “On Becoming a Woman” won second place in the Frontier Poetry Roots & Roads poetry competition. [www.frontierpoetry.com/2024/01/24/2023-frontier-roots-and-roads-winner-yiskah-rosenfeld/](http://www.frontierpoetry.com/2024/01/24/2023-frontier-roots-and-roads-winner-yiskah-rosenfeld/)
- To – **Pesach Rotem**, whose poems “A Gazan Family Celebration” and “A Time for War and A Time for Peace” were published in *Green Golem*. <https://greengolemmag.com/author/protem/>
- To – **Elana Wolff**, whose poems “I Never Grow Weary of Gazing at Trees,” “Poem for a Temperamental Solstice,” and “Descant,” were paired with photographs by Gun Roze and published as “Soul Chorus” in *Galaxy Brain* at <https://galaxybrain.ca/edition-22/gun-roze-and-elana-wolff/>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

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

– **Marganit Kenedy**, Ontario, Canada

## WELCOME GLOBAL GROUP 2

Thanks to the miracle of Zoom, Voices Israel has been able to host a Global Group for members — inside or outside of Israel — who are unable to attend meetings of one of our regular regional groups. The Global Group was so successful that it has now expanded into a Global Group 2. The original Global Group 1 will continue to be hosted by coordinator Shoshana Kent; Global Group 2 will be coordinated by the indefatigable Judy Koren. The first meeting of Global Group 2 is scheduled for March 17; details are on page 3.

## REUBEN ROSE WINNERS ON THE WEB

As promised, the winning poems from the 34th Annual Reuben Rose Poetry Competition are now posted on the Voices Israel website. That includes the three prize winners plus the ten honorable mentions.

The list of winners is at <https://voicesisrael.com/2023-reuben-rose-competition/>.

The texts of the poems are at <https://voicesisrael.files.wordpress.com/2024/02/rr-2023-top-13-poems.pdf>.

Please feel free to read and enjoy!

## SUBMIT TO THE VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY (DEADLINE IS APPROACHING)

The 2024 edition of the Voices Israel annual anthology opened for submissions on December 17, 2023, and will remain open **until March 17, 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/>.

## DERONDA REVIEW SEEKS YOUR WAR POEMS

THE DERONDA REVIEW ([www.derondareview.org](http://www.derondareview.org)), continues to accept poems for its page “Poems for Israel, October 2023,” which now contains the work of more than 40 poets. The page is being updated as new poems come in, so scroll down to find the latest! Poems for posting on this page may be sent to [derondareview@gmail.com](mailto:derondareview@gmail.com).

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## HAIFA HAS TALENT

Five poets from the Voices Israel Haifa group were guest poets launching an open mic for the Haifa branch of ESRA (English Speaking Residents Association) at the beginning of February. They were Judy Koren, Wendy Blumfield, Iris Dan, Naomi Yalin, Elana Dorfman. Each read one thoughtful serious poem, most referring to the war situation, and then chose poems in a lighter vein to give the audience an uplift. Peter Halpern, a new member of Haifa Voices, also read a poem and this was followed by musical items, songs of the 60's that are still relevant and protest songs that could have been written today. The proceeds of ESRA events are used for community projects, helping disadvantaged children and at this time giving extra help to evacuated families.

## 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).

## SAVE THE DATES: APRIL 7 AND APRIL 14

The Annual General Meeting of the Voices Israel Group of Poets in English will be held via Zoom on Sunday, April 7, at 7:00 pm. As usual, the meeting will end with an Open Mic.

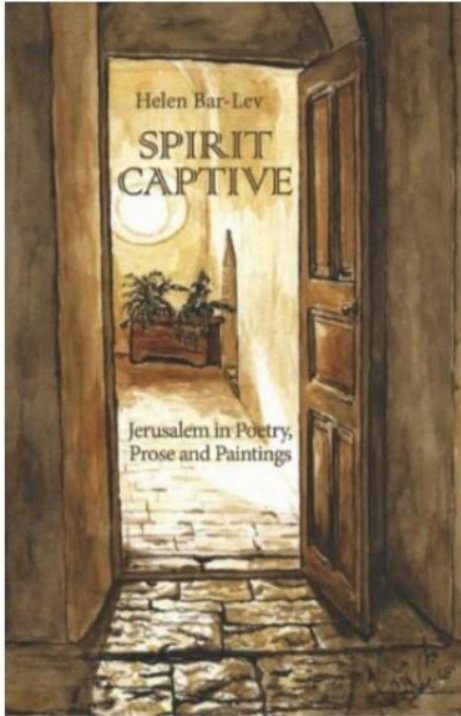
The awards events for both the Reuben Rose Competition and the Bar Sagi Prize will be held together via Zoom a week later, on Sunday, April 14 at 7:00 pm. Time permitting, we will hold an Open Mic at the end of this event too.

An email notice will be sent to all members when registration for each of these two events starts.



# 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

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**Prosopisa**—the Biannual International Journal of Poetry and Creative Writing, is the flagship print publication of the The Academy of Writers And World Literati (ARAWLII). The aim of the Academy is *to promote creative writing in English in particular through bringing together poets and writers from all over the world on a single participatory platform and, thus, strengthen the cultural and literary ties which bind India with other countries*. Prosopisa is open for submissions for its upcoming issue until March 23. There is no submission fee. Details are at [www.arawlii.com/Announcements.aspx](http://www.arawlii.com/Announcements.aspx).

**The Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry** is administered by the Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma. First prize is \$2,000 plus publication. Second prize is \$1,000 plus publication. Finalists and semi-finalists will also be published and will be paid at Nimrod's standard publication rate of \$10 per page. Submit 3 to 10 pages of poetry before the deadline of April 1. Submission fee is \$23. Details are at <https://nimrod.utulsa.edu/nimrod-literary-awards/>

**The Frontier Poetry Nature & Place Prize** is open for submissions. The first-place winner will receive \$3,000 and publication. Second- and third-place winners will receive \$300 and \$200 respectively, as well as publication. *We're looking for poems rich and robust in language, technique, and form that pay homage to the natural world and all of the small marvels that occur in nature. We're also interested in poems that observe geography and the landscape of home*. Submit up to three poems, up to five pages total. Deadline is April 28. Submission fee is \$20. Details at <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/>.

**Bacopa Literary Review**, the annual print journal of the Writers Alliance of Gainesville, will be awarding a \$200 Award and a \$100 Honorable Mention in each of six categories: fiction, flash fiction, creative nonfiction, formal poetry, free verse poetry, and visual poetry. The submission period is from March 4 through April 4. Submission details are at <https://writersallianceofgainesville.submittable.com/submit>.

**The Penn Review** has been published at the University of Pennsylvania since 1951. *We publish biannual online issues: the Winter Issue and the Spring Issue. Additionally, we release an annual print issue each spring that features our favorite pieces from the year*. Submit up to five poems. Deadline is March 17. There is no submission fee. They respond very quickly: usually within two weeks of submission. Details at [www.pennreview.org/submit](http://www.pennreview.org/submit).

**The Ilanot Review** is a biannual international online journal affiliated with the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. *We strive to create conversations here that could occur nowhere else*. The theme of their upcoming issue is Fixation – Obsessions and Repairs. Submit up to 5 poems, not to exceed 7 pages. Deadline is March 31. Submission fee is \$3. Details at [www.ilanotreview.com/submissions-page/](http://www.ilanotreview.com/submissions-page/).

**Red Door** is an online and print quarterly arts-and-culture magazine based in Copenhagen, Denmark. The theme for their upcoming edition is "Truth and the Paradox." *Our themes are always open to far-fetched interpretations and are not limited to a narrow definition*. Submit up to 3 poems (up to 50 lines each) and up to 6 pages. The deadline is April 26. Submission fee is \$3. Details are at <https://redpress.submittable.com/submit>.

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