



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

Purim has come and gone in the shadow of the continually stymied efforts to achieve the release of our hostages in Gaza. I hope that despite the times, we, and especially our children/grandchildren, have been able to celebrate the downfall of Haman and to see in it a foreshadowing of the downfall of those in the present day who rise up against us.

Meanwhile we just carry on. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held via Zoom in a week's time, at 7 pm on Sunday April 7th, and as usual will end with an Open Mic. We'll be voting on the nominations of Bob Findysz to replace Pesach as Secretary, and Julian Alper to replace me as President (effective from July), and on two resolutions, one of them concerning the adoption of general guidelines for group meetings. So if you'd like to hear what all the different sections of Voices Israel have been doing over the year, and have a say in how we run the society, **and didn't yet register**, you still can, **in the next few days only**, via the form at <https://forms.gle/mrc9RWEAuyzNp3zW7>. *Please don't register again if you already have.* Thank you.

Results of the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize have been announced. For the first time, we have two Druze school students among the winners: the First Prize winner and an Honorable Mention winner. I and the prize administrator, Michele Bustin, are so happy that the competition has come to the attention of a wider section of our Israeli community. The awards event for the Reuben Rose Competition and the Bar Sagi Prize will be held together via Zoom on Sunday April 14th at 7 pm. **Please register for this event (again, IF you haven't yet)** via the registration form at <https://forms.gle/koRE4CWfyFbJUTN58>. If you can, please attend from the start, to support our young poets-in-the-making. If time there will be an Open Mic at the end of this event too.

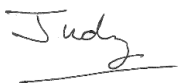
In mid-March we held the first meeting of our new second global group (GG2), with nine members, and requests to join still being received, so it's well on the way to being one of our bigger groups. There are still a few places in it for members, especially those from abroad, who don't belong to any other group.

The submission period for our Anthology has just ended, with over 50 poems submitted in the extension time after the original March 17th closing date. The judges and Dina, the Anthology editor, are now busy making their final selections. We expect to have the Anthology ready for printing in July and to be able to distribute it in early or mid-August, as usual.

Preparation of our memorial chapbook for Judih Weinstein Haggai z"l is also well underway. Thanks to all of you who sent in poems for it.

Finally: responses show a clear preference for holding the overnight Netanya residential workshop, rather than two one-day ones, so we're continuing to plan in that direction. In a couple of weeks we expect to be able to put out a program, and a registration form for actually signing up to come.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our two national events this coming month. And as usual: please publicize our events in your Facebook pages, blogs, and other social media accounts. Spread the word!



Judy Koren,
President, Voices Israel.

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APRIL 2024

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p>SOUTHERN</p> <p>Pesach Vacation No meeting in April</p> <p>Next meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday, May 19 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640</p> <p>miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p>	<p>TEL AVIV</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark L. Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438</p> <p>nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM</p> <p>Pesach Vacation No meeting in April</p> <p>Next meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:30 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998</p> <p>aemeallem@gmail.com</p>	<p>UPPER GALILEE</p> <p>Sunday, April 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>poetsprogress@gmail.com</p>
<p>HAIFA</p> <p>Wednesday, 10 April at 19:00</p> <p>Contact Naomi Yalin for details</p> <p>Coordinator: Naomi Yalin Mobile: 054-794-3738</p> <p>naomiyalin@gmail.com</p>	<p>NETANYA/SHARON</p> <p>Tuesday, 30 April 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>olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP 1</p> <p>Pesach Vacation No meeting in April</p> <p>Next meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, May 2 at 19:30 Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365</p> <p>Y2nosh@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP 2</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 PM Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Judy Koren Mobile: +972-54-741-7860</p> <p>koren.judy@gmail.com</p>

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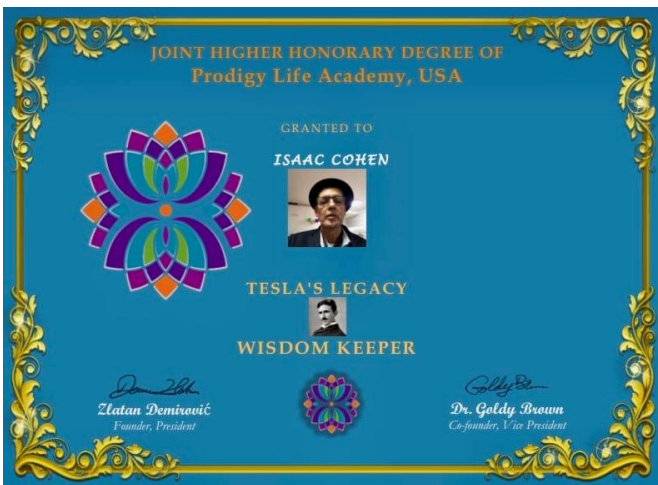
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Voices Israel is pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning members:

- **Fran Levin**, Ra'anana, Israel
- **Joanne Veiss-Zaken**, Jerusalem, Israel
- **Jeff Goodman**, Yerucham, Israel

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – **Isaac Cohen**, who was awarded a Joint Higher Honorary Degree of Prodigy Life Academy, USA and who was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for International Mother Language Day.



To – **Judy Koren** whose poem "Jaffa, as Microcosm" has been selected for the Kibbutz Gezer multimedia group exhibition "Now" in April 2024.

To – **Elana Wolff**, whose poem "Canterbury Bells" was published in *Juniper* at <https://juniperpoetry.com/canterbury-bells-by-elana-wolff/> and who had four poems — "What Now," "Light From Water Where We Bothered It," "Gloss," and "Beam Me Up" — published in *The /tEmz/ Review* at www.thetemzreview.com/wolff.html.

To – **Julian Alper, Michele Bustin, Bob Findyzy, Ethelea Katzenell, and Mark L. Levinson**, whose poems were published in the special "Poems for Israel, October 2023" section of *The Deronda Review* online at www.derondareview.org/backingIsrael.htm,

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON APRIL 7

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Voices Israel will take place on Sunday, April 7, on Zoom. It will start at 7:00 pm Israel time, equivalent to 5:00 pm UK time, 12:00 noon US Eastern time, 9:00 am Pacific time. The meeting room will open at 6:45 pm Israel time.

REGISTRATION:

Please register online, to attend and optionally read a poem at the Open Mic following the AGM, via the form at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_QRBCC8XLaticGtaoF1QCciwDngnGesfe3CIE9NBsxxg/edit?ts=65df97d3

You need to register in order to get the Zoom link. The deadline for registering is Wednesday, April 3rd.

We will send out the link for the meeting a day or two before the event.

AGENDA:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2023 AGM for approval
3. President's report
4. Adoption of treasurer's report
5. Election of new Secretary and President
6. Reuben Rose Poetry Competition report
7. Voices Anthology report
8. Membership report
9. Bar Sagi Competition Report
10. Regional group reports
11. Resolutions
12. Any other business

A SUCCESSFUL BOOK LAUNCH FOR HELEN BAR-LEV

Helen Bar-Lev's new book of poetry, prose, and paintings, *Spirit Captive*, was launched in Karmiel on March 4. Helen read selections from the book and answered questions from the audience, interspersed with anecdotes about her life and work. Wine and cheese were served, and it was an altogether delightful evening for all who attended.



Left to right: Judy Koren, Helen Bar-Lev, Pesach Rotem

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WELCOME NEW VOICES ISRAEL OFFICERS

It is anticipated that, at the AGM to be held on April 7, Julian Alper will be elected president of Voices Israel, to take office on July 1, and Bob Findysz will be elected secretary, to take office on April 15.

Julian Alper and his wife Miriam, who is also a member of Voices and will be assisting Julian in his presidential duties, live in Tiberias and participate in the Upper Galilee chapter of Voices. In addition to serving as president, Julian will also be the editor of the Voices Israel Newsletter, starting with the May 2024 issue. And to top it all off, Julian is an incredibly talented nature photographer; view his work at <https://natureofisrael.blogspot.com/> and you will undoubtedly be astonished. For all newsletter-related matters, Julian can be reached at newsletter.voices@gmail.com.

Bob Findysz resides in Kibbutz Palmach Tzuba and is active in the Jerusalem chapter of Voices. As the duties of newsletter editor are being severed from the position of secretary, Bob will be handling all non-newsletter aspects of the secretary's office. Commencing on April 15, Bob will be reachable at secretary.voices@gmail.com.

We wish Julian and Bob the best of luck in their new positions.



Julian Alper



Ibis by Julian Alper





Bob Findysz

DERONDA REVIEW SEEKS YOUR WAR POEMS

THE DERONDA REVIEW (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.

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BAR SAGI AND REUBEN ROSE AWARDS EVENT ON APRIL 14



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**5th Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and 34th Reuben Rose Competition
Awards Event, Sunday April 14th, 2024, 7:00 pm Israel time – via Zoom**

International equivalents: 5:00 pm (UK time);
12:00 noon (US Eastern time); 9:00 am (US Pacific time)

Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize

Judges: Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield and Amiel Schotz, Israel.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel
Comments by Professor Anthony Joseph, Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize sponsor
Comments by Michele Bustin, administrator

Readings of the Winning Poems and Honorable Mentions

First prize – Talia Raba, aged 16: *Harmony of Silence*
Second prize – Hadar Yadin aged 15: *Even if someone you didn't know still thinks about you*
Joint Third prize – Kobi Almog, aged 16: *Unforsaken Love*; and Lotem Shperling, aged 15: *Winter Friday*
**Honorable Mentions: Neomi Bechor, aged 15: *When the love dies it takes you with it*;
and Naya Abu Hmeed, aged 16: *My Safe Place***

Reuben Rose Competition

Judges: Iris Dan, Israel; David Silverman, USA; and Yvonne O'Connor, Ireland – this year's Overseas Judge.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel
Comments by Mark Levinson, Reuben Rose administrator
Comments by attending judges of the competition

Readings of the Winning Poems and Honorable Mentions

First prize – Dina Yehuda, Israel: *Sabras*
Second prize – Judy Koren, Israel: *The Creator of Memories*
Third prize – Michelle Malis, Israel: *on love*

Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order of poem's title)

Diane Ray (USA) -- *Casa Bianca Mikveh Speaks*
Elana Wolff (Israel/Canada) -- *Catalytic*
Wendy Dickstein (Israel) -- *Eggs and Onions*
Mark G Hammerschick (USA) -- *Quantum Entanglement*
Helen Bar-Lev (Israel) -- *The Bomb Shelter*
Judy Isenberg (Israel) -- *The Drummer*
Adam Paul Davis (USA) -- *The Light You Wear*
Esther B Lipton (UK) -- *The Wish*
Reuven Goldfarb (Israel) -- *This Poem Is Innocent*
Elisa Subin (Israel) -- *Ultimately, It Wasn't the Paint Color That Did Us In*

Open Mic – if time allows.

<p><i>President</i> Judy Koren Mobile: 054 741 7860 president.voices@gmail.com</p>	<p><i>Secretary</i> Robert Findysz Mobile: 054 563 7362 secretary.voices@gmail.com</p>	<p><i>Treasurer</i> Chanita Millman Tel: 02-653-6770 millmanm@inter.net.il</p>	<p><i>Membership Coordinator</i> Yochanan Zaqantov Mobile: 053-708-9140 zaqantov@gmail.com</p>
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www.voicesisrael.com Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

Please register at least one week before the event, i.e., by Sunday, April 7.

Register at <https://forms.gle/koRE4CWFyFbJUTN58>

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“NOW” EXHIBITION AT THE GEZER GALLERY

<p><i>Now</i></p> <p>April through June 2024</p> <p>You are invited to a virtual international multimedia exhibition in our Gezer Gallery Facebook Group with artists from</p> <p><i>Austria, Canada, Israel, South Korea, Swaziland, USA</i></p>	<p><i>Now</i></p> <p><i>Paintings:</i> Choi Ok Young '최옥영', Leslye DaleTofflemire, Debbie Director, Ira Director. <i>Drawings:</i> Erika Jean Chamberlin, Hilde Engelmann, Mary Kushilevich. <i>Sculptures:</i> Kathy Anderson, Ho Baron, Chandra Garsson. <i>Photographs:</i> Haim Berman, Enon De Groot. <i>Poetry:</i> Karen Alkalay-Gut, Tami Hattis, Judy Koren, Moore Ngwenya, Olga Stein, Jan Steckel. <i>Fabric design:</i> Judy Halper. <i>Graphic design:</i> Ian Kirkpatrick. <i>AI:</i> Uzi Dornai. <i>Song:</i> Gene Keller</p> <p>curated by Ira Director Gezer Gallery, Kibbutz Gezer, Israel</p>
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More at www.facebook.com/groups/gezergallery/.

GREEN GOLEM: THE ZIONIST LITERARY MAGAZINE

Green Golem is a new online Zionist literary magazine that is now open for submissions. Visit the Golem at <https://greengolemmag.com/>.



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.

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THE LANGUAGE OF WAR: LOST IN TRANSLATION

Presented by The National Library of Israel, in collaboration with the National Library of Israel USA and the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature.

Sign up for this special online event, free of charge, at www.nli.org.il/en/visit/events/the-language-of-war-lost-in-translation.



SAMI ROHR PRIZE
for Jewish Literature



The Language of War: Lost in Translation?

Tuesday
April 2, 2024

1:00 pm ET
8:00 pm Israel

Do Jewish writers across the globe speak the same language of war? Join **Ambassador Michael Oren** as he probes the experience of authors **Elisa Albert**, **Iddo Gefen**, and **Aviya Kushner**, and explores how their work is impacted by the current climate, what they see as their obligation to their readers, and how Jewish literature can be a point of connection in times of crisis.



Michael Oren



Elisa Albert



Iddo Gefen



Aviya Kushner

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 /tEmz/ Review is a quarterly online literary journal based in London, Ontario, Canada. Submit one to eight poems, preferably not exceeding ten pages in total length. *Our preference is for innovative verse that pushes the boundaries of poetry, but we are open to a wide range of styles and voices.* There is no submission fee. Deadline is April 30. They pay \$20 per batch of poems they publish. Complete guidelines are at www.thetemzreview.com/submissions.html.

The 2024 RockPaperPoem Poetry Prize will award a Grand Prize of \$250 and two Runners-Up of \$100 each. Submit one to three of your best, previously unpublished poems. Entry fee is \$10. Deadline is May 31. Guidelines are at <https://rockpaperpoem.com/2024-RockPaperPoem-Poetry-Prize.html>.

Witcraft is an online publication that bills itself as “the home of skillful writing that is brief, humorous and engaging, with the emphasis on wit, word play, absurdity and inspired nonsense.” It publishes one piece — fiction, nonfiction, or poetry — on its site every day. All submissions accepted for publication are automatically eligible for one of three prizes for the month submitted: First prize AU\$50, second prize AU\$20, third prize AU\$10. Previously published pieces are accepted. There is no submission fee and no deadline. Details at <https://witcraft.org/submit-2/>.

Abandoned Mine is a poetry journal based in Albuquerque, New Mexico that publishes online triannually plus a selected annual print edition. They are looking for: *Poems that are accessible and understandable. Poems people will want to re-read. Poems people will want to share with family and friends, neighbors and co-workers.* Submit up to four poems. Deadline is May 15. Submit by snail mail only. Guidelines at www.abandonedmine.org/submissions.

Cæsura is a publication of Poetry Center San José. In 2024, they will publish two unique versions of Cæsura, a print version and an online version, both with the theme of Neighborhood. *Neighborhood, is it a location, a culture, or a state of mind? We aren't looking for the word neighborhood, we're looking for your vision; enchanting, humorous, or rebellious.* Submit up to three literary works. *We are partial to poems of 32 lines or fewer but make exceptions for longer poems that are too good to pass up.* There is no submission fee. Deadline is June 1. Guidelines are at www.pcsj.org/caesura.

Harbor Review is a semiannual online journal of poetry and visual art. *We are interested in strange and beautiful language, image, and metaphor.* The theme for their upcoming summer issue is “Wondrous & Miraculous.” You may interpret this theme however you like. Submit one to three poems. Submissions are free. They pay \$10 for each published poem. Deadline is April 30. Guidelines are at www.harbor-review.com/submit.

Mezzo Cammin is a semiannual web journal devoted to formal poetry by women. Mezzo Cammin welcomes submissions of poetry that pays particular consideration to form. Submit two to six poems. *Poems in structured forms are especially welcome, but poems that use form in interesting and experimental ways are also encouraged.* There is no submission fee. Deadline is June 30. Submission guidelines are at www.mezzocammin.com.

Rhino is an annual print literary journal. Submit three to five poems. *We welcome all styles of writing, particularly that which is well-crafted, uses language lovingly and surprisingly, and feels daring or quietly powerful.* There is no submission fee. Submission deadline is June 30 or until monthly caps are reached. Accepted poets will receive one copy of the issue featuring their poem, and the opportunity to purchase additional copies at a discount. Guidelines are at <https://rhinopoetry.org/general-submissions>.

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