

Voices Newsletter October 2017

OCTOBER MEETING DATES AND PLACES

HAIFA

Tuesday, October 31st
at 7.30 pm
Susan Rosenberg's
42 Leon Blum St.
Apartment 46

Coordinator:
Susan Rosenberg
Tel; 04 838 1218
050 933 3804
susanndick@gmail.com

TEL AVIV

Wednesday October 18th
at 7.30 pm.
AACI
94 A Allenby Street,
Tel Aviv

Coordinator:
Mark Levinson
Tel; 09 955 5720
nosnivel@netvision.net.il

JERUSALEM

Tuesday, October 24th
at 6pm
Rehov Aza 5/3

Coordinator:
Ruth Fogelman
Tel; 02 628 7359
ruthfogelman@gmail.com

UPPER GALILEE

Sunday, October 29th
from 5-7 pm.
Reuven and Yehudit's
128 Keren HaYesod
Artists Quarter, Tzfat

Coordinator:
Reuven Goldfarb
Tel; 04-697-4105
058-414-0266
poetsprogress@gmail.com

BET SHEMESH

Wednesday 25 October at
8.00pm
Judy Belsky's Nahar
Hayarden 120/4 Floor 2
Bet Shemesh

Coordinator:
Dr Judy Belsky
drjudybelsky@gmail.com

NETANYA & SHARON

Monday, October 30th
at 7.30pm
Susan Olsburgh's
2/6 Zalman Shazar.
(3rd floor) Ramat Poleg

Coordinator:
Susan Olsburgh
Tel; 098855629
olsburgh.susan@gmail.com

WEST GALILEE

Sunday, October 29th
at 8.30pm.
Kibbeutz Evron,
Mitoch HaLev
(formerly Beit Edna)

Coordinator:
Phyllsie Gross
Tel ; 0528746880
phyllsie@hotmail.com

LONDON UK

For information please
contact Esther.

Esther Lipton:
eblipton@talk21.com

GUSH ETZION

Please contact Mindy if you
are interested in the group re-
starting.

Coordinator:
Mindy Aber Barad
Tel; 0524667936
maber4kids@yahoo.com

SOUTHERN

Please contact Miriam
for more details.

Coordinator:
Miriam Green
Tel: 0547388640
miriamsgreen@gmail.com

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2/6 Zalman Shazar
Ramat Poleg, Netanya
Tel: 098855629
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susanndick@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OCTOBER 2017

Dear All

As I write this Yom Kippur is still ahead so I want to wish all of you in our wonderfully vibrant Voices Israel organisation gmar chatima tova. When you receive this newsletter Succot preparations will be in order. I hope you will enjoy the Chag with no rain until afterwards.

I am pleased to report that the launch of the 2017 Voices anthology had a very positive vibe. Many thanks are due to the Haifa Hosts, particularly Wendy Blumfield, for making all the domestic arrangements. We really appreciated firstly the presentation by Chief Editor Dina Yehuda who explained how she achieves a flow in the anthology and secondly the powerpoint presentation by her husband Yair who gave a convincing explanation of the use of Submittables.

Feedback from the event referred to the joy of hearing poets read their poems and I am very grateful to the 18 poets who travelled from far and wide to read to us and to the proxy readers who enabled us to listen to a wider reading. There are some great photos of the event on our Facebook page.

I am happy to announce that Dr Judy Belsky has kindly offered to be the coordinator for the Bet Shemesh Modiin area. (See meeting dates and places) There will be a "reestablishment" meeting at her home in Bet Shemesh* on Wednesday 25 October at 8.00pm. I shall be there and look forward to meeting long-standing local Voices members as well as new ones. In the past Joanna Chen developed a strong tradition in that area and there is much potential to build on. Please email drjudybelsky@gmail.com if you wish to attend or for further details.

Entry to the 27th Reuben Rose poetry competition has just closed. The administrator Mark Levinson and the judges have a busy time ahead. Rick Lupert of the PoetrySuperHighway is our distinguished overseas judge and Ricky Friesem and Joyce Schmid, as last year's first and second prize-winners, are the other judges. Results can be expected around late December/early January.

I wish a refuah shleimah to Ricky Friesem after a recent back operation. She has promised to lead a workshop in her home in Rehovot but she will need a little time to recover and then details of the workshop will follow.

Many of the great poets found autumn a very creative inspiration and I hope that this will be true for our Voices members in this hemisphere but of course we are a world- wide organisation so happy springtime if you are in the southern hemisphere and equal good wishes for creativity.

With very best wishes
Susan Olsburgh
President
Voices Israel

* Judy's address is Nahar Hayarden 120/4 Floor 2

Please take note that Helen Bar-Lev, our Assistant President, has changed her email address to:
helentbarlev@gmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

- Joanna Yelenik , Bet Shemesh
- Lawrence Levene, Jerusalem
- and to returning member:
Helen Schary Motro, Kfar Shmariahu

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- **“Narrow Road”** are open to submissions for the Winter Issue. Deadline is November 15, 2017. Anything submitted after that will be considered for the Spring (April 2018) issue.

You can check out the last two issues here: <https://issuu.com/narrowroad.mag>

Submission guidelines here: <https://sites.google.com/view/raameshgowriraghavan/narrow-road?authuser=0>

- **“Jewish Currents”** is seeking artworks, poems and short prose pieces on the theme of MUSIC for its winter issue of *annual arts calendar*. Especially welcome are original posters that use song lyrics written by Jews (Carole King, Hal David, Stephen Sondheim, Yip Harburg, Harold Arlen, there hundreds of them), and pieces about the intersection of music and your emotional life. DEADLINE: October 10 2017

- **2017 “Mizmor L'David Anthology”** is now open for submissions. Please visit the Poetica website for the complete guidelines. www.PoeticaMagazine.com

- **“THE POETRY KIT SUMMER COMPETITION 2017”**

This year's competition is for poetry on any subject. There are no style or length restrictions but it should be stressed that a short poem is just as likely to be selected as a longer one.

Sole Judge for the competition is Lesley Burt.

1st prize is £100.

Selected poems will be published in a special edition of CITN ENTER ONLINE

Entry is by email to comps@poetrykit.org after an appropriate fee is paid by Pay Pal to the account of info@poetrykit.org. All entries must be received before midnight 23rd October 2017.

All entries are judged anonymously so please do not put any identifying features on the poems.

Entry fees are as follows; 1 poem £3.50 3 Poems £8.00 5 poems £10

For further details and to enter online see <https://www.poetrykit.org/comp-spring.htm>

- The **“Fundacion Cesar Egado Serrano”**, requests submissions, especially in Hebrew (also Arabic, English, and Spanish) for their **International Flash Fiction Competition**.

This competition is mainly for 'micro-stories' that do not exceed 100 words – BUT the competition organizer said that occasionally poems under 100 words are also submitted and that one poem in Hebrew once won a prize. The first prize is worth US\$20,000!

Deadline for submissions November 23rd 2017 Full details and submission guidelines can be found at: <https://www.fundacioncesaregidoserrano.com/en/activities/short-tales-contest/5-edition/participation-form/lang/en-GB>

Please enter this code on the registration form: 41398

- **Omnidawn Single Poem Broadside Poetry Contest** are accepting electronic & postal submissions. Deadline October 17th 2017

The contest is open to all writers. Winner receives \$1,000, letterpress publication of broadside, 50 copies, and publication of the winning poem in *OmniVerse*.

For more information: www.omnidawn.com/contest submissions on: www.omnidawn.com/submissions1

CONGRATULATIONS

– to Helen Bar-Lev whose poem “**Atop the Terebinth Tree**” has been chosen by the judges to be published on line <https://amicidiguigozzano.jimdo.com/2017-bando-concorso-e-premiazione/poems-2017/> and also Helen won an Honourable Mention in the poetry contest: Gli Amici di Guidi Gozzano, Italy

- to Reuven Goldfarb on the recent publication of a book he co-edited, “**What Do We Know? The Carlebach Anthology**”. Copies will be for sale at the Moshav Country Fair on October 9th and at Yakar, 10 Lamed Hay in the Katamon neighborhood of Jerusalem, on the evening of November 5th (16 Cheshvan b’Erev, Shlomo’s Yahrzeit). The book can also be ordered from Amazon.com and BookDepository.com. Of particular interest to Voices members will be the inclusion of a 15-page poetry section featuring three poems by Ruth Fogelman and two poems by Reuven.

EVENTS

–The launch of our late member Sue Tourkin Komet’s book “**Jerusalem Out front, Bethlehem Outback**” will be held on Tuesday October 24th at 7.00 p.m. at the Eshkol Payis, 12 Verdnon Street, Gilo, Jerusalem

REQUESTS –

If you are a Voices member but are not able to get to group meetings, then please do send me some of your poems for inclusion in the monthly newsletters where space permits.

Also, overseas members, keep sending me your poems.

As a reminder, please do send me your poems as word attachments in Arial 11 font, single spaced, with your name and place or group at the bottom (name in bold) .Title in Arial 12 bold.

A big thank you to all of you who have helped me by adhering to this request.

Avril
secretary

SEPTEMBER 2017 Group Poetry Selections

Bye-Bye BA

This surely is the strangest flight I've been on,
From Auckland, Melbourne, Perth, Bombay to London.
The journey, which itself I really hate,
Is worsened 'cos we're flying ten hours late.

In Auckland the delay was engine breakdown,
In Perth, the entire airport was just fogbound.
The captain spent the bulk of the duration,
Apologizing for the awkward situation.

And all the crew were really feeling downcast,
Serving dinner,
When they should have served us breakfast.
And I really cannot believe my constitution,
Is coping with this dietary revolution.

As for my emotional alarm clock,
Well, that goes up and down just like a ball-cock,
And to add to all our woes and tight constriction,
The film broke down in the middle of the ocean.

And oh, the food is just so uninviting,
Cheese and biscuits would be ten times more exiting.
I've tried not to appear too ultra-skittish,
But really, this is the last time I'll fly British.

Lawrence Levene, Jerusalem selection

September 16th

At 7.45 this morning
a dove spoke to me.
'Coo cooroo coo coo.'
I answered.
We faced each other
on the rutted pavement
next to the crumbling pebble-dash
of an old building,
a gaping trash bin,
two bent beer cans in the gutter;
and the dove spoke to me.

R.M. Kiel, Tel Aviv selection

When Swords Turn Into Ploughshares

Wife and I live on the northern border
where we have seen rockets land and hit.
Last week, sweetheart came up with a request
to put a bed in our security room,
for we've become too old to rise with ease
from bedding tossed in haste upon the floor.
So I cut up some planks and put together
a bed frame that we placed a mattress on.
Yet efforts with this room may come to nothing
if we move close to our children's homes,
far as Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.
Mortality might overtake us first
or, despite what we have known and feared,
prophecies come true and usher peace.

Eli Ben-Joseph, Western Galilee selection

Alive

How shall the heart be reconciled
to its feast of losses?
Moving from place to place
The simple happiness of mingling
with friends and family long gone.

The loss of a parent who could not
move on with life,
lost to me in early youth
before being physically absent.
Eventually she succeeded,
after several attempts,
to leave this world.

I did not attend psych courses
the reality being too painful
a learning experience.
Adjusting to events.
Coping with surprises.
Seeing the best in situations
and people.
Learning to discount those who
seek to harm.
Ongoing exercises in existence.

Joyce Serlin, Netanya & Sharon selection

Child in Winter

Winter bolts into my apartment,
throws me down on my back
I feel my frost bitten top falling low
like when I was a flat-chested girl

Toes wiggling gibberish, she tries to cover them
as they go popping through an old, hole-ridden blanket
straight up past purple shallow-planted feet

And I, fearful for the freezing outdoor plants,
as her lolling head rolls back like a cabbage,
sheet-filled hands shivering near small teeth.

+

What is their fate, and of the ground they once held?
The air I used to breathe easily, in winter is bitter--
A foreign astringent rejected by my ice-cold body

Turning onto the girl's floppy stomach
my puckering face aiming downwards, I'm
here hiding far from what's out there;
past petal-thin walls, where I sleep

Rena Navon, Jerusalem selection

Elfish Smile

elfish smile —what does
it hide. Is it an enigmatic
smile? or a cheeky one
or a fig-leaf for nothing?

I have read of them in books,
But I don't think
I have ever seen one

Michael E. Stone, Jerusalem

The Girl at the Palmachim Beach

Seen from his vantage point far above her
The girl below standing close to the water's
edge
Does hoop dancing exercises
Twirling her hoop
From her hip
From her neck
Throwing it in the air
And catching it
Pirouetting
Skilled enough
It seems to him
To make the national team
She is oblivious
Of the octogenarian watching her
Or of the sun descending
Into the sea
But he is most aware of it

Larry Lefkowitz, Modiin

A Fuzzy Thing

Fear is a cotton ball
lodged deep in the brain.
Soft and furry, it rubs
nerve endings like a
toothache about to happen.

Fear thrives on life constricted,
a please not to be moment.

Fear teases reality as a fan dancer,
a shell game played on Fifth Avenue.
A wound that will not heal,
an Indiana roadway
curving unexpectedly.

Resist, balance the board against cresting waves
ride blue white foam to the sandy shore.

Joanne Jackson Yelenik, Bet Shemesh

Voices Israel Group of Poets in English Poems From Our Overseas Members

Dream Like Apparition

Smoke
 rising from a campfire
 after the marshmallows
 and after the wine
 we're feeling
 sleepy
 and our eyes begin to close
 but before we go off to dreamland
 I
 notice
 an apparition
 which appears
 just for a moment
 while eyes watch the embers of
 the burning logs
 a face appears in the
 smoke
 someone I didn't recognize
 but someone I've known for a long, long time
 The eyes on that face
 were clear
 and I gazed
 deeply, very deeply into them
 A ghost or a messenger?
 Let us net guess now
 It's time to sleep

Matthew Anish, USA

Who Do You Wish You Were?

do you yearn to be the epitome of efficiency?
 the doyen of political propriety?
 a veritable paragon of righteousness?
 sage of all sages?

a fish? a hummingbird? a proud stag?
 a secretive possum with no concerns?
 the all-omniscient supreme one -
 that great cosmic Judge himself?

a swan in paradise? archaeopteryx in aspic?
 a vengeful bull at Pamplona?
 the darling of Arab oil potentates?
 CEO of Walmart? China Ltd.? or Saudi-Arabia Inc.?

Bill Gates maybe? or an Oscar winner?
 President, or Prime Minister, or the Ooni of Ife?
 inventor of a broad spectrum cancer cure?
 a millionaire socialist politico, enjoying it all?

but what's with this irksome identity of yours?
 is that skin too tight, loose, dark, pale?
 do you fumble over numbers?
 tumble over obstacles others circumnavigate?

aren't we just what we are though, brain and body?
 aren't we finalized? set in concrete?
 and isn't this our only performance,
 a one-life, one-night stand in the theatre of regrets?

what is the value of existence? what is it really worth?
 what thanks is warranted?...and directed where?
 there is no other persona, no other self than this self;
 we are but savvy motes in a vast heedless cosmos

Don Mulcahy, Canada