

## Voices Newsletter December 2017

### DECEMBER MEETING DATES AND PLACES

#### HAIFA

Tuesday, December 26th  
at 7.30  
Iris Dan's  
1 Stephen Weiss,  
French Carmel.  
Tel: 054-8032472

Coordinator:  
Susan Rosenberg  
Tel; 04 838 1218  
050 933 3804  
[susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com)

#### TEL AVIV

Tuesday, December 19th  
at 7.30 pm.  
AACI  
94 A Allenby Street,  
Tel Aviv

Coordinator:  
Mark Levinson  
Tel; 054-444-8438  
[nosnivel@netvision.net.il](mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il)

#### JERUSALEM

Tuesday, December 26th  
at 6pm  
Rehov Aza 5/3

Coordinator:  
Ruth Fogelman  
Tel; 02 628 7359  
[ruthfogelman@gmail.com](mailto:ruthfogelman@gmail.com)

#### UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, December 27th  
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](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com)

#### BET SHEMESH / MODIIN

Wednesday, December 6th  
at 8.00pm  
Judy Belsky's Nahar  
Hayarden 120/4 Floor 2  
Bet Shemesh

Coordinator:  
Dr Judy Belsky  
[drjudybelsky@gmail.com](mailto:drjudybelsky@gmail.com)

#### NETANYA & SHARON

Sunday, December 24th  
at 7.30pm  
Susan Olsburgh's  
2/6 Zalman Shazar.  
(3rd floor) Ramat Poleg

Coordinator:  
Susan Olsburgh  
Tel; 098855629  
[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

#### WEST GALILEE

Sunday, December 24th  
at 8.30pm.  
Kibbeutz Evron,  
Mitoch HaLev  
(formerly Beit Edna)

Coordinator:  
Phyllis Gross  
Tel ; 0528746880  
[phyllis@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllis@hotmail.com)

#### LONDON UK

For information please  
contact Esther.

Esther Lipton:  
[eblipton@talk21.com](mailto: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](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com)

#### SOUTHERN

Please contact Miriam  
for more details.

Coordinator:  
Miriam Green  
Tel: 0547388640  
[miriamsgreen@gmail.com](mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com)

#### ASHKELON

Please contact  
Chaim for details

Coordinator:  
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[bezalel.levy@gmail.com](mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com)

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2/6 Zalman Shazar  
Ramat Poleg, Netanya  
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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT DECEMBER 2017**

Dear All

As we go to press a very good number of Voices members are looking forward to the workshop in Rehovot on 5 December at the home of Ricky Friesem. The workshop will be facilitated by award winning poet Ricky and it is testament to her reputation that members will be travelling from all directions in Israel.

I am glad to say that there will also be representation from the newest Voices group in Ashkelon formed recently under the direction of Chaim Bezalel.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend their inaugural meeting but hope to visit in January. Congratulations to the new group on their formation and very best wishes for success to the members.

15 December is the date for the launch of our 44th volume of poetry, the 2018 Voices Israel Poetry anthology. Please see separate notice, announcements on our website and Facebook page. All the instructions for submitting via Submittables are given but if there are any members who need assistance please do not hesitate to contact me and we have people willing to try to help with your submission.

In Haifa in September our Chief Editor Dina Yehuda and our technical advisor, her husband Yair Yehuda, gave convincing arguments for the continuing usage of the Submittables system. Please do send in up to three of your best poems. I wish you hatzlacha and feel sure a wonderful anthology will evolve over the next few months..

I am currently watching out for a 600th member on the Voices Israel Facebook site.

Chanukah will be with us very soon. I wish you all a very joyous celebration.

With very best wishes

Susan Olsburgh  
President  
Voices Israel



**EVENTS**

**Voices Israel Autumn Poetry Workshop - Rehovot**

**Tuesday 5 December 2017 11.30 – 15.30 at the home of Ricky Friesem.**

Arrivals, registration, refreshments 11.30-12.15

**Workshop Theme Less is More**

The workshop will be facilitated by our hostess Ricky who was the first prizewinner in the 2016 Voices Israel Reuben Rose competition and is currently acting as a judge in the 2017 competition.

**Workshop structure**

An exposition of the theme with samples of fourteen-word sonnets, writing opportunity, feedback session.

**There will also be an explanation about the Weizmann Institute**

**Chairperson:** Nicholas Dunne Lynche

**Cost** members 40 shekels non-members 60 shekels

**Dairy refreshments :** Please bring anything you wish to offer for the buffet table eg cheese, crackers, fruit. Burekas ( kosher, cold) and salad will be provided on paperware. Drinks and biscuits are being supplied by our hostess

Please register your intention to attend asap wit [lindasuchy@gmail.com](mailto:lindasuchy@gmail.com)

**Event address Friesem Neve Matz 15 Weizmann Institute Rehovot.** 0544666139 089464884

From Rehovot station - take North Rehovot exit and taxi (5 mins) to Weizmann Institute. At Weizmann Institute gate say you are visiting Friesems. Parking is available near house even though there are red and white markings

– An **Ekphrastic Writing Workshop** will be held on Saturday night, December 9th, 7-10 pm  
Cross boundaries and double your vision in three consecutive workshops taught by Ilanot editors Sarah Wetzel, Marcela Sulak and Jane Medved. You will be sent home with 15 additional exercises and a reading list of work you can read online. Suitable for all writing genres.

**RSVP to guarantee your spot in the workshop:** [ilanotjournal@gmail.com](mailto:ilanotjournal@gmail.com)

18:45 - Doors Open

19:00-20:30 - Ekphrastic Writing Workshop (Minimum donation for the workshop is 150 NIS per person\* )

20:30-21:00 - Wine & Cheese Reception (free)

21:00-22:00 - Launch of the "Pictures" Issue (free)

Readings of contributors Meg Pokrass, Eli Eliahu, Adi Sorek, Omer Friedlander, Gene Luetkemeyer, and others, performed by artists and guests Karen Alkalay-Gut, Alex Feldman, Maya Klein, and David Conhaim.

Workshop and readings will take place at Studio Habayit, The Studio of Orit Gidali & Eshkol Nevo, [Noam Street 2, Yaffo](#). Google Map link: <http://bit.ly/2jmV1wU>

Buses: 10, 125, 40, 240, 42 Parking: (Free) Galei Tzahal Parking Lot

\* This workshop is to raise funds for The Ilanot Review's operating costs.

## **CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

### **– VOICES ISRAEL 2018 ANTHOLOGY – REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Submissions to Vol.44 are accepted from Voices members and non-members alike. There is no fee for submitting poems to the Anthology. Paid up members of Voices Israel will receive a copy of the anthology once it comes out, whether they are published or not, shipping fees included. Non-members may order copies for NIS50 (US\$ 25) each shipping inclusive.

**GUIDELINES** Submissions for the Anthology are accepted from **December 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 to March 15<sup>th</sup> 2018**. Poems will then be sent to the editorial board, reviewed, selected, and notices sent out to contributors. The anthology will be printed by October 1st or earlier and distributed to paid-up Voices Israel members and others who have ordered and paid for copies. Copyright for individual poems is retained by the author of each poem. Copyright for the anthology belongs to Voices Israel Group of Poets in English.

All submissions must be made online via “**Submittable**”. To submit your poems online please go to <http://www.voicesisrael.com/anthology.htm> on the Voices website and click the **Submit** button in the section On Line Submissions.

– Submit a maximum of 3 poems on any subject. Poems should not exceed 40 lines including stanza breaks but not including title.

**IMPORTANT! Please note that each poem must be submitted on “Submittable” as a separate submission ie Do not try to submit 2 or 3 poems in one go.**

– Poems should be previously unpublished. However poems that have been included in the monthly Voices Israel Poetry Page attached to the newsletter or were written at Voices workshops and published on the Voices website are acceptable.

– Translations of living poets' poems are acceptable as long as the translations have not been previously published. The translator must have the permission of the poet if it is not the same person.

– Fancy or unconventional formatting is not encouraged.

– Judging is anonymous and the poems will be forwarded to the editorial board without names. No revisions of poems will be accepted after submission!

– The editor may be contacted if necessary at: [VoicesIsraelPoetryAnthology@gmail.com](mailto:VoicesIsraelPoetryAnthology@gmail.com)

– The next issue of *Prosopisia*, is scheduled for December 2017

**Submission guidelines:** *Prosopisia* will publish only original and unpublished texts. All contributions must be submitted to the Editor or Co-Editor.

**Contributions :** A poem/short-story/one act play/essay, typed in single spacing in MS-Word, should be sent as an E-mail attachment along with a brief bio-note. The writer must also mention his/her name, postal address, and the country he/she belongs to. The subject of the E-mail should be **Submission for Prosopisia**.

Contributors will get two complimentary copies of the issue in which their contribution finds a place.

**Deadline;** December 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 for further information <http://www.facebook.com/ARAWLII>

**E-mail to:** Editor : [sharma\\_anuraag@yahoo.com](mailto:sharma_anuraag@yahoo.com) or Co-Editor : [moizur.arawlii@gmail.com](mailto:moizur.arawlii@gmail.com)

– “**The Deronda Review**” is looking for poems on the subject of Flight (in all meanings), also poems on seasons. Send to [derondareview@gmail.com](mailto:derondareview@gmail.com) or [maber4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com). Reading period ends December 31.



–The 2017 Open Submission period at CALYX is now accepting **poetry** and **prose** through **December 31, 2017!** You are invited to submit your poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction for consideration in our 2018 issues, **Vols. 31:1** and **31:2**.

They are looking to provide a platform for all women-identified writers, regardless of age, orientation, race, or religion.

Poets who submit may include up to **6 poems** per submission, while prose pieces are capped at **5,000 words**. All submissions are read by at least two editors. Contributors who are held to the final round of discussion will receive editorial notes from our collective.

For full **guidelines** and **online submissions** can be found at; <http://calyxpess.org/submission.html>.

Please note that they also accept **book reviews** and **art submissions** year-round at no cost.

### CONGRATULATIONS

– to Linda Goldberg whose essay, *This is What a Panic Attack Looks Like*, was published on Chabad.org: [http://www.chabad.org/theJewishWoman/article\\_cdo/aid/3763392/jewish/This-Is-What-a-Panic-Attack-Looks-Like.htm#utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=72\\_the\\_jewish\\_woman\\_en&utm\\_campaign=en&utm\\_content=content](http://www.chabad.org/theJewishWoman/article_cdo/aid/3763392/jewish/This-Is-What-a-Panic-Attack-Looks-Like.htm#utm_medium=email&utm_source=72_the_jewish_woman_en&utm_campaign=en&utm_content=content)

– to Helen bar-Lev whose poem *A Leaf* was published in the BETA E-Newsletter. <http://www.beta-iatefl.org/7060/blog-news/issue-31-2017/>

– to Seymour Mayne on the publication of his *Dream the Living into Speech: A Selection of Poems and a Homage to Yiddish, Shirim: “A Jewish Poetry Journal”* Double Issue, Vol. XXXIV, No. II (2016) & Vol. XXXV, No. 1 (2017). For more information, please contact the editor: M.S. Dworkin: [msdworkin@hotmail.com](mailto:msdworkin@hotmail.com) and on the publication of his book, *In Your Words: Translations from the Yiddish and the Hebrew*. Toronto: Ronald P. Frye & Co., 2017.

For more information, please access: <http://www.ronaldpfrye.com/>

– to Pesach Rotem whose poems, *Homage to Catalonia* and *Melania in China* were published in “**Poets Reading the News**”: <http://www.poetsreadingthenews.com/2017/11/pesach-rotem-homage-to-catalonia-spain-poetry/> and <http://www.poetsreadingthenews.com/2017/11/melania-in-china-pesach-rotem-poetry/>

– to Matthew Anish who had a poem in the November issue of “**Beyond Bree**” and also a poem in the Septmber/October issue of the “**Amulet**”.

– to Voices members, Hayim Abramson, Carolyn Mary Kleefeld, Helen Bar-Lev, Miriam Webber, Stanley Barkan, Bernard Mann and to Voices partners, Lidia Chioarelli, Peter Thabit Jones and Hassanal Abdullah who all had poems published in “**Prosopisia**” Vol-XI . No. 1 2017.

### REQUESTS

Firstly I want to thank all those of you who have helped me tremendously with the preparation of the newsletter by complying to my format requests. It is much appreciated.

As a reminder all poems should adhere to the following criteria:

- **no more than 42 lines including the title**
- **each line no more than 50 characters including spaces**
- **Your name should appear at the bottom of each poem also in bold followed (not in bold) by your group name or country for overseas members.**
- **poems should be emailed as word attachments and not in the body of the email and typed in Arial 11 (title in Arial 12) and with the title and your name in bold.**

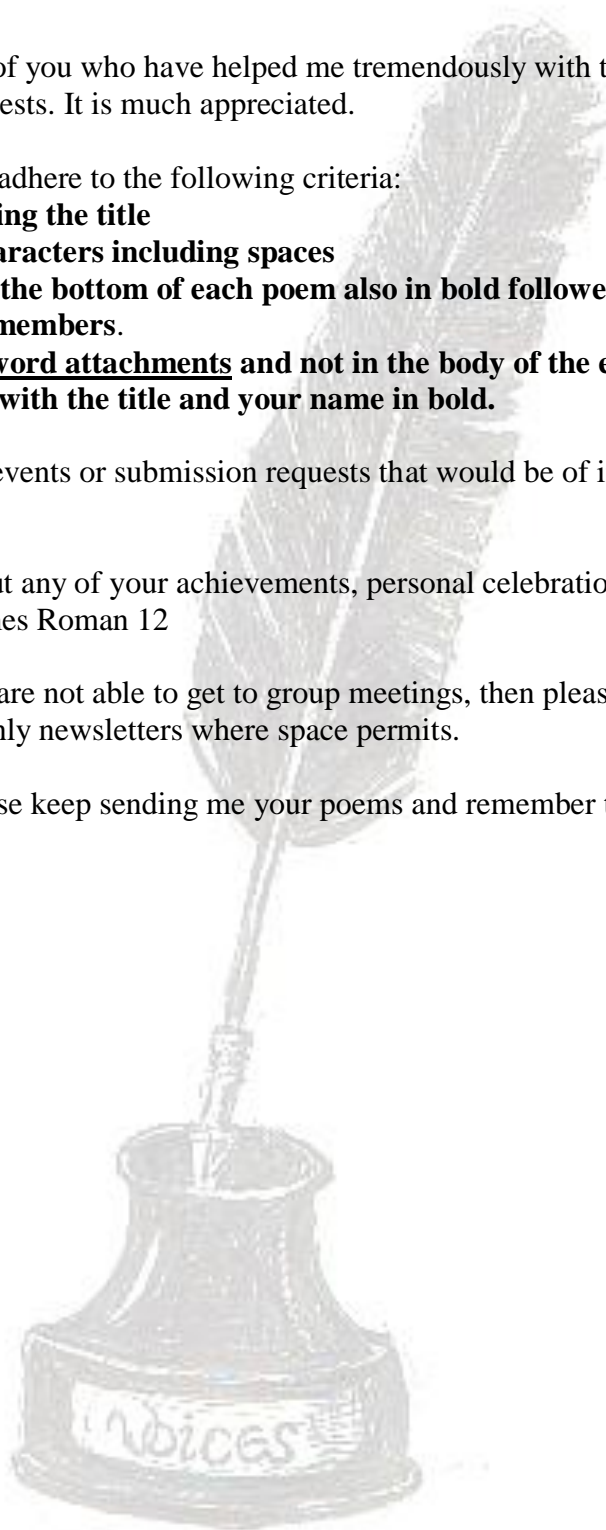
If you have any information on events or submission requests that would be of interest to our members then please do email them to me.

We would also love to hear about any of your achievements, personal celebrations or sadly any bereavements. Please type it up in the font, Times Roman 12

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.

To our **overseas members**, please keep sending me your poems and remember to add your name and country to each individual poem.

Thank you,  
Avril



**NOVEMBER 2017 Group Poetry Selections**

**In Carl Schurz Park**

She walks the promenade  
along the East River  
with its confused currents  
this woman of the neighborhood

She carries no purse  
but the purse of thin lips  
eyes shadowed with tired secrets  
skin the soil of a wearied olive grove

Hearing the approaching speedboat  
she listens, as if for the doorbell of a promise  
to be fulfilled, that will fulfill her  
And she rushes to the railing, eager  
for the sound to bring sight

Her age forgotten, she's a child high  
on steady shoulders to see the parade  
caressed by its clanging clamor  
delighted by convulsing colors

But by the time she arrives, she is  
already left in its wake  
already left looking after  
with reaching-after eyes  
that ever-receding dot

**Donna Bechar**, Netanya selection

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**The Egret**

We waited for the Egret  
We waited for the rains  
When the grasses blossomed critters  
The Egret came again.  
When fog glides o'er the hillside  
When rainclouds wet the plains  
When green returns the springtime  
The Egret hunts again.

**Chana Smith**, Jerusalem selection

*The following poem by Judy has been re-printed from November's newsletter where one of the lines was omitted. My apologies to Judy.*

**Pantoum: Obsession**

Just from forgetting what I came to find  
I wonder why things won't stay in my head:  
Perhaps something's the matter with my mind?  
And mere annoyance deepens into dread –

I wonder WHY things won't stay in my head,  
Forgetfulness is giving me a fright  
And mere annoyance deepens into dread:  
Fears of senility darken my night

Forgetfulness is giving me a fright –  
Perhaps there is something wrong with my mind???  
Fears of **senility** darken my night...  
Just from forgetting what I came to find!

**Judy Koren**, Haifa selection (October).

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**Many Wonderful Lives**

I, We have passed through many wonderful lives.

Every one a fascinating journey  
Beginning, then enduring, and then closing  
With the opening of a different path.

Each grounded into its special time and place  
Moving fast sequences, penetrating hearts,  
Flashing with their cast of sparkling characters.

**Simcha Angel**, Jerusalem selection

### The First Rain

I awaken to a diffused light;  
A blanket of clouds is in place.  
Overnight, everything has changed –  
The First Rain falls silently.

Rushing to find umbrellas and coats;  
Protection from the elements.  
We waited, we hoped, we prayed –  
Yet when it's here, we don't want to feel it.

For some, this First Rain is a signal  
For seclusion, going inside, covering up.  
Feather comforters and thick vegetable soup,  
To keep warm, safe and secure.

And when I venture outside,  
Even the air smells fresh.  
The sounds of morning have changed.  
It looks like the sky has come closer.

What is the creative power of the First Rain?  
Cleansing, it washes off the dust and heat  
of an endless summer.  
Nourishing, the Divine springs bubble down  
to nurture all life.  
Promising, yes, there will be a season of renewal  
and more growth.  
A blessing; we are grateful for the gift  
of life-sustaining rain.

Does the cycle of life begin  
When the new buds actually bloom?  
Or is the First Rain the moment  
When we can believe  
That there will be another spring?

**Malka Kelter**, Jerusalem selection

### Buying Pastries in Porto

I see her from the back clutching a cardboard box  
that may contain at most two of the minuscule  
Portuguese tartlets: a stately, well-dressed woman  
slightly hunched but still emanating power.  
I know she's alone: she so deliberately slows down  
her pace (unlike the girl with the birthday cake  
whose sneakered feet erupt in a dance; or the harried  
young mother, with the box of pastries  
on the tray under the carriage; or the policeman  
after a day of serving and protecting rushing home  
with a bulky package, full of love or guilt)

As I sip my coffee on the sidewalk, I imagine her  
drawn to the jeweled beauty of the pastries  
in the liquid October sunset: *pasteis de nata*<sup>1</sup>  
baskets of amber, burnt sugar islands caught inside  
like fossilized insects; *queijada fresca*<sup>2</sup>  
which when unsealed reveals rock-colored cheese  
with golden veins of cinnamon; *barrigas de freiras*<sup>3</sup>  
plump rolls on which the powdered sugar  
shimmers harshly, like ground crystal

I wish, I pray for her when she gets home  
to switch on the chandelier (I'm sure she has one)  
in all its glory; to take out her best lace napkin  
her finest dessert plate; slowly, ceremonially  
to cut the first bit with the heavy silver spoon;  
to see the inside quiver; to put it on her tongue  
and feel the explosion of sweetness; to let it  
light and delight the depths of her loneliness;  
rather than gulp it down guiltily, in the dark,  
directly from the cardboard, in front of the TV.

**Iris Dan**, Haifa selection

<sup>1</sup> Custard tartlets

<sup>2</sup> Cheese tartlets

<sup>3</sup> "Nun's bellies" – filo rolls with cheese filling



**The In-gatherer\***

I'm foreign on the soil I leave,  
for I'm displaced where I have roamed  
but I'll be well and breathe with ease  
in that bright land to which I go.

Though wind blows cloudy skies about,  
though I must travel ways remote,  
green woods and meadows can be found  
within the land my brethren hold.

I'm going home where rest my mothers.  
I know of them from many a tale.  
My neighbors will be brothers, sisters  
within the land to which I fare.

I'm going home where sleep my fathers.  
I'll settle down and long no more.  
I'll wade across a storied river,  
then find my feet upon the shore.

Eli Ben-Joseph, Western Galilee selection

*\* inspired by the American folk song  
"Wayfaring Stranger" (c. 1820)*

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**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

**First Fruits**

Hoary-haired, he watched the bringing  
of the life offerings.  
The tractor-pulled wagons from which  
Descended the children, dressed in white,  
Bringing their symbolic offerings:  
Fruit, wheat, cheese in their baskets  
Brought to the foot of the stage,  
Behind which stacks of hay formed a backdrop.  
modern reenacting of a thousand-year cycle.  
Then came the dancers and the music,  
Songs fertile in their rhythm,  
Dances and songs of youth,  
While he waited, soon perhaps, to be initiated  
Into another ceremony of the earth.

**Larry Lefkowitz**, Modiin

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**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

### Poem Before Passover

Soon enough we will gather  
for the festive meal  
we will tell the tale  
of the liberation of the Hebrew slaves  
We will drink wine  
sing and enjoy  
This festival comes  
once a year  
in my imagination  
I can taste the gefilte fish and horse radish  
I can taste the hard boiled egg, charoses  
and parsley  
soon enough Passover will  
arrive  
looking forward to feasting  
and chanting  
The years bring sorrow  
My father will not be at  
the seder this year  
His memory lingers on  
He may be looking down  
from somewhere  
Watching as we re-enact  
the ancient ritual  
and smiling

**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**