

## Voices Newsletter February 2018

### FEBRUARY MEETING DATES AND PLACES

#### HAIFA

Tuesday, February 20th  
at 7.30 pm.  
Naomi Yalin's  
8 Kikar David,  
Neve Shaanan, Haifa.  
Tel: 04-8229792

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

#### TEL AVIV

Thursday, February 22nd  
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, February 13th  
at 6pm  
Rehov Aza 5/3

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

#### UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, February 14th  
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, February 7th  
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

Monday, February 26th  
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

Monday, February 19th  
at 8.30pm.  
Kibbeutz Evron,  
Mitoch HaLev  
(formerly Beit Edna)

Coordinator:  
Phyllsie Gross  
Tel ; 0528746880  
[phyllsie@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllsie@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 more details

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

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[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

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[susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com)

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT FEBRUARY 2018

Finally the harsh winter seems to be abating. I am sure the recent storms stimulated some fine poetry but I am glad we can now find stimulus amongst the beautiful bright green meadows around us.

I am pleased to announce a springtime poetry workshop to be held on Sunday 4 March in Nahariya. Fuller details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter The Western Galilee group, although small, has a fine reputation for hosting Voices Israel events. Please note there are limited places available.

Another March date for your diary is 6.00pm on the 20th when once again Birgit Talmon will open her very conveniently situated Tel Aviv apartment for the Voices Israel AGM. This is your opportunity to come and receive statutory reports and ask questions. Members will receive a formal notice of the meeting later in February with instructions about placing nominations and resolutions if wished. We shall have our popular Open Mike event after the formal proceedings and in addition workshops coordinator Nicholas Dunne-Lynch will be carrying out soundings about workshops and critiquing at meetings.

Planning is now beginning for the biennial Voices residential in Netanya, Poetry by the Sea. Please pencil in Sunday- Monday 6-7 May but note this still needs confirmation.

A lot of people have already responded to membership secretary Susan Rosenberg's lively 'Yoo Hoo Dues are Due' notice and paid the Early Bird discounted membership of 100 shekels (\$35 for overseas members) to treasurer Chanita Millman. Thank you. Membership rises to 120 shekels (\$40 for overseas members) after 1st April. Details of Chanita's address appears at the foot of page 1.

Submissions to the 2018 Voices Israel Anthology are invited until 15 March. Chief Editor Dina Yehuda and her team are already busy with selecting poems but look forward to receiving many more from you...

I know this winter a lot of our members suffered from horrible coughs, colds and even pneumonia. I hope everyone now feels fully recovered and fit again.

Warm best wishes

Susan Olsburgh  
President  
Voices Israel



## **EVENTS**

### **– BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW.....SPRING WORKSHOP IN NAHARIYAH VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH WESTERN GALILEE GROUP**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March** from 11.30 – 15.30

Emet Ve`Shalom Synagogue,

12 Hameginim. (Miklat 723) Off Kaplan Street, Nahariyah

Programme: 11.30 Buffet lunch and registration

12.00 Eli Ben-Joseph: “The Wayfaring Stranger.”

13.45 Tea break

14.00 Susan Olsburgh: “The Joy of Medieval Hebrew Wine Poems” (with a sample of wine!)

Each presentation will be followed by writing exercises.

Co-ordinator: Phyllis Gross. Workshop MC: Nicholas Dunne-Lynch

Members: 50 shekels: Non-members: 70 shekels. Please bring correct money

Membership for 2018 can be paid on the day.

Registration essential: Spaces limited. Register with Wendy Blumfield: [Wendyb@netvision.net.il](mailto:Wendyb@netvision.net.il) 0545-240412

The buffet lunch and drinks will be provided. Participants are asked to bring extra goodies – fruit, nibbles, cookies etc.

– Willa Schneberg ([snowmntn@comcast.net](mailto:snowmntn@comcast.net)) will be a poet-in-residence in Kathmandu for 10 days in Feb. to read her own poetry and that of other American poets, lecture on poetry translation, conduct readings and workshops, including at their Women’s literary society called “Gunjan,” and the Nepal Academy of Fine Arts.

## **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.

**ONLINE SUBMISSIONS:** 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.

*(continued on next page)*

## Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

- Submit a maximum of 3 poems on any subject. Poems should not exceed 40 lines including stanza breaks but not including title. **Important: Each poem must be submitted in a separate submission. Do not try to submit 2 or 3 poems at once.**
  - 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)
- to our Voices women, you may be interested in submitting to [writinginawomansvoice@gmail.com](mailto:writinginawomansvoice@gmail.com) - it's sort of a blog but beautifully done. Poems about the moon are especially appreciated but everything is welcome.
- Calls for submissions from **IFLAC** for its 2018 "Anti-War and Peace Anthology" which , will contain excellent Anti-War articles, Real Life Stories, Anti-War and Peace Poems, A Contest of Haiku, and Peace, and Anti-War paintings and Art. It will be published on Amazon in three languages: English, Spanish and French, and will be translated into many more languages, including: Russian, Hebrew and Arabic. They hope that this important Anthology will pave the way to banish WAR, TERROR and VIOLENCE from our planet, and bring instead: Bridges of Culture, understanding, creativity, harmony and peace. Please send one of your best: articles, one of your best stories, 3 selected poems and 5 Haikus in English or French to: [iflac2013@gmail.com](mailto:iflac2013@gmail.com), and in Spanish to the Editor of the Spanish Edition: Maria Cristina Azcona: [mcrisazcona@gmail.com](mailto:mcrisazcona@gmail.com)
- Please attach your Address and Email, and a good passport photo. To participate in this prestigious IFLAC Anthology, you have to be an IFLAC member, the subscription is free, and you can subscribe by sending an email to: [IFLACsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IFLACsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)
- **The Ekphrastic Review** welcomes submissions form Israel as they haven't received many in the past from here. Info at [www.ekphrastic.net](http://www.ekphrastic.net) and [www.mixedupmedia.ca](http://www.mixedupmedia.ca) Please send submissions to Lorette Luzajic: [theekphrasticreview@gmail.com](mailto:theekphrasticreview@gmail.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS

- to Miriam Weber whose short story, "Two Bottles of Whisky" was published in the December 2017 edition of the "**Narrow Road**" Literary Magazine : [https://issuu.com/narrowroad.mag/docs/narrow\\_road\\_vol3\\_dec\\_2017](https://issuu.com/narrowroad.mag/docs/narrow_road_vol3_dec_2017)
- to Matthew Anish who had a poem published in the January issue of First Literary Review East an online magazine: [www.rulrul.4mg.com](http://www.rulrul.4mg.com)

## Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

- to Pesach Rotem whose poem "The Gift" was published in “**Poets Reading the News**”  
<http://www.poetsreadingthenews.com/2018/01/the-gift-pesach-rotem-poetry/>
- to Richard Shavei-Tzion on the publication of “**Poetry in the Parasha**” a collection on the 54 weekly Torah readings. The book may be purchased on the website <https://www.poetryintheparasha.com/> or via The Malki Foundation [office@kerenmalki.org](mailto:office@kerenmalki.org) (972) (0)25670602  
A substantial portion of the net proceeds will be donated to **The Malki Foundation**
- to Linda Goldberg whose essay “Pacemaker” is posted on ou.org:  
<https://www.ou.org/life/inspiration/pacemaker/>





**JANUARY 2017 Group Poetry Selections**

**Dancing a Fox Trot**

Easing my way down,  
I help her descend the slope  
to go back to camp.

Dropping my pack on  
the ground at our pick-up point,  
I go to find some shade.

Sprawled in the shadow  
of a huge red boulder, we  
see a small beige fox

go behind a rise.  
Grasping that it is my food  
he is after, I stumble

back to the crossroads.  
He chews a hole in my bag,  
grabs one of my rolls

in his mouth, no room  
there for two at the same time.  
Our dance continues.

Chasing after him  
with pebbles in hand, limbs waving --  
all quite futile --

I finally toss him  
my other sandwich and go  
to protect Hila's

knapsack left under  
our shady stone canopy.  
He sits nearby me

waiting and watching,  
eating the rest of my lunch.  
Our dance is over.

**Bob Findysz**, Beit Shemesh selection

**Old Friend**

'Pebble dude' combed the beach mornings,  
collected bright stones and abalone shells,  
and days played blues guitar by the wharf  
and others he depicted boat, sea, sky  
and brushed spontaneous calligraphy.  
He photoed how a succulent unwraps  
staggered leaves of mystic invitation  
and found in astrologic signs and Hebrew  
letter a cosmic numeral ecstasy.  
He delved radio signals he learned about  
in war but pointed a finger other ways,  
of shortwave set and well-tuned automobile,  
but told me that beyond measure he loved  
his wife, his daughter, son and grandkids,  
and all his family and friends despite  
his moods, and he repeated this to me,  
his weed-smiling eyes denying cancer,  
before they opened on infinity.

**Eli Ben-Joseph**, Western Galilee selection

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**Through a Frame**

a period photograph, artfully framed  
placed with premeditation  
on a hospice nightstand  
next to cup and straw  
not used in days

face embraced by soft, sable curls  
restrained by a diminutive tiara  
challenging the decade's depression  
round eyes suggest a pleasing secret  
even through faded tones of sepia

body diminished, her un-coiffed head  
now rests ethereally on a pillow,  
almost floating

her daughter broods; *nurses*  
blind to her radiance  
they perceive only this side of the frame  
*look through the glass*  
behold such beauty in the days of wholeness  
not lost, not gone  
just  
no longer visible through eyes anchored  
in this world

**Judith Fineberg**, Netanya and Sharon selection

**When Words Fail**

a visit to Yad Vashem with  
friends from abroad,  
umpteenth time for me

this memorial to the human  
capacity for evil never fails to  
upheave my inner depths

my mother's silence echoes  
in my soul

words cannot convey the pain,  
the distress nor the weight of  
the responsibility entrusted  
upon me to never forget, to  
bear witness

**Edit Gavriely**, Haifa selection

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**Winter Script**

What is this shadow on the words  
I try to carefully put down  
into straight even lines

What is that falling past my shoulder  
A spot I keep erasing as a child would  
Rub blood from a misunderstood wound

And what are these flecks on my lines  
Like crumbs thrown across a fence  
to a stout hen pecking for her chicks

/ / /

Spilling to the other side of the paper  
pulp gulps my mysteries before I can  
Say what they mean in my own way

Are these lines are navigating sure as a brush  
painting out patterns acute as an ethnic dance  
eyes driven by rhythms of quarter notes?

Motions and moods misconstrued  
make my full head drop onto the table  
in its reversible hood, turning me down.

**Rena Navon**, Jerusalem selection

**A Few Droplets**

I would like to have  
the magic pill  
to cure all ills  
or the magic word  
to attenuate hurt  
But instead  
I stand like a beggar  
on the curb of life  
arms outstretched  
I learn  
listening assuages  
somewhat  
a person's distress  
I lower my head  
to the greater plan's wisdom  
thank the One above  
for the assistance  
poured into my hands  
that I can at best  
let a few droplets  
slide off my fingers  
onto those  
of others

**Channah Moshe** - Jerusalem selection

**The Branch is Bending**

*For John Kozak and Jesse Schwartz,  
propagators of historic apple trees*

the branch is bending  
with its load of apples  
to the ground  
apples green and smooth  
this year  
no specks or insect rot  
not since I planed  
the heavy bough split  
open by decay  
down to bare wood  
and brushed the seaweed  
cow manure solution  
over it  
the tree's  
regained its health  
the apple crop's  
a witness  
    this year  
I didn't spray or prune  
rains came heavy  
In March after  
winter frost  
good signs they say  
for fruit  
the suckers  
sprout straight up  
the branch bends down  
leaves brush the ground

**Reuven Goldfarb**, Upper Galilee

**Remember This**

In Mrs. Tingué's First Grade class,  
I fell in love with Timmy. I remember  
orange electric air, prickles of heat on my cheeks.  
My mother smiled, said—puppy love,  
when on cooling concrete steps I confessed.  
The Kentucky sun warmly grasped our necks.

I was insulted. How belittling her smile.  
And I remember thinking—remember  
this day, this feeling, this slight,  
though I didn't even know that word.

First Grade love—a surprise gift in ribbons.  
You don't even know its name.  
Just a poke here and there  
a twitch in a paper-bagged lunch.

And I remember vowing—remember this,  
same exact feeling  
not to be waved away by adults.  
Experience, their only advantage.

One day, Timmy, in the back of the class,  
next to Dixie cupped lima bean seedlings,  
asked if I knew what a Playboy was,  
—a naked girl, he answered himself and ran off.

And I remember, sideswiped and red,  
my balance shoved off its heels.  
Naked girl? Naked girl?  
And I swirled down the drain  
as if fever-filled,  
what is this? What is this?  
With no reference to guide,  
and still fighting defeat,  
spiraling into  
Remember this. Remember this.

And I have remembered that.

**Celia Merlin**, Tel Aviv selection



**Wikipedia:** *Dust in homes, offices, and other human environments contains small amounts of plant pollen, human and animal hairs, textile fibers, paper fibers, minerals from outdoor soil, human skin cells, burnt meteorite particles, and many other materials which may be found in the local environment.*

### Dust Motes

Is it possible  
that the dust motes in my home  
might still contain minute particles  
of his skin when he showered  
in the morning  
his hair when he combed it  
his shirt when he dressed  
his mouth when he smiled at me  
the newspaper he read  
in the evenings  
the roses he brought me  
on my birthday?  
Stay, sweet motes,  
you are my memories of him,  
through you I know  
that part of him  
is still here  
with me.

**Rumi Morkin** (pen name of Miriam Webber)  
Haifa selection

### Revivified

A short while after their  
One-night stand  
Where he so suddenly  
Went stock-still  
Erection subsiding  
As he breathed his last  
She followed suit

In the turmoil of resurrection  
They happened to bump into  
Each other again  
And that glint in his eye  
Was still there for her  
His irresistible body  
Untouched by  
Six feet under  
In the bosom of  
Mother Earth  
Headstone  
Flowers and all

On catching sight  
Of that glint  
She quickly shed  
Her ungainly  
Pocketless shroud  
And slipped into  
The outfit  
That so aroused them both  
Back then

Revivified and fit  
It might spell consummation  
This time

**Birgit Talmon**, Tel Aviv

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

### Breath of Life

Elder, ash or rowan  
I know not what you are  
Stood within a ring of spindly saplings  
Amid your knotted roots  
Beneath your canopy of green

Cotton wool clouds blow whispers  
Nothing is still, your leaves tremble  
Gentle dances in rhythm with the wind  
Branches wave and stretch their fingers  
Grasping at nothingness

Healing the air  
As you breathe in carbon dioxide  
And breathe out oxygen  
So that we may breathe in O<sub>2</sub>  
And breathe out CO<sub>2</sub> to live  
Grow and thrive, my beloved tress.

**Esther Lipton, UK**

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### City Dreams (pantoum)

In the heart of the city  
Sons of night ring out  
Before dawn the music leaves it's mark on our souls  
Later we'll fly

Songs of night ring out  
Shadows have their say  
Later we'll fly  
Tonight we'll revel in the darkness  
Let the stars be our guide

Shadows have their say  
The sun has left the stage  
Tonight we'll revel in the darkness  
Let the stars be our guide

We've realized our truths  
Before dawn the music leaves it's mark on our souls  
Listen to the sound of urban life  
In the heart of the city

**Matthew Anish, USA**