

## Voices Newsletter June 2017

### JUNE MEETING DATES AND PLACES

#### HAIFA

Tuesday, June 13th  
at 7:30 PM  
Susan Rosenberg's  
42 Leon Blum Street  
Apartment 46

**Coordinator:**

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

#### TEL AVIV

Tuesday June 20th  
at 7.30 pm.  
AACI  
94 A Allenby Street,  
Tel Aviv v

**Coordinator:**

Mark Levinson  
Tel; 09 955 5720  
[nosnivel@netvision.net.il](mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il)

#### JERUSALEM

Thursday, June 22nd  
at 6 pm,  
Toby Shuster's  
5, Aza Street, Rehavia,  
Jerusalem

**Coordinator:**

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

#### UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, June 14th  
at 5 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

No details available as yet  
for further meetings of this  
group

#### NETANYA & SHARON

Monday June 22nd,  
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

Please contact Phyllsie  
for date of meeting

**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)

*President*  
Susan Olsburg  
2/6 Zalman Shazar  
Ramat Poleg, Netanya  
Tel: 098855629  
[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

*Assistant President*  
Helen Bar-Lev  
3 Hairus St.  
Metulla 1029200  
Tel: 077 353 5548  
[hbarlev@netvision.net.il](mailto:hbarlev@netvision.net.il)

*Secretary*  
Avril Meallem  
27/4 Metudela St.  
Jerusalem 92305  
Tel: 02 567 0998  
[secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com)

*Treasurer*  
Chanita Millman  
15 Shachar St.  
Jerusalem 96263  
Tel: 02 653 6770  
[millmanm@zahav.net.il](mailto:millmanm@zahav.net.il)

*Membership Coordinator*  
Susan Rosenberg  
42/46a Leon Blum  
Haifa 33852  
Tel: 04 838 1218  
[susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com)

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT JUNE 2017

Dear All,

Since the last newsletter we have had the Reuben Rose presentation evening in Tel Aviv. It was a great joy to hear our winning poet Ricky Friesem read her outstanding poem "Director's Notes" and also to hear Wendy Dickstein, the third prize winner, read with much sincerity her poem 'Salonika, mother of Israel'. Orit Perlman (Honourable Mention) gave a dramatic reading of her poem "Stranger" and then proxy readers gave spirited performances of the poems of those poets who could not be present.

The presentation section was preceded by a productive workshop, "Writing the Self", facilitated by Joanna Chen. Joanna has suggested that anyone who was present who wishes their poem(s) to be published on our website on a page associated with the event should contact me. She is willing to critique poems drafted at the workshop.

The overseas judge Clem Cairns' interesting remarks are now on our Facebook site and well worth reading. I was glad at the event to have the opportunity of thanking the Reuben Rose competition administrator Mark Levinson for his huge commitment to the competition over many years.

The plan to complete Voices Israel's legal obligations to the National Library of Israel (NLI) is moving forward. There is an existing deposit for the years 1972-1994. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter a list of missing Voices Israel anthologies being sought to complete the deposit. (two copies of each edition is required to be deposited.) Please do contact me if you have any of the missing items listed and wish to donate them.

It is hoped to have a Voices Israel trip to the NLI for a tour in English and an explanation of the legal deposit system. All Voices Israel members are invited to be part of this and to share in completing our deposit to the NLI.

It is possible that the trip will take place on Wednesday 19 July 2017 in Jerusalem from 11.00pm-2.00pm at the Edmond Safra Campus in Givat Ram

This still needs confirming. There would be a small entrance fee with senior citizen discounts, Please do let me know by email if this trip interests you so that I have some idea of numbers. [olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com) The NLI has good bus links in Jerusalem and some people may wish to travel together from further afield.

Looking ahead we hope to have a launch of the 2017 Volume 43 Voices Anthology in the early autumn and another exciting event to look forward to is a workshop which Ricky Friesem has kindly offered to facilitate and host at her home in Rehovot. Further details will follow in the next newsletter.

This is a renewed request for anyone in the Ashkelon area who might be interested in joining a nucleus of poets who have expressed an interest for there to be a group in that area. Please do contact me so I can progress this.

When this newsletter is published we shall have just celebrated Shevuot. I do hope that everyone will have enjoyed the Chag in meaningful ways and enjoyed some delicious cheesecakes too.

With very best wishes

Susan Olsburgh, President Voices Israel

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

– Susan Nerdell, Tel-Aviv

## EVENTS

**Poets House Showcase** will be on view at Poets House, 10 River Terrace New York, NY 10282  
Opening on Thursday, June 22nd, the 2017 Showcase will be on view through Saturday, August 12, 2017.  
More than 3,000 items were in the 2016 exhibition.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

– **2017 Mizmor L'David Anthology** is now open for submissions.

Please visit the Poetica website for the complete guidelines. [www.PoeticaMagazine.com](http://www.PoeticaMagazine.com)

– **Mslexia Publications Ltd** is calling for submissions for its Poetry 2107 competition and its Poetry pamphlet Competition. Deadlines for both competitions is 19 June 2017. Full information can be found on their website; [website](#)

– The new issue of **Phenomenal Literature** is released and you can find its details on its website [www.phenomenalliterature.com](http://www.phenomenalliterature.com). Now they are looking for submissions for the next issue of “**VerbalArt**”: A Global Journal Devoted to Poets and Poetry. Submission guidelines can be found at <http://verbalart.in/submission.php>. The last date of submission is 31 July 2017 and the next issue will come out by 30 Sep 2017.

They are also looking for submissions for their **International Poetry Anthology**. For more details visit:- <http://vivekanandjha.com/magnumopus.php>

## CONGRATULATIONS

– to Reuven Goldfarb, who together with Rabbi Joseph Schonwald edited the publication of *What Do We Know? The Carlebach Anthology: Essays about Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach with Selections from His Teachings and Stories*. 480 pp., illustrated. Replete with an array of photographs and multiple internet links. Copies can be ordered through Amazon or BookDepository.com. It will shortly be printed in Israel as well. Send an email to [CarlebachAnthology@gmail.com](mailto:CarlebachAnthology@gmail.com) or call the publisher at 02-673-4194 to inquire about its availability in Israel. For more information please contact Reuven: [poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com)

**CONDOLENCES** to Judith Weinstein Hagai on the passing on of her father , Bill Weinstein, in Canada. We wish her a long and healthy life.

Judith’s words –  
 “dad slips away  
 between shifts, between breaths  
 his last”

**NOTICE**

**Volumes needed of Voices Israel Anthologies to complete our deposit at the National Library of Israel**

(See President’s letter in this newsletter)

- Volume 25 1997/98 1 copy
- Volume 26 1999 1 copy
- Volume 27 2000 1 copy
- Volume 28 2001 1 copy
- Volume 29 2002 1 copy
- Volume 30 2003/04 1 copy
- Volume 31 2005 2 copies
- Volume 32 2006 1 copy
- Volume 33 2007 1 copy
- Volume 34 2008 2 copies
- Volume 35 2009 1 copy
- (Volume 36 2010 We have 2)
- Volume 37 2011 1 copy
- Volume 38 2012 1 copy
- Volume 39 2013 1 copy
- Volume 40 2014 1 copy
- (Volume 41 2015 We have 2)
- (Volume 42 2016 We have 2)





**MAY 2016 Poetry Selections**

**Evanescence**

Into the room's hotel bedroom safe box  
I threw down an eternity ring, uninsured  
Tiny and precious, platinum and diamond,  
(Bought on ebay in the avaricious hour)  
And abandoned it there to visit a place  
Where the hearts of the poor and the sick  
Are mended and healed.

A hedge of paper flowers called to me  
'Take a flower, admire me, crumple and  
And scatter me to the wind'  
My hand reached out, I touched a flower  
So perfect in its symmetry  
But fragile, frangible and evanescent

When I returned the safe appeared vacant, and  
So with the flower, so with the ring I thought,  
A will o' the wisp, a trick of the light, a mirage  
Learning the lesson, I was broken-hearted

But you can overcome, I'm stronger than this  
I said to myself, I can purchase one like it  
It's just paper money  
Not health, not valued like the assurance of love  
I'm better than this, to mourn  
A material possession.

Finding the ring dislodged  
From a tiny metal ledge in the safe  
I was heart-poundingly grateful,  
Temporarily changed.

**Patricia Har-Even, Upper Galilee**

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**Month of His Demise**

A glowing  
fuzzy  
round  
radiance  
shines through  
the grey sky  
birds float by.....  
Oh, Dick!  
it's March again

**Susan Rosenberg, Haifa selection**

**Trial Balloon**

This is a limited product release.  
Long familiar in top-rated countries,  
the summer cloudburst has been adapted  
to Israel's inimitable sky.  
The subtly dominating theme is dust.  
This is no rain for your dad's red Hyundai  
but a concoction for the connoisseur  
of muted ozone and cinnamon beige.

We are considering how to serve you.  
We value your opinions and your time.  
Do you prefer morning or evening rain?  
Many light drops? or fewer, heavy drops?  
What is your family's monthly income?  
Click this box to receive our newsletter.

**Mark L. Levinson, Tel Aviv selection**

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**Prayer for Guidance**

Please guide me to a bridge  
To span the gap between today  
And longed-for dreams.

Let me not tumble into roiling waters  
Churning,  
Crashing below.

Let me not drown in deep depression  
Nor be smashed against  
The jagged rocks of false ambitions.

Do not let rushing currents  
Carry me to  
Tainted harbors.

Please let me cross safely,  
Surely,  
Step by step.

**Miriam Feigelman, Netanya and Sharon selection**

## Happy Hour

The music plays on after coffee and cake,  
Old songs of Palmach and pioneers  
Outside a cool breeze sways the striped awning  
From the terrace, a view of the Galilee hills

Bright cloths on the tables  
Attendants holding gnarled hands  
Swaying in time to the music  
The music plays on

A tall gaunt man claps his hands  
Out of time with the music  
He claps his hands when the music stops  
And throughout the day

A woman sits forward in her chair  
A big smile, she looks as if she is singing too  
But her eyes are blank  
As she nods her head and nods throughout the day

We hold hands during happy hour  
He asks me what number is our room  
As if it is a holiday hotel  
Do you have money, he asks, I have no change

I tell him that it is a package deal  
All prepaid, rooms and food  
I don't add that it includes wheelchairs  
And therapies and oxygen, syrups and dementia pills

It is happy hour in the room of maximum dependency  
But I hide in his room at the end of the hallway and weep

**Wendy Blumfield**, Haifa selection

## Choose Life

If you cannot see me as a fellow human being,  
then why should your heart find any love for me?

No wonder you can take away my life  
with no feeling of guilt!

So please close your ears  
to all the vitriolic diatribes of your leaders.  
Use the free will given to you by God.  
Search in the depths of your being  
for that spark of light that makes you  
part of the human race.

Choose life – choose love.  
Choose to feel joy as the setting sun  
send streaks of colour across the darkening  
sky.  
Smell the perfumes of nature.  
Listen to the wondrous birdsong.  
Why choose to remain blind and deaf,  
locked in your world of darkness?

Oh my beloved brethren,  
whoever and wherever you are,  
wake up to your wasted life.  
God didn't give your soul a body  
for it to maim and kill another,  
and yourself.

His tears of pain  
fall to earth in every drop of blood  
as he watches his children  
being turned into wild beasts.

Come , open your eyes to the destruction  
that is being perpetrated through you,  
to the hatred and lies planted  
into your young mind.

You were not born with evil in your heart.  
You were a pure soul at birth  
with a long life ahead of you  
and the power to love and be loved...

**Avril Meallem**, Jerusalem selection

## Poems From Our Overseas Members

### What Fell on Stony Ground

in the country of the unarmed, the unsuspecting  
the country of naïve sycophant-optimists  
conditioned only to see the best in everyone  
and accept that all humans are equal and sane  
he with the Glock, Luger, Smith & Wesson is king  
or master of the universe even, I might now agree  
as I would grant this man, at this critical moment  
any rank that would turn his head  
but it's too late now for this transatlantic flight  
for we are frozen with knowledge of our destiny  
and once that gun was fired we knew the truth  
knew that we are all more or less dead  
as air rushing deafeningly into the cabin confirms  
and I must live with the responsibility  
for us being on this journey within our journey  
and I will be responsible for her death  
in a way I would never have believed  
in an infernal machine being sucked back to earth  
by its gravitational nemesis  
and our eyes are focused on each other's eyes  
our hands white, grasping each other tightly  
and only now do I see the intensity of our love  
and I am filled with the essence of all regret  
the sum of guilt all humans ever possessed  
as we, a variegated array of double helices-  
(two hundred and thirty five souls)- face oblivion  
because of a cause unaddressed pragmatically;  
we tragic seeds of an ambiguous reincarnation;  
we accidents of providence; evolution's utensils;  
prisoners of metaphor now, and the sower's parable  
as death's maw awaits us and beckons;  
and media reports will say of this conveyance  
that upon the icy July shoreline of Baffin Island  
it fell, upon stony ground...

**Don Mulcahy, Canada**

### Bees

Despite overcast sky  
and absence of blossoms,  
bees emerge from stacked hives,  
explore nearby garden.

With nothing to pollinize,  
they stray from orchard,  
ignore immature almond buds,  
buzz outside kitchen window.

Intended industry thwarted,  
they seek rogue sweetness,  
stamens to fondle,  
flowers to plunder.

Curious avatars follow me  
as I water potted azaleas,  
hum around my head,  
a high-intensity halo.

**Jennifer Lagier USA**

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### Burnt Offering

The voices  
  are heard  
  yet they are almost  
  drowned out in the din  
Bravely the chanting  
  continues  
a thousand unfortunate odes  
  dissolve in haze  
Our hearts are lifted  
  up by the  
ancient winds  
we feel free  
  have made our peace with  
existence  
The smoke of our  
  offerings  
  rises heavenward  
We still dare  
  to seek joy  
in these troubled days  
  the world is changing  
But for now we can  
  rest easy  
  and wait for  
  a new era  
to rise from the ashes

**Matthew Anish, USA**

