

Voices Newsletter July 2017

JULY MEETING DATES AND PLACES

HAIFA

Tuesday, July 25th
at 7:30 PM
Wendy and David Blumfield's
19 Sd. Wingate
M t. Carmel
Tel. 04 837 6820
054 524 0412
Coordinator:
Susan Rosenberg
Tel; 04 838 1218
050 933 3804
susanndick@gmail.com

TEL AVIV

Thursday, July 20th
at 7.30 pm.
AACI
94 A Allenby Street,
Tel Aviv v
Coordinator:
Mark Levinson
Tel; 09 955 5720
nosnivel@netvision.net.il

JERUSALEM

Tuesday, July 18th
(please note that the day
has changed to Tuesday)
at 6 pm,
Toby Shuster's
5, Aza Street, Rehavia,
Jerusalem
Coordinator:
Ruth Fogelman
Tel; 02 628 7359
ruthfogelman@gmail.com

UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, July 19th
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

No details available as yet
for further meetings of this
group

NETANYA & SHARON

Sunday July 23rd,
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

Please contact Phyllis
for meeting details.
Coordinator:
Phyllis 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
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Haifa 33852
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susanndick@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT JULY 2017

Dear All

I hope you are managing to keep cool in this very warm weather.

I recently had a very worthwhile trip to the cooler Tsafat air to visit with the Voices Upper Galilee group. Reuven & Yehudit Goldfarb have very kindly been hosting meetings in their home for a long time and members make considerable journeys to join them. It is always interesting to see how different groups operate. I very much enjoyed meeting members whose names I knew but had not met them in person and to see regulars again. The poetry was wide ranging and stimulating.

In the last newsletter I gave some details about the proposed visit to the National Library of Israel (NLI). This is now confirmed for 11.00 am on Wednesday 19 July. Our group will meet inside the main entrance of the NLI on the Safra campus in Jerusalem. We shall be completing Voices Israel's obligations under The Books Law to complete the deposit of our anthology publications. There has been a deposit from 1972-1996 but we are going to take two copies of all volumes since then. Please do join the group for what should be a special Voices Israel event. After the guided tour there will be a short lecture about the legal deposit system. I have names of those already registered but please do email me olsburgh.susan@gmail.com if you can be there too. We should be finished around 1.15pm. The entrance charges will be met by Voices so this is a FREE event. Please do come.

Thanks to all those who responded to my request for missing anthology volumes. There were so many generous offers even from overseas. Two volumes are still needed - one copy of the 2005 and one copy of the 2012 anthologies. Can anyone help please?

I am hoping that we shall also be able to deposit volume 43, the latest Voices Anthology. Very soon those whose poems have been selected will be informed of this by Chief Editor Dina Yehuda. Many, many thanks are due to Dina and to Johnmichael Simon for the enormous work involved in collating and producing the anthology. Their skills and experience are vital. I am told too that Helen Bar Lev has once again kindly provided one of her fine illustrations for the front cover. No doubt the publication will provide much satisfaction for the producers, the editorial team, Susan Bell, Iris Dan and Reuven Goldfarb and indeed for all those whose poems are included. All our members will receive copies free of charge but it is possible to buy extras if wished.

Very best wishes to you all.

Susan Olsburgh

President Voices Israel

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

– **“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 Entries received after this time will be discarded. 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 next issue of **“PROSOPISIA”**, scheduled for July 2017, requests your contributions in the form of poetry, short stories or any creative piece. Submissions deadline –15th July 2017

Guidelines for submission: *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.

E-mail : Editor : sharma_anuraag@yahoo.com or Co-Edito : moizur.arawlii@gmail.com

For more information visit their website and Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/ARAWLII>

– **“WORLD POETRY YEARBOOK” (English Edition)**

In order to promote the exchange, research, translation and development of the world poetry, The International Poetry Translation and Research Centre have been publishing *WORLD POETRY YEARBOOK* (English Edition) since 2013 one volume a year. Submissions are requested from any poet and poetry critic with influence, achievement and capability all over the world.

Please send six or eight of your excellent poems (in English, each not exceed 60 lines), a short resume of your art experience and achievement (in English, within 250 words; its main substance includes: name, pen name, sex, date of birth, birthplace, nationality, experience of job, from which year you begin to write or publish your works, main achievements in poetry writing, prizes, major publications of poems and etc.), and two color photographs or black-and-white photographs, e-mail, Tel, and your postal address, post code to me via e-mail. All of these must be written in English.

Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

They also welcome you to send the important review article (in English, not exceed 2,500 words) and information about poetry (in English, not exceed 500 words).

Your poems, biography and a photo, will be included in “World Poetry year book” (English Edition). After the publication, each poet or poetry critic whose works has been recorded in will get one copy sent by post all free of charge, and part of the copies will be presented to the UN Library, UNESCO, Nobel Prize Committee, NDL of the important countries, libraries of famous universities, major literary newspapers, periodicals and outstanding literary research specialists all over the world.

Due to the magnitude of the project and the limitation of time and manpower, all contributions must be sent to iptc1995@126.com via e-mail. The deadline is July 31, 2017. The date of publication: September 2017.

– “**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

For their *Jewish new year supplement*, “JEWISH CURRENTS GOES TO HEAVEN / JEWISH CURRENTS GOES TO HELL”, they are seeking artworks, poems and very short prose pieces about the best and the worst moments in your personal or political life.

DEADLINE: July 21st 2017. The supplement will measure 5.5 x 8.5 inches.

Please contact editor@jewishcurrents.org for more information or to discuss ideas

CONGRATULATIONS

– to Linda Goldberg whose article *Widows Don't Mourn for Just One Month* is published on the Orthodox Union Website <https://www.ou.org/life/inspiration/widows-dont-mourn-just-one-month/>

– to Lidia Actis of Immagine & Poesia on the publication of her book *Sunset in a Cup*. The e book is available on Amazon https://www.amazon.com/Tramonto-una-tazza-Sunset-Italian-ebook/dp/B072BLJNPP/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1495033118&sr=1-1&keywords=lidia+chiarelli

– to Kaila Shabat on the publication of two books; *I Missed the Spring* and *In the Midst of Eden*. (please also see notice in Events section)

EVENTS

– Kaila Shabbat is happy to invite her friends and colleagues to an evening of poetry and music, during which she will present her two new books: A memoir, *I Missed the Spring* - a roller-coaster ride through a bipolar life

Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

and a bilingual book of poetry *In the Midst of Eden*, issued as a Hebrew volume though the original poems were written in English.

Date: Tuesday 18th July 2017 at 7.30pm

Venue: Mercaz Habama, Hacarmel 20, Ganey Tikva. (at the studio hall on the ground floor).

– **CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS** *in cooperation with* THE SEVENTH QUARRY, THE FERAL PRESS, KOREAN EXPATRIATE LITERATURE, IMAGINE & POESIA, SHABDAGUCHHA, VOICES ISRAEL, THE GROLIER POETRY BOOK SHOP, KRYTKA LITERACKA, BÀO GIẤY, ARBA SICULA is holding a photo op with new books, broadsides, & postcards at **POETS HOUSE 25TH ANNUAL SHOWCASE, 10 RIVER TERRACE, NYC 10282, THURSDAY, 1:00 PM JULY 20, 2017** hosted in person by STANLEY H. BARKAN*HASSANAL ABDULLAH*JOAN & JOHN DIGBY in spirit and/or exhibit by HELEN BAR-LEV * LIDIA CHIARELLI * GAETANO CIPOLLA, YOON-HO CHO * KHÉ IÊM * IFEANYI A. MENKITI TOMASZ MAREK SOBIERAJ * PETER THABIT JONES

To be followed by IN MEMORIAM READINGS FOR CCC AUTHORS BY THE HUDSON IN FULL VIEW OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY and LUNCH TOGETHER AT A NEARBY RESTAURANT

For more information please contact cccpoetry@aol.com (516) 868-5635

– Last month Shulamit Bat Or produced an “**Event of Poetry and Prose Reading**” in the library in Meitar. Shulamit was the M.C. and interviewed 7 participants about their sources of inspiration. Some also sang their poems and accompanied themselves by guitars. Amiel Schotz read some of his poems translated into Hebrew. Shulamit also read some of hers in Hebrew.

CONDOLNCES

Our sympathies go to Edit Gavriely on the sad passing on of her sister.

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 be sent as word attachments, typed using the font Ariel 11 and with the title in Ariel 12 and in bold.

Your name should appear at the bottom of each poem also in bold followed (not in bold) by your group or country for overseas membes.

Also to anyone sending me information re events, submission requests, congratulations etc. please type it up in the font, Times Roman 12

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

Thank you,
Avril

JUNE 2017 Group Poetry Selections

Jewels

Though life be troubled, oft times weary,
when feeling low and somewhat hopeless,
look upon the eyes of children, whence,
therein you'll find clear pure diamonds.

Their sparkle and value is far beyond,
money, riches and all wealth, rubies,
gold and sapphires bright, pale to nothing,
shall have no compare within your sight.

All that has a worth upon our earth,
neither fake nor imposter, yea untrue,
should beguile or entice the eye of you,
impress your soul, yet know not why.

Though bedecked in Jewels, crown and
sceptre, this doth not make a queen of any
kind, it is a heart of gold within a sovereign,
rules a realm with grace and peace of mind.

In life, loves great passion fire is brighter than
the brightest evening star, by day the star
can nay be viewed, or seen, the sun, a fiery
jewel, glows red as rubies at sunset, so serene.

Diamonds sparkle, yet are cold and hard, of all
the jewels so much desired, yet, where is the
soul within this carbon void, for there is none,
it doth not speak and thus, cannot be heard.

All the jewels that God creates are simply an
illusions of desire, if I may say, a distraction,
from the greatest beauty of them all, the moon
the sun and stars, our wondrous milky way.

What more we need or must aspire,
fool's gold is nothing more than just a liar,
a band of gold to your betrothed is all one need,
for life's happiness, therein you sow the seed.

David Fellerman, Netanya selection

Stepmother Steps

To be a stepmother is not like giving birth,
Or like getting a child by adoption.
A stepmother is not the only mother the child
knows.

A stepmother is someone who steps in
When his Real Mother is not around.
She lives with his father, and is there at his home,
Cooking, cleaning, shopping, laundrying;
Doing those motherly chores
so the household can function smoothly.

As time goes by, a relationship is built -
Day by day, year by year, one step at a time.
One step forward,
when she remembers to buy him the treats he likes;
Another step forward,
when she agrees that his friend can sleep over.
And two steps back
when she loses patience
and steps in to tell him how he should behave,
Instead of letting Dad do the discipline.

More time goes by,
and the relationship is strengthened -
She sees the quality of his character;
He comes to believe that she does care about him.
They step closer as they get to know each other.
They begin to appreciate each other,
with honesty, respect, and affection.

And then one day she understands that he needs
her
to step aside.

To be with him in his heart,
Though she cannot be with him in person.
So she gives him a card with a blessing.
And when he gives her a big hug,
She cries,
And the tears are tears of love.

Malka Marcia Kelter, Jerusalem selection

Words

Reflect but a fraction
Of what we perceive
And what we perceive
May not really be
Out there
In itself
It has persevered
The filter of our minds
And reality
Could well be
But an illusion as frail
As a cobweb
Shimmering on and off
In the sunlight
As the breeze sways it
Back and forth
To prey on the eye
Of but a few

Channah Moshe, Jerusalem selection

Sonnet Urge

My question is: are sonnets tired, worn,
passé at best? Too precious? Just plain old?
Or worse – some nouveau retro vogue? It sold!
It's hot! But they've got reach, the way a horn
comes swinging out. It seems you can be born
with echoes trapped within, with words unrolled
in tangles, flooding you. Will these things hold
the lines of sound, unbroken, or be torn?

They speak so plain. They're clearly meant to be.
A sonnet spills and rolls like thought that falls
in swelling waves, that rides the way you'd ski
along a harsh white hill. You hear? It drawls
a bit. I love its loose-limbed sway, so free.
Its dancing gait keeps striding, yet - it sprawls!

Susan Nordell, Tel Aviv selection

The Geometry Homework

From a distance she watches the child
bent over her geometry homework
drawing straight lines, measuring angles
attentively handling ruler, protractor

This is the best age, the mother thinks
the age of Thales and Pythagoras,
when you learn the immutable rules
of the one and for all created world

The half-open mouth of the child
glistens with sweat on the upper lip;
her hair - a tangle of copper wires -
crackles with the currents of thinking.

Then QED. A wave of fierce love and pride
swells inside the mother, mixed with anguish.
Do not believe all of it, she wants to warn.
It's not quite like this outside the book.

She says nothing. She passes her hand instead
over the child's hair, as dark-red and heavy
as hers at that age, and is singed with the fierce
anguished love of all the mothers before her.

Iris Dan, Haifa selection

Falling

Falling
A leaf whirls
Spins and swirls
Pinwheel twirls
Edges curled

Rocks and sways
Swings and plays
On windy days
Never stays

Put.

Miriam Davis, Haifa selection

Poems From Our Overseas Members

Jack and Jill

How long did it take you to get here?
Is it far? Jack should be here by now.
I'm worried about Jack, my husband.
My daughter keeps things from me;
tries not to worry me. I visited Jack
in the hospital. He sleeps too much
has to get up.

You talked to my daughter?
Is she coming today?
Maybe she'll take me to see Jack?
Take a plant. I'm not taking
all the plants when I go home.
Look at the leaves. What's that word?
Tangled. Right, like Jack and me.

People fight over food here: a piece of bread
a glass of water. You'd think these souls
would know how to behave. They're old enough.
See that woman opening my drawer?
Everyday she steals my candy.
There is not really a lock on my door.
What should I do?

A stroke of bad luck, Jack tumbling
down the stairs. I hoped Jack would be here
by now. Why did Jack rush?
All I heard was shoes. He needed shoes
like a hole in the head. In the hospital he was
All tied up, doesn't open his eyes.
I think we are going to lose him.

What's that called? When you dial a number
Lights flash and a big truck
comes to your home. Ah yes, 911
Someone's family is planning a funeral.
Hope it's not my family.
How long did it take you to get here?
Is it far? Don't cry. Jack's still with us.

Linda J. Goldberg, USA

Emigration

It felt
like there was a war going on
I ducked my head low
to avoid the shouts, whistles
bombs and bullets
there was a bang and blinding flash
and then I could not see
I crawled on my belly
crawled and crawled
my eyes tightly shut
til I seemed to enter
some kind of tunnel
I crawled on further
til the explosions and shouting
were only a vague rumble in the distance
then I lay there in the quiet.
panting, not moving,
my fingers stroking the earth beneath them
so glad to be safe
after what seemed like ages,
when my breathing had stilled,
I raised my head, it bumped
against something.
I tried to move my foot but it
struck some sort of barrier
I tried the other leg -
something held it fast
I dared to open my eyes a little
gradually my sight returned
and I was able to glance around.
I was in a suburban house
in a Sydney suburb
with a mortgage disappearing into the future
and stamped on my forehead

a sell by date
receding into the past.

Immanuel Suttner, Australia