

## Voices Newsletter September 2017

### SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES AND PLACES

#### HAIFA

Meeting of this month replaced by the Anthology Launch on Thursday, September 14th at 6pm. Details on page 3

**Coordinator:**

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

#### TEL AVIV

Monday, September 18th at 7.30 pm.  
AACI  
94 A Allenby Street,  
Tel Aviv

**Coordinator:**

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

#### JERUSALEM

Tuesday, September 12th at 6pm  
Please note change of address  
Avril Meallem's  
27 Metudela Street, apt 4  
Rehavia,  
Tel. 02 567 0998  
522 343 572

**Coordinator:**

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

#### UPPER GALILEE

No meetings in August or September.  
Next meeting 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](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com)

#### BET SHEMESH

No details available as yet for further meetings of this group

#### NETANYA & SHARON

Tuesday, September 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

Sunday, September 24th at 8.30pm.  
Kibbeutz Evron,  
Mitoch HaLev  
(side entrance of former  
Bseceit 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)

*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 AUGUST 2017

Dear All,

Chofesh Hagadol is over and it is not just the parents who sigh in relief but also some busy grandparents too. Anyway, it can be a great joy to watch the next generation grow up and certainly this can provide poetic inspiration.

Our 2017 Voices Israel Anthology has a number of poems to reflect this. The Haifa Voices group will be hosting the launch of the 43rd Voices Israel anthology at 6.00pm on Thursday 14 September at Bet Hecht (see separate notice). Thank you to everyone who has already indicated that they wish to attend. There is still time to register with me [olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com) .

Please do come whether you have a poem(s) published or not in this year's volume as we need readers for poets who cannot be present. It will be an enjoyable and social event with refreshments served. There is no charge. In addition, there will be an opportunity for poets who have volumes of their own poetry published and who wish to sell, to do so but the responsibility for sales and payment is their own.

If you have not yet received a copy of the 2017 Voices Anthology it may simply be a matter of unpaid membership. A recent review of membership payments and a subsequent contact drive was undertaken and many outstanding non-payments have now been made. However, if you have a problem please do not hesitate to contact the membership secretary Susan Rosenberg [susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com) or the treasurer Chanita Millman [millmann@zahav.net.il](mailto:millmann@zahav.net.il). We certainly want everyone who is entitled to have a copy of the anthology to receive it as soon as possible.

Many of our members and non-members have already submitted entries to the 28<sup>th</sup> Reuben Rose Competition using Submittables. It is possible to send up to six poems with payments accordingly. All of this is now done online but I wish to reassure our members that if they do not have computer facilities then Voices Israel has volunteers who will type up your poem from its handwritten form and help with the submission process. I am very grateful to those members who alert where help is needed and to those who undertake the practical tasks. The closing date for the Reuben Rose is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Please do have a look from time to time at the Voices Israel Facebook site. There is up to date information about group meetings and very often other interesting postings about events and publications. Currently there are 593 members in this virtual environment.

I know that in reality we shall not be as many as that on 14 September in Haifa but responses so far indicate a fine turnout, with no doubt, some more still to register. I look forward to seeing everyone who can attend and I am sure that apart from the readings, refreshments and social opportunities, we shall all enjoy a presentation by Chief Editor Dina Yehuda.

With very best wishes to you all  
Susan Olsburgh      President Voices Israel.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER**

- Ann Bar-Dov, Eshchar

## **Voices Israel 2017 Anthology Café Launch**

Voices Israel celebrates the launching of its 2017 Anthology with readings by the published poets and a presentation by the Chief Editor, Dina Yehuda. Hosted by the Haifa group, Thursday 14th September at 6 p.m. At Beth Hecht, 142 Sd. Hanassi (Central Carmel adjacent to the Cinemateque and Auditorium).

Free entry. All welcome.

Please inform Susan Olsburgh if you can attend and read your poems or if you are willing to read on behalf of poets who cannot attend. [Olsburgh.Susan@gmail.com](mailto:Olsburgh.Susan@gmail.com)

For travel directions or offers of refreshments, please contact: Wendy Blumfield: [Wendyb@netvision.net.il](mailto:Wendyb@netvision.net.il)

## **CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

### **The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Reuben Rose Poetry Competition**

**Closing date for submissions: October 1st 2017**

#### **Judges:**

**Overseas Judge – Rick Lupert, USA**

Rick Lupert has been involved in the Los Angeles poetry community since 1990. He is the recipient of the 2014 Beyond Baroque Distinguished Service Award for service to the Los Angeles poetry community. He served for two years as a co-director of the Valley Contemporary Poets, a non-profit literary organization, established in 1980, which produces readings and publications out of the San Fernando Valley. Rick created and maintains the Poetry Super Highway, an online resource and publication for poets. His poetry has appeared in numerous magazines and literary journals. He has published and edited 20 books of poetry including 8 free e-books, He also writes the Jewish poetry blog From The Lupertverse for the Los Angeles Jewish Journal.

**Ricky Rapoport Friesem of Israel**, last year's Reuben Rose first prize winner

**Joyce Schmidt of USA**, last year's Reuben Rose second prize winner

First prize is \$500, second prize is \$150, third prize is \$50. Ten honorable mentions are awarded.

Prize winners and all honorable mentions will be published in the Voices Israel 2017 poetry anthology.

Entries may deal with any topic.

- Focus need not be Jewish or Israeli.

- Challenging, humorous, and/or eccentric poetry is welcome, but typographical tricks are discouraged.

-Poems should be unpublished (in print and online).

-Maximum length is 41 lines, including stanza breaks but not including title.

Poems are judged without the poets' names. Please omit your names from files submitted.

Entry Fees:

US\$6.00 for one poem, US\$12 for 3 poems, US\$18 for 6 poems.

**Submission and payment via “Submittable”. Click the link to submit directly:**

<https://voicesisrael.submittable.com/submit>

**Full guidelines and submission details at <http://www.voicesisrael.com/reubenrosecompetition.htm>**

- **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](http://www.omnidawn.com/contest) submissions on: [www.omnidawn.com/submissions1](http://www.omnidawn.com/submissions1)

- **“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](http://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](mailto:comps@poetrykit.org) after an appropriate fee is paid by Pay Pal to the account of [info@poetrykit.org](mailto: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 Egidio 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!

Full details and submission guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.fundacioncesaregidioserrano.com/en/activities/short-tales-contest/5-edition/participation-form/lang/en-GB>

Please enter this code on the registration form: 41398

## CONGRATULATIONS

- to Patricia Har-Even on the publication of her first book of poems titled **“Queuing Up to Be Born”**

- to Helen Bar-Lev whose poem **“Atop the Terebinth Tree”** appears on:

<https://writinginawomansvoice.blogspot.co.il/>

- to Miriam Webber whose short story **“Three Tales of Two Tortoises”** has been accepted for publication in the coming issue of *Prosopisa*, an international journal of poetry and creative writing.

– to Ada Aharoni whose Historical Novel, **“From the Nile to the Jordan”**, was chosen as Bestseller on Amazon KDP - Kindle, in multiple categories. It can be ordered at Amazon KDP as an EBOOK, or as a Paperback.

– to Matthew Anish who has 3 poems in the current issue of the *Amulet* literary magazine.

### EVENTS

– Celia Merlin would like to invite everyone to an afternoon book launch for her book- **“Of This Too”** At Teatron Tmuna, 8 Soncino St. Tel Aviv - Friday, September 8th at 1.30pm. Participating poets include Karen Alkalay Gut, Shawn Edrei, Lois Michal Unger Freifeld, Elazar Larry Freifeld, and Michael Dickel. Music, including The Boosegumps Music Ensemble and others with Tomer Kling

–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 Verdinson Street, Gilo, Jerusalem

### CONDOLENCES

We were saddened to hear of the passing of veteran Haifa member Prof. Gil Herbert who was a regular contributor to the annual anthology. We offer condolences to his wife Valerie, daughter Margie and all the family.

### REQUESTS – from Avril, Voices Secretary

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.

**AUGUST 2017 Group Poetry Selections**

**Privacy**

Laundry on the line,  
Semaphore signals of my life  
For all the neighbors to see.  
My shower towel, big enough  
To enclose my nakedness  
Two pillow cases  
Though one still longs for  
The head that once lay on it  
My warm flannel nightie  
Tells them I don't like pajamas  
Hand towels advertise that pink  
Mauve and blue are my colors  
The double size sheet  
Reveals that I dream lonely on plain white  
Reaching for him under the patterned quilt cover  
That exposes my design preferences.  
My privacy flaps in the wind.

**Rumi Morkin**, Haifa Selection  
(pen name of Miriam Webber)

\*\*\*\*\*

**At the Beach**

My lovely young friend's birthday party.  
The couples with small kids enjoy the beach,  
the barbeque, light talk,  
the gracious young mothers  
move in the rhythm with music.  
The quick sunset pulls down the darkness.  
The fireflies of children run around.  
Relaxed and charged with sheer pleasure  
we are about to depart.  
And suddenly a horror pause. All freezes.  
Her boy of four is missing.  
She cries out.  
The sound I am trying to forget  
is of inhuman pain, the abyss of the end of life.  
In a few minutes the crying boy's retrieved.  
All's well.  
She lets me hold her as she shudders.

**Anna Krakovich**, Haifa selection

**Late Life Move**

life's caboodle purged  
insistent call of winter  
smell of wood rotting

tree's great trunk, hollowed  
with void embraced, tree yet stands  
husk's roots reaching deep

sap flows into pain  
soothing anguished memories  
fallen leaves vibrant

gorged boxes gutted  
stuffed files, goulash of selfdom  
proof of life. respite!

dear objects gifted,  
grafted onto other lives  
sun in refreshed air

shucked off accretions;  
grapple truck tucks in, spits out  
dumpster's maw agape

crab scoots on hot sand,  
house on back, tottering; nigh,  
plain, cool, white linen

**Judith Fineberg**, Netanya selection

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Foot of the Highlands**

Mountains behind mountains  
steep green slopes precipitious  
stone walls, grey-blue loch.

double vapour trails of a military jet  
bisect the sky.

pine trees  
a row of B & B's  
a stream rushing in a stony bed  
and the threat  
of clouds of midges,

at the foot of the highlands.

**Michael E. Stone**, Jerusalem

**Climbing the Kilimanjaro**

The first leg is the easiest  
The incline is slight  
And you can walk it  
Almost leisurely  
And that's pretty much  
How it was with you

Then the second leg is steeper  
the pace slower  
The woodlands  
Replaced by barren landscape

When the rocky surface  
Becomes ever more challenging  
The pace dictated  
By the lack of oxygen  
As you fought your way  
Out of childhood  
Imitating adults  
While rebuking them

Then in the pitch of night  
The last leg to the summit  
Slow, arduous  
Gasping for air  
The sunrise expanding  
Further than the eye could see  
Splashing orange hues  
On our small victory

With you  
We're not yet there  
But still we trudge on

**Channah Moshe**, Jerusalem selection

**Brighton, Massachusetts**

Now I realize it was no short walk  
for an old man, past the municipal  
victory garden to Cleveland Circle  
which was a real and grassy circle then.  
Did Uncle Saul trade stories and views there  
with the community of bench-sitters,  
or was he a mere shared presence like the  
grey-clad, uncommunicative pigeons?  
All winter, he would read. He left behind  
a bookcase full of Yiddish or Hebrew  
or both. Even when the copyright page  
bore the title in transliteration  
we had no inkling what the language was.  
We also found his hidden cigarettes.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**In That Silence**

deep inside me  
is a silence  
shinning like a light  
throughout my being,  
so still  
so pristine

vibrations of creation  
beyond dreams  
beyond knowing,  
yet in that silence  
my soul has a voice;  
words of wisdom  
thoughts of joy

no pain  
no complaining,  
just a pure  
infinite source of love

but do I ever stop and listen?

**Avril Meallem**, Jerusalem selection

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

**A Refutation of Nothingness**

'nothing' must be a paradox  
a contradiction in terminology  
an abortive physical concept  
or just another vicious rumour  
circulated by failed scientists  
or by literary anarchists;  
hard science has spoken often  
in the perpetual dialectic  
on content and composition  
and everything that *is*  
is of some other thing or things  
other than its pure self;  
that H and O in H<sub>2</sub>O  
that nurturing molecule  
melding its atoms, even they  
having individual and unique  
identities and complexities  
which defy true homogeneity  
and the sacrifice of self;  
even nothing contains air  
an invisible gaseous universe  
of chemical and physical specks  
unseen, but working to act or react  
always with compatible others;  
so, nothing is always something  
some mass of things  
if only a quantum of invisible space  
teeming with floating  
elements and substances  
and a microscopic population  
of, what?... early pre-organisms maybe  
from whence Darwinism grew?  
no thing on earth then or in universe  
is nothing...consisting of no *thing*  
not even the air we gulp  
which unswervingly fuels us  
and hopefully always will

**Don Mulcahy, Canada**

**Swing Low, Sweet Aloonka**

When I died  
I found myself  
in a no man's land  
brown and bare,  
festooned with litter,  
dried human turds  
and rusty razor wire.

In the distance  
the gates of heaven  
so near and yet so far.  
Too tired and heavy to move I lay  
looking up at the darkening sky  
when like the ramp of a *nagmash*  
the gates fell down  
and out stampeded the righteous  
of every faith and time.  
they hastened to me, unfurled a stretcher  
and gently lifted me up  
singing  
no one gets left behind

**Immanuel Suttner, Australia**

\**aloonka* – stretcher

\**nagmash* - armoured personnel carrier

**Consolation**

Flowers fade  
 as we walk near  
     a rapid river  
     The powers of  
 night  
     envelop our consciousness  
 Dreams are the playing  
 cards we use  
     to gamble with  
 Eyes fill with  
 tears  
 as we watch the ship of reality  
     leave for foreign shores  
 No, we will not have  
     an easy trip  
 but in the end  
     we'll take solace  
 in the fact that we lived  
     on the edge for a time  
     and do not regret it

**Matthew Anish, USA**

**A Beloved Man's Last Hour**

On the day before Purim  
 When folks wear masks and frolic,  
 Like a full moon that glows  
 Among glittering stars  
 Amidst wife and children  
 Lying on his bed  
 With half-closed eyes  
 And amidst thoughts  
 Of the expectations of a life  
 Now ending  
 Every moment I see  
 That beloved man my heart hurts  
 My mind hurts  
 And all his children  
 Pray to God for him,  
 His loved wife, Susan  
 By him, close as a shadow  
 Constantly murmuring  
 Of the fragrance  
 of his goodness  
 Clasped and kisses his face  
 Tells her sorrows to God

As midnight nears  
 The pair of blue eyes  
 Take a hue of darkness  
 Amidst the fires of soul  
 Riding in each heart  
 That beloved scholar  
 With his 91<sup>st</sup> year  
 With his memories  
 Takes leave of life  
 Like an emperor.

*A translation by the late Voices member, **Anna Ranasinghe** of Sri Lanka, of a poem written in Sinhalese by **Ranjith Maya Herath**, the caretaker of Susan Rosenberg's late husband. Susan had recently come across the poem among the many papers and memories she had kept.*