

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
Ramat Poleg, Netanya
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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 .

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 or the treasurer Chanita Millman 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 28th 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 1st 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

For travel directions or offers of refreshments, please contact: Wendy Blumfield: Wendyb@netvision.net.il

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the 28th 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 submissions on: 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

- **“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.

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 H₂O
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 91st 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.*