

Voices Newsletter February 2017

FEBRUARY MEETING DATES AND PLACES

HAIFA

Tuesday, February 14th
at 7.30pm.
Naomi Yallin's
8 Kikar David Street
Tel 04 822 9792

Coordinator:

Susan Rosenberg
Tel; 04 838 1218
050 933 3804
susanndick@gmail.com

TEL AVIV

Thursday, February 16th
at 7.30 pm.
AACI
94 A Allenby Street,
Tel Aviv v

Coordinator:

Mark Levinson
Tel; 09 955 5720
nosnivel@netvision.net.il

JERUSALEM

Thursday, February 16th
at 6 pm,
Toby Shuster's
5, Aza Street, Rehavia,
Jerusalem

Coordinator:

Ruth Fogelman
Tel; 02 628 7359
ruthfogelman@gmail.com

UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, February 15th
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

BET SHEMESH

No details available as yet
for further meetings of this
group

NETANYA & SHARON

Monday February 13th
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

Tuesday, February 21st,
at 8.15pm
at Mitoch Halev
(formerly Beit Edna)
Kibbutz Evron

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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Membership Coordinator

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Voices Members,

Just a few days ago the three winners and 10 honourable mentions of the 27th Reuben Rose Poetry Competition were informed of their success by the competition administrator Mark Levinson. Once again, the standard is very high and I have had the pleasure of writing to all the recipients to congratulate them and inform them about the presentation event. We have decided this year to wait until **Wednesday 3 May at 6.00pm** hoping to have fine weather and to allow any overseas award winners an opportunity to book and come and join in. The event will be held in Tel Aviv at Bet Daniel and fuller details will be circulated nearer the time. A special attraction to the format this year will be a poetry activity for everyone attending which will be devised by our popular member and poet Joanna Chen.

The presentation evening will be the real opportunity to offer fulsome thanks to Mark Levinson, our capable and experienced administrator, to our distinguished overseas judge Clem Cairns and to Johnmichael Simon and Helen Bar-Lev, who by virtue of being last year's first and second prizewinners served as judges this year, and to thank all those who participated by submitting poems.

Those Voices members who enjoy an Open Mike opportunity will have that after the AGM which is scheduled for **Thursday 30 March at 6.00pm** to be held in Tel Aviv (venue to be announced in next newsletter).

This has been a busy time scheduling Voices events. I am delighted that our long-awaited workshop to be held in Jerusalem will now be on **Sunday 19 February**. Please see separate announcement but note that registration should be made as soon as possible to Ruth Fogelman to secure a place at what is likely to be a popular event led by the very experienced presenter Dr Judy Belsky. Very sadly the Jerusalem Voices group has suffered grievous losses in these last few months and this workshop will pay tribute to Eva Pineas Emanuel z'l, Gretti Izak z'l and Haim Schneider z'l. A selection of their poems will be read and family members have been invited to be present. The workshop is being held at The Poetry Place on Emek Refaim in Jerusalem and I believe this is our first connection with this prestigious and convenient venue.

Here is another reminder that this is bargain time for renewing your annual Voices Israel membership fee at 100 shekels instead of 120 (after 1 April). Please send your cheque, payable to Voices Israel, to our treasurer Chanita Millman, 15 Shachar Street, Jerusalem 96263 as soon as possible.

Finally, a further reminder that you are warmly invited to submit your poems for consideration by the editorial team for inclusion in Vol 43 the 2017 Voices Israel anthology. As Chief Editor Dina Yehuda said last year, "It is your voice that counts."

With very best wishes for an enjoyable Tu B'Shvat and inspiration from all the budding nature around us.

Susan Olsburgh
President Voices Israel

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WELCOME TO OUR RETURNING MEMBER

Yocheved Zemel, Jerusalem

WORKSHOP

“**Loss and its Riches**” — a **Voices Workshop** with Judy Belsky will be held on Sunday February 19th at Poetry Place, 43a Emek Refaim, 1st floor, Jerusalem from 1.30 pm – 5.30pm.

There will also be a tribute to our long-time members of Voices and the Jerusalem group, Gretti Izak z"l, Eva Pineas-Emanuel z"l and Haim Schneider z"l, all who sadly passed away last year.

Cost; 60NS for non-members and 40NS for Voices members. Light refreshments included.

Please register with Ruth Fogelman; ruthfogelman@yahoo.com using the attached registration form. Please see the attached flier for fuller details of the workshop and how to arrive.

Ruth: 02 628 7359, or: 058 462 8735 (for 19 February only).

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

VOICES ISRAEL 2017 ANTHOLOGY (Volume 43) SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

Submissions are accepted from Voices members and non-members alike. There is no fee for submitting poems to the Anthology. **Submissions deadline is March 15th 2017.**

All submissions must be made **online** via “Submittable”. To submit your poems online please go to <http://www.voicesisrael.com/anthology.htm> and click the **Submit** button in the section ‘On Line Submissions’.

- Submit a maximum of 3 poems on any subject. Poems should not exceed 40 lines including stanza breaks but not including title. **Please note that poems should be submitted one by one via Submittable and not all 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

Poems will be sent to the editorial board, reviewed, selected, and notices sent out to contributors. The anthology will be printed by October 1st or earlier. Paid up members of Voices Israel will receive a copy of the anthology whether they are published or not, shipping fees included. Non-members may order copies for NIS50 (US\$ 25) each, shipping inclusive.

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CONGRATULATIONS

- to Michael Stone whose new book of my poems “Orange Light” has been published on Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01M2B6NXC/ref=nav_timeline_asin? encoding=UTF8&psc=1
- to Matthew Anish who had two poems published in the January issue of *Beyond Bree*.
- Pesach Rotem whose poem “To Phil Ochs” has been published in the Fall 2016 edition of *Ibbetson Street* and his poem, *The Stream of Consciousness*, was published in the Fall 2016 edition of *Natural Bridge*.
- to Rick Lupert, one of this year’s Reuben Rose judges, on being awarded the “13th Annual Ted Slade Award” for his work on the *Poetry Super Highway* website over the last 20 years.
- to Helen Bar-Lev for having 4 poems published, in Polish, in *Krytyka Literacka*.
The publisher, Tomasz Sobieraj, is and a partner of Voices. <https://issuu.com/krytykaliteracka>

MAZELTOV

- to Ruth Fogelman on the birth of a grandson, firstborn to Yoel & Polina Fogelman
- to Susan Rosenberg on the occasion of the Barmitzvah of a great grandson.

OBITUARY

Sue (Yaffa) Tourkin-Komet, z’l, sadly passed away at the beginning of January at the age of 69. Sue was a past Voices member and member of the Jerusalem group. She was both artist and poet and was born in USA , made Alyiah in 1968 and worked as a social worker in Jerusalem hospitals. Our sympathies go to her family.



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JANUARY 2016 Poetry Selections

Filth

The five-letter four-letter word
More insidious than its sister
Dirt
Something is dirty, you clean it
You wash it, you mop it, you sweep it
You are dirty – there's exculpation
In soap and water
But a filthy mind, a filthy mouth
A filthy home, a filthy habit
You are filthy
Said with sneering lips and
Squinting scorning eyes
Infiltrates, insinuates, permeates
Becoming blood stream
Wearing its owner
Dirty – a condition to be changed
Filthy – a parasitic resident

Feh! Dreck! It's filthy!
My grandmother scolded, as she
Gently emptied my five-year-old
Hand of its sidewalk-found treasure
Daintily hanky-patting it clean
Reiterating, like an incantation
Feh-dreck-it's-filthy

Then, it was a protection spell
It was a lesson
It was love

Donna Bechar, Netanya selection

Redundant

not so abrupt awakening
to the farce of democracy
infinite ignorance and stupidity
for me utter disappointment
and loss of hope

where's the crack that lets
the light in?

Edit Gavriely, Haifa selection

Skulking Nemesis

In my darkest depths
A man-eating monster
Prowls and scowls and howls
Leaps with slashing fangs
At my guts, throat, heart, brains.

I have wrestled with it
Driven it into a cold, dark cavern,
Blinded the monster
With a blazing torch;
Starved and buried it;

The monster is crushed,
But still slinks stealthily
Deep within.

Roy Runds, Tel Aviv selection

Tunes in My Head

When I arise in the morning,
there's always a melody that plays
inside my head. I don't choose it.
It chooses me. And sometimes
I hear it as I'm making breakfast,
or as I leave the house to walk to shul.

Whatever its source, there seems to be a repertoire —
the same songs come back, rarely the same
from day to day. Today it's this, another day that.
And since they often come with lyrics,
I try to understand the messages they send.
They seem like guideposts to the day ahead —

reminders, bits of advice, philosophical underpinnings.
This morning, for example, between
the kitchen and the dining room, I began
to hear a love song I've often fancied.
It suited the mood, it reinforced
our lovely passion, not forgotten yet.

The song, however, has flown away.

Reuven Goldfarb, Upper Galilee

Ecnomihyla rabborum

The Rabbs' fringe-limbed tree frog
is extinct as of October 2016
Although the last know one
nicknamed "toughie" proved
Shakespeare right
What's in a name?

It seems 13 other animals
have been declared extinct
in our super affluent 21st century
Only those who prey on toughies
noticed this change

Are there really fewer
rhinos, elephants and sharks?
Or as long as the traffic light turns green
and we can afford the supermarket deals
our little rut can keep on going
without us grumbling

Channah Moshe, Jerusalem

East and West

Dear Sandy Sue and Steve!
Do you like me believe

The East and West can meet
When they together eat?

The dish becomes One dish
Of bread and salt and fish

And when they use One plate
They know they have One fate!

Their hearts become One heart
United in One part

Like Mother Earth and Sky
And all the Planets try

That move around the Sun
To be an eternal One!

Nazih Kassis, West Galilee selection

Writing with Horse Sense

In a frenzy of phrases
It always amazes
That words can regroup in a queue
They obey marching orders
With capital sorters
And amazingly write something new

A rhyme schemer uses
And sometimes abuses
The power to force things to fit
First have something to say
But not too risqué
And communicate something with wit

A versification
Averse situation
A loathing to jot something ghastly
As a penning commander
Express with some candor
And carry on writing steadfastly

O facilitator
Composer, creator
To write is to groom an equine
No cavalier sightseer
Nay neighing from Shakespeare
Be wary of verse asinine

Phyllsie Gross, West Galilee selection

Jerusalem Menorah

(inspired by a painting of Yoram Raanan)

It burns,
Reaching upward,
Bearing the beauty of the Holy City
In gold, pink and red splendour.

Grander than its walls and chapels,
Towering above trees and walls,
Her rays of light fill the world,
Stretching to pure blue heavens,
Beaming on the stairway to the sky,
Lighting the earth.

Heart on fire
Spirit of devotion
Flame longing for connection
With the Almighty on high.

Yocheved Miriam Zemel, Jerusalem

Poems From Our Overseas Members

Poets Often Write About Walls

walls that divide so as to separate
and that subdivide
classifying and sub-classifying us
into increasingly confining pigeon-holes
that keep us from each other

yesterday I heard it once more
that spectral refrain
played on a wheezing harmonica
the resonating allure
of its Pied Piper magnetism
seducing again
as it did my childish musical imagination
when it passed through the wall
dividing our two houses;
a wall permeable to the muted messages
of poked fires
shrill cries of discord
bumps of kettle on hob
a radio too loud
the musical lament of a recluse

Freddie sat in his leatherette armchair
beside the fire
bent back made comfortable
by his mother's embroidered cushions
wiling away the workless hours
his unloved lips destined
to only ever embrace
the wood and tin of that instrument
moved across cracked lips by arachnidan fingers

and yesterday his presence surfaced again
his shyness, his sessile existence
his lament resonating still
in deep recesses of recall;
that man-child next door
a neighbour we knew, yet never knew
as that common wall
a virtual chasm, a moat, a Grand Canyon
separated our two families;
that Berlin Wall that was never to be breached

Don Mulcahy, Canada

Line of Eerie Night

I find myself between two realms journeyed
at the edge of the city, beyond the light.
To my right looms far, white, misted glow;
to my left, the autonomy of formless night.
On this line of dichotomy, alone, I venture
—feeling half found, yet nearly lost—
my night-soul tossed by disparate beckonings.
A dome of assurance seems that distant glow,
availing to an easy gaze:
the emanated city's heart,
mapped within night by its rising haze
of urban confirmation.
Yet, I feel greater drama on this in-between line
as I turn with a glance the other way
to stare hopelessly at the anti-glow
and marvel at that which I cannot see.
How eerie to drive through the strength of night
at the edge of the city, beyond the light...
to travel that line at such deep time
—half lost, half found—
between the reach of distant glow
and the enormous spell of amorphous looming.

Tom Mcfadden, USA