

Voices Newsletter March 2017

MARCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

HAIFA

Tuesday, March 14th
at 7:30 pm.
Wendy & David Blumfield's
19 Sd. Wingate
Mt. Camel
Tel.: 054 524 0412

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

TEL AVIV

Sunday, March 19th
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, March 23rd
at 6 pm,
Toby Shuster's
5, Aza Street, Rehavia,
Jerusalem

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

UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, March 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 March 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, March 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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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT MARCH 2017

Dear All

A great deal has happened in the Voices Israel world since my last newsletter.

First of all there were the much awaited Reuben Rose Poetry Competition results and the very welcome news that Ricky Friesem, a Voices member and Israeli resident, won with an outstanding poem “Director’s Notes.” Many congratulations to Ricky and to the second and third prize-winners Joyce G Schmid (USA) and Wendy Dickstein (Israel). Then there are the ten Honourable Mentions for poets from Israel, USA and UK. Interestingly, many of the poems are responses to the Shoah although this was in no way a themed entry. These poems are available on the Voices Israel website and will be published in a separate section of the 2017 Voices Israel Anthology

The prizewinning presentations will take place on **Wednesday 3 May at 6.00pm** at Beit Daniel in Tel Aviv. Please do put this date in your diary and note that in addition to readings from as many winners as possible we are also going to have a new format to the evening with an interactive presentation by Joanna Chen (More details to follow.)

Some of you may be wondering but what about the popular open mike session which has been a feature of the Reuben Rose evening for the last few years. I have no qualms in telling you that to lure you to the Voices AGM the open mike will now be part two of that evening. I am concerned that attendance is low at the AGM. We are a democratic organisation and groups should be well represented. If you have a resolution for the AGM please send it to the secretary very soon so that it can be circulated in advance. Once again Birgit Talmon will kindly host the event at her centrally located home in Tel Aviv. So please do put **Thursday 30 March 6.00pm** in your diary and join us then with a poem or maybe two to share.

Here we are in March with the closing date for submissions to the 43rd Voices Anthology coming very soon on 15 March. We have tremendous talent. Be sure to submit. Remember that poems published in the newsletter are eligible.

There was much evidence of our talent and vibrancy at the recent very well-attended workshop held in Jerusalem at the Poetry Place under the capable organisation of Ruth Fogelman. Tributes were paid to three recently deceased members Eva Pineas Emanuel, Haim Schneider and Gretti Izak. Eva's daughter, Edna, joined us and told us how much her late mother valued her association with Voices. Our secretary Avril had tastefully prepared a tribute booklet of poems which were read by Ruth, Avril and me.

Once again we were privileged to have Dr Judy Belsky as our capable workshop facilitator on the theme of “Loss and its Riches”. Judy encouragingly critiqued our draft poems and as a new American olah amongst us, Miriam Feigelman, commented “Judy has such an amazing knack of zeroing right in on warm lines, cool lines.” Please note that there are a good set of photos of the event on our Facebook page.

The workshop was an opportunity to pay annual membership fees to our treasurer Chanita Millman. Please remember that the reduced fee of 100 shekels is still valid until 1 April 2017.

I wish you all Purim Sameach and look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Susan Olsburgh, President Voices Israel

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Tirza Heidingsfeld, Jerusalem

Ruby Ray Karzen, Jerusalem

Kelter Malka, Jerusalem

and to returning members

Judy Belsky, Bet Shemesh

Judith Issroff, Maoz Zion

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

LAST CALL

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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Voices AGM

The AGM is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, 30th March 6.00pm** at the home of Birgit Talmon; 8 Huberman Street, apt 10, Tel Aviv.

We hope you will be able to join us for this important evening.

If you need help with directions then please call Birgit on 03 685 1177.

The evening will also include an ‘Open Mike’ time for members to read their poems.

If you have any suggestions that you would like to put forward then please send them to me, Avril Meallem, by March 23rd. Please also see the attached financial reports for your comments.

The Reuben Rose Award Ceremony

The award ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, 3rd May 6.00pm at Beit Daniel, 62 Bnai Dan Street in Tel Aviv not far from where Route 2, the coastal highway, crosses the Yarkon River.

(See <http://www.beit-daniel.org.il/en/merkazim/beit-daniel/> for map, phone number, e-mail, etc.)

Highlights, as usual, will include the reading of the winning poems, plus an interactive event with Joanna Chen. The evening is open to the public.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following **Reuben Rose 2016** winners:

- First prize: Ricky Friesem (Israel)
- Second Prize: Joyce Schmid (USA)
- Third prize: Wendy Dickstein (Israel)
- Honourable mentions:
- Bill Freedman (Israel)
- Chaim Bezalel (USA/Israel)
- David Walders (USA)
- Elisabeth Murawski (USA)
- Ellaraine Lockie (USA)
- Grace Curtis (USA)
- Jed Myers (USA)
- Joan Michelson (England)
- Judith Robinson (USA)
- Orit Perlman (Israel)



– to Ruth Fogelman, Hayim Abramson and Avril Meallem who had poems published in *Amaravati Poetry Prism 2016 International Multilingual Poetry Anthology* (India).

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- to Matthew Anish who has had poems appearing in 4 editions of the *New York Times*.
- to Pesach Rotem whose poem "The Pineapple" has been published in the Winter 2016 issue of *Chiron Review*
- to Judith Fineberg whose poem "Light" has been posted on the *Flickr pool* media site for the James Webb Space Telescope <https://www.flickr.com/groups/jwstinspired/pool/with/32467085786/>
- to Linda Goldberg whose story, "A Bumpy Way Back, but Home at Last", was published in *Chabad.org*

WORKSHOP REPORT by Avril Meallem

An inspirational workshop was held on March 19th at 'The Poetry Place' in Jerusalem successfully blending tribute and creative aspects.

The attendees included both Voices members and friends who came not only from Jerusalem, but from places further afield such as Nazareth Illit, Netanya, Gush Etzion, and Bet El. We were especially happy to have Susan Olsburg, our Voices President, with us.

The workshop was dedicated to the memory of our dear, departed Jerusalem members who all left this world last year : Eve Pineas Emanuel, Gretti Izak and Haim Schneider.

Ruth Fogelman presented short bios of their lives and a selection of their poems was recited by Ruth, Susan and myself.

Eva's daughter Edna, who was invited to join us, then gave us a deeper insight into her mother's strength of character that also showed up in her poetry writing.

Following on from this, Judy Belsky, our workshop presenter, gave her thoughts on loss and grieving and some very insightful tips on poetry writing such as -

"Not writing about loss is itself a loss."

"Imagery brings poetry off the page."

"Go into the heart and body of the child - the child is eternal."

"You have to pay a dollar for every word you write." encouraging us to use the minimum of words that can still get our point across, suggesting that we delete all extraneous words as we edit the first draft but not worrying about it as we allow our words to just flow on the initial write.

Judy gave us a writing exercise before and after the break and several members read out their work and received some very constructive critique from Judy that was also instructional for all of us.

A very special thanks goes to Ruth Fogelman for having so ably, organised the workshop.

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FEBRUARY 2016 Poetry Selections

Winter Salad

What do I love most about the glorious light of Israeli days in late winter?
The sudden shadows that appear on grass, as if each morning is underlined with its dark side and appears the more desirable and exquisite for the possibility of an ending, a final closure which is sung out loud in white hot defiance of death, salt and sweet, like a poignant salad, radiant and relished with pepper and honey, with pomegranate, olive oil and mild sweet cheese appetite without surfeit, piquant and restrained, swallowing the sun with greater and more welcome heat for coming at the end of a bitter season.

Patricia Har-Even, Upper Galilee

Prism of Light

A stained glass window to his widow, apt
As a perfect tribute (tax-free from VAT),
In Main Hall the widow's window endowed
With its aura made the widower proud.

One bright morning, a large Congregation,
People posing, nervously networking,
Mischievous Spirit saw a chance of farce,
Shone through those gaily coloured panes of glass,

On one white-haired vain don, a man of fame
Speaking, overlong, beneath your window frame,
Prismatic light, multi-hued beaming there
Created a clown's wig atop his hair,

Delighting a refined but scoffing crowd
And you, court jester, in a motley shroud.

Susan Olsburgh, Netanya and Sharon selection

Perfume

I walked him slowly to the car
And sat him in the seat,
I put his legs in, one by one
And checked his hands and feet.

With empty glazed Alzheimer eyes
In that once gifted head,
He stared out as I closed the door,
His words all left unsaid.

We drove up to the dentist
And I helped him up the stair,
I walked him in and guided him
To sit down on a chair.

His placid vacant look was aimed
At all that he could see:
The chairs and floor in front of him,
But never once at me.

I took a glossy magazine
And sat there leafing through,
It held no interest for me:
The fashion world – who's who,

Until – a large advertisement
For perfume caught my eye:
The sexy label "LONGING" made me
Feel about to cry...

A young girl on a flight of steps,
With autumn leaves, September...
The caption at the top invited:
MAKE A MAN REMEMBER

I turned and sadly looked at him,
And thought, as in a dream -
Of how much perfume I would need,
To bring forth just a gleam...

How much of it I'd need to wear
To bring him back to life –
Oh, how much, to remember that
I'm Miriam – your wife!

Rumi Morkin (Miriam Webber), Haifa selection

Winnipeg — the naming of a place

Bring your fur-lined anorak
 Snow boots thermal underwear
 Worst snowfalls for centuries
 Forecast has it
 Minus 47C at worst
 Cold sort of place
 You can tell by the name
 Second sunniest in Canada
 Who'd believe it
 Winnipeg shuns sunny names
 Spurns PR folks who build warm images
 You can't suppress arctic weather
 Word gets out
 But Winnipeg
 Muddy water in the Cree tongue
 You could do better

Nicholas Dunne-Lynch, Tel Aviv selection

I Would Take a Boat

I would take a boat out of the bay
 far away to catch the evening breeze
 beyond the raucous gulls' cries
 I would match their smooth gliding dives
 or bond my thoughts fraught with fears
 with their golden pinions unbound winged laws
 as if purveying the tranquility I sought.

Afloat out there I could tip the sails
 into the changing wind catch
 the lilting light of evening sun
 on the moving waters ...
 into the turning tide
 I would ride the waves
 to re-touch the sands
 with salty hands
 I would bury my dread
 under the pebbles
 Reshaped.

Ruth Stern, Jerusalem selection

Awareness

*(Inspired by Prof. Mike Liebler's presentation
 at the Netanya workshop, May 2014)*

perhaps this would be the true change
 to understand that we are all the same
 the tree can heal you as effectively
 as your physician; the dog
 can teach you things as valuable
 as can your professor, your confessor
 your guru; there are moments
 when you are able to see this

and perhaps that it is not about love
 only about this infinite care
 this awareness that everything
 is as feeling, as hurting as you are

the towel that you now fold
 delighting in its fresh softness
 is like the Turin shroud –
 bearing the imprint
 of the soul of the weaver

of the soul of the cotton
 from which it is made
 of the souls of the fish
 poisoned by the suds
 of the washing machine

Iris Dan, Haifa selection

Good Turn

It's Sabbath. I try to keep the noise down so as not to disturb observant folks round my neighborhood. Instead of a hammer I use a crowbar to loosen planks I've found attached to a plywood sheet. I need them to make a bed frame. Still, I make some sounds when suddenly a black-hat fellow comes and stares at me with an intent look. I think he's scolding me for work this day when he asks why I don't use my hammer to un-nail the planks with a few blows. At once he lifts the tool, hits the board, and bangs cacophony that all can hear, leaving me puzzled as he breaks the peace in Sabbath attire. He offers yet to help me carry home the planks, asks if I might make chairs as well as build a bed frame, says his wife and he are in need of them. I tell him carpentry is just a hobby for my retirement. He says he too is retired and has a pastime: errands for his rabbi. I see some seatless chairs beside a dumpster, say I'll mend them for him for his help and bid goodbye beside my storage room. Since then I've fixed the chairs, given them and come to understand an awkward balance.

Eli Ben-Joseph, West Galilee selection

Out of the Nest

Oh! We
creating wonders from
the DNA of all living beings
yet we, on two legs
think and develop machines
take us beyond the imagination of all other life
beyond the limits of our earthly births,
yet we, the human mother and father-
beyond what nature has ordained

teach our young
yet must know
when to release them to themselves
to cast them away from ourselves

and
let them

be.

Ezra Ben-Meir, West Galilee selection

Beyond Words

Tears flow when I remember the love I felt
as I watched over your frail body.
You lay so still, so helpless,
yet our souls touched in a place of great beauty,
a place beyond pain and despair.

I knew you were not coming back to us,
it was only a matter of time,
but time stood still
as I stroked your shrunken frame.

I felt such a yearning
to embrace you with my whole being,
to absorb your wisdom
that I had never acknowledged,
to cherish your life
lived only with your family in mind.

Mum, I have always loved you
but the love that I felt during those last days
went beyond time and space,
beyond words and mortal expression.

An eternal love of two souls...

Avril Meallem, Jerusalem selection

Poems From Our Overseas Members

Don't Tell Me If You Don't Like It

It's new
when I wear it I feel as if my life
is in order
I'm important.

This year I carry one on my shoulder
imagine the thoughts behind the looks
she feels great, has many friends
has special children: makes a difference.

The look the feel the smell of the leather
the shape: a triangle, a tote, a cross body.
The color changes
as the color of my hair.

Each year I add to my collection
the black one with the large silver clasp
When my husband had his heart operation
the multi colored one when I turned sixty.

My mom loved the colors of my
new bag, it sparkled.
The best one she'd ever seen
A lilac wishy-washy bag

Enough room for everything
showed I had confidence.
A bag it is my statement
I am not a copy.

I am still alive. My style defines
who I am or who I'd like to
become.
It distracts me.

Is the clasp open or closed?
Wallet, make up, handkerchief
It's what's inside
that counts.

I'd dance but my feet hurt.

Linda Goldberg, U.S.A.

Dear Diary:

Another sunny day here on the Lower East Side
Walked over to the OST Cafe
Ordered a Jade Cloud green tea and a
blueberry muffin
The credit card machine wasn't working
So my repast was "on the house"
I dropped a single into the tip box
Walked over to the 99-cent store and
bought twelve pens to write poetry with
Then headed over to the barber shop
It is an Orthodox place
and as I walked in
A man with a flowing white beard handed me
a Lubavitcher leaflet
He soon said "Shabbat Shalom" to
the owner and left the shop
I said "just a shave"
and the barber shaved me
and a straight-edge razor using hot towels
and alcohol spray
He gave me a really smooth shave!
He complimented me
on the Star of David around my neck
Walked home and switched on
my TV to "Little House on the Prairie"
Another sunny day here on the Lower East Side

Matthew Anish, USA