



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Website address: www.voicesisrael.com

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

President

Judy Koren
Mobile: 054-741-7860
president.voices@gmail.com

Secretary

Pesach Rotem
Mobile: 052-510-4720
secretary.voices@gmail.com

Treasurer

Chanita Millman
Tel: 02-653-6770
millmanm@inter.net.il

Membership Coordinator

Yochanan Zaquantov
Mobile: 053-708-9140
zaquantov@gmail.com

Workshop Coordinator

Elana Dorfman
Mobile: 054-668-6513
elanado@gmail.com

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April 5-12

Independence Day



April 25-26



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

March started with Purim; April is mainly about Passover, and between those two holy and joyful festivals we've all been witnessing and perhaps experiencing the unholy and joyless turmoil that our country has been going through. Hopefully there will be quieter times ahead. Our monthly Voices Israel meetings are, I feel, a brief refuge from all the political storms, where we concentrate for a few short hours on the needs of the spirit.

But even a poetry society has bureaucratic duties, and ours are centered on the Annual General Meeting, which we held on March 20th. Jeannie Harrison with great regret was in the end unable to host us, and we're all very grateful to our long-term member Donna Bechar who picked up the gauntlet and opened her home to us. Thank you, Donna! A few of our members also were unable at the last minute to come, and we ended up with 12 attendees, approximately the same number as last year. The meeting finished, as usual, with an Open Mic. We all very much enjoyed being able to meet face to face, and hope to see more people next year.

At the AGM Wendy Blumfield "retired" as Publicity Officer after a long tenure. We were very sorry to say goodbye to her. We awarded her, as a way of saying Thank You, a small honorarium in the form of a Steimatsky gift card. We hope she'll now have the time to read all the books she can buy with it!

We have no volunteer to replace her, and so **as of now, we have no Publicity Officer**. Wendy has a contacts list of organizations to send notices to: of submission dates for the Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose competitions and of the Anthology, the publication of the Anthology, and so on. It isn't a lot of work: just sending out a few emails. Please if you can help, contact Wendy at Blumfieldwendy@gmail.com.

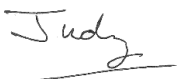
During March our judges of the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize have been busy judging, and we recently announced the winners. This year there were many more entrants than last, thanks to the great efforts of Michele Bustin, the Prize's administrator, to "spread the word" among teachers. Thanks you Michele!

As already announced, the date for the joint Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose awards event, held by Zoom, has been fixed for **Sunday, April 30th, at 7 pm Israel time** (5 pm UK time, 12 noon US East Coast, 9 am US Pacific) and we hope to "see" there as many of our members, from Israel and abroad, as possible. The formal announcement of the event has been sent to all members and is in this Newsletter.

Finally, the Anthology judges are also busy judging the poems for this year's Anthology, whose submission period closed in mid-March.

Looking forward, our Workshop Coordinator, Elana Dorfman, is planning a workshop on editing, to be held in May. Stay tuned! And she's always happy to hear of ideas for new workshops. If you have any suggestions, just get in touch with Elana at elanado@gmail.com.

With best wishes for a happy Passover,



Judy Koren,
President, Voices Israel

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

APRIL 2023

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

SOUTHERN NO MEETING IN APRIL Next Meeting: Meeting via Zoom Thursday, May 11 at 17:00 – 19:00 Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-738-8640 miriamsgreen@gmail.com	TEL AVIV Meeting via Zoom Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 PM Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il	JERUSALEM Meeting via Zoom Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 PM Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 aemeallem@gmail.com	WESTERN GALILEE No meetings scheduled. Contact Phyllsie for details. Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Mobile: 052-874-6880 phyllsie@hotmail.com
HAIFA Wednesday, April 19 at 19:00 at the home of Judy Koren Contact Debbie Golden for details Coordinator: Debbie Golden Mobile: 054-580-6209 deborahg@edu.haifa.ac.il	NETANYA/SHARON Monday, 1 May at 7:00 p.m. at Susan Olsburgh's home 2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575 olsburgh.susan@gmail.com	UPPER GALILEE Wednesday, April 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the home of Reuven and Yehudit. 128 Keren HaYesod Artists Quarter, Tzfat Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 poetsprogress@gmail.com	GLOBAL GROUP Meeting via Personal Zoom Thursday, April 20 at 19:00 Israel time Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: 052-808-9365 Y2nosh@netvision.net.il

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Voices Israel is pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new members:

- **Laura Aronson**, Haifa, Israel
- **Peter Halpern**, London, Ontario, Canada

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

To – all the **winners and honorable mentions of the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize**.
Their names are listed on page 6 of this newsletter.

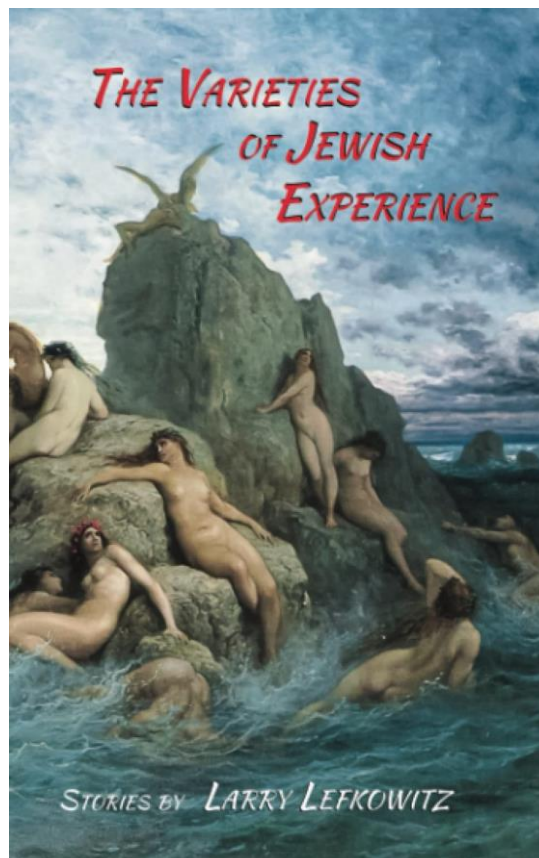
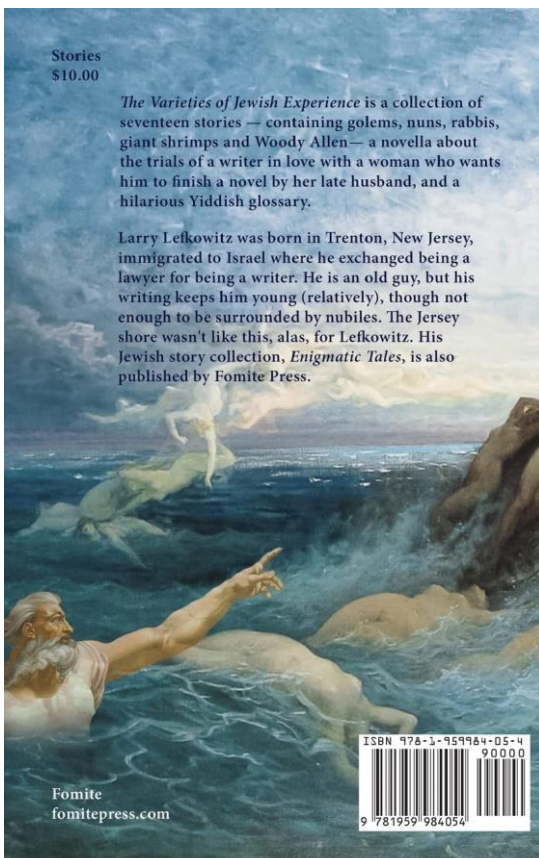
To – all the **winners and honorable mentions of the Reuben Rose Competition**.
Their names are listed on page 6 of this newsletter.

To – **Isaac Cohen**, whose poem “Mother Earth” was featured in the 2023 Woman Scream Festival.
Isaac recites the poem at <https://youtu.be/7Fc22XIFYP0>; the text is published at <https://enheduana.wixsite.com/enheduana/en/post/isaac-cohen-a-poem-mother-earth-for-the-woman-scream-festival>.

To – **Larry Lefkowitz**, on the publication by Fomite Press of his book *The Varieties of Jewish Experience* containing stories, a novella, and a humorous Yiddish glossary. www.amazon.com/Varieties-Jewish-Experience-Larry-Lefkowitz/dp/1959984055/

To – **Channah Moshe**, whose poem “Even Though” was accepted for publication in *arc-30*.

To – **Diane Ray**, whose poem “We were ovals of a dream, Judean seeds” was published in *Poetica Magazine* at www.poeticamagazine.com/diane-ray



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

THE VOICES ISRAEL 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2023 Voices Israel Annual General Meeting was held in person in Tel Aviv on March 20 with twelve members present. Graciously hosted by Donna Bechar and deftly chaired by Judy Koren, the program featured informative reports on all of Voices' activities and accomplishments during the year 2022, accompanied by scrumptious pot-luck refreshments and followed by an open-mic poetry reading.



Photos by Donna Bechar

JOHN DICKS MEMORIAL ON 18 APRIL

John Dicks was one of the founding members of Voices Israel. (See the tribute to John Dicks in the May 2022 Newsletter.) John's daughter Katherine would like you to know that a memorial for John Dicks ל"ר will be held on 18 April at 13:00 in the Motzkin section of the Tel Regev cemetery.

A SPECIAL OFFER FROM JOHNMICHAEL SIMON

Johnmichael Simon is offering his chapbook design services to Voices Israel members and friends. If you would like to possess a beautifully presented and published collection of your own favorite poems, please contact Johnmichael for details of this special offer at johnmichaelsimon@gmail.com.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

4th Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize and 33rd Reuben Rose Competition Awards Event, Sunday April 30th, 2023, 7:00 pm Israel time – via Zoom

International equivalents: 5:00 pm (UK time);
12:00 noon (US Eastern time); 9:00 am (US Pacific time)

To get the Zoom link, you must register with Judy Koren
at president.voices@gmail.com no later than Sunday April 23

Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize

Judges: Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield, and Amiel Schotz, Israel.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

Comments by Professor Anthony Joseph, Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize sponsor

Comments by Michele Bustin, administrator

Readings of the Winning Poems, by the poets and/or proxy readers

First prize – Reuth Katz, age 14: *The Little Things*

Second prize – Shilo Aloni, age 18: *City Lights*

Joint Third prize – Amit Shaham, age 15: *Feathers*; and Or Gordin, age 17: *Glass Skin*

Honorable Mentions – Marta Zorin, age 15; Yarden Or, age 18; Eyal Bechor, age 16; Reut Widawsky, age 13

Reuben Rose Competition

Judges: Yiskah Rosenfeld, USA; Reuven Goldfarb, Israel; and Yehoshua November, USA – this year's Overseas Judge.

Introduction and Welcome by Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel

Comments by Mark L. Levinson, Reuben Rose administrator

Comments by Yehoshua November and other attending judges of the competition

Readings of the Winning Poems, by the poets and/or proxy readers

First prize – Iris Dan, Israel: *The Fear of Slipping Through Letters*

Second prize – David Silverman, USA: *The Prophet Elijah – Possibly – on 9th Avenue, Orders a Ham & Cheese Sandwich (Easy Mayo)*

Third prize – Judy Koren, Israel: *How to Write a Middle Eastern Symphony.*

Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order of poet's surname)

Roy "Robin" Bass, USA: *How To Break (A Container)*

Simon Constam, Canada: *Jacob Wrestles the Angel*

Alan Elyshevitz, USA: *Our Saturdays*

Gabriel Emanuel, Israel: *Einstein's Brain*

Solly Kaplinski, Israel: *Until 120*

Rochelle S. Kochin, Israel: *The Wedding Canopy*

Esther B. Lipton, UK: *Kol Nidrei Night Encounter*

Celia Merlin, Israel: *Pears*

Jo-Ann Mort, USA: *In Lviv*

Pamela Wax, USA: *1HLY 48*

Open Mic – if time allows.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

SITUATION VACANT – VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

PUBLICITY OFFICER REQUIRED FOR LEADING ENGLISH POETRY PROMOTION ORGANISATION IN ISRAEL.

Job description:

Sending short press releases of upcoming events or ongoing achievements to the English language media and English language immigrant associations

(full contact list will be provided)

Weekly posting of upcoming events on Facebook.

Sending review copies of annual anthology to English-language publications.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED - contact lists and advice will be provided and any new ideas or outlets welcomed.

NO SALARY OFFERED - we are looking for a Voices member who appreciates the support they have received from the organisation and is prepared to put back a few hours.

Contact Judy Koren: 054-7417860 or Wendy Blumfield: 054-5240412

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Consequence Forum <https://consequence.submittable.com/submit> .

Print journal + website. All submissions need to address in some manner the human consequences and realities of war or geopolitical violence. Deadline: April 15. (Next submission period: July 15 through Oct 15). Pays \$20 per poem for print journal, \$40/poem for online. Submit 3 poems, any form.

Cerasus Magazine

<https://cerasusmagazine.com/submissions/> for full guidelines. Submit via attached Word doc to cerasusmag@gmail.com.

Deadlines: 15th March, June, Sept and Dec for publication in April, July, Oct and Jan respectively. Any length poem, any number of poems or “a short themed collection”. Acknowledge submissions quickly, make final decisions quarterly after deadline.

Frontier Poetry

<https://www.frontierpoetry.com/submit/> ; see also <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/faq/>

Continuous submission; pays \$50 per poem. Accepts from poets with no more than one full-length work commercially published or forthcoming at the time of submission. Self-published works, works published only on social media and sites like Amazon, and published works with a print circulation of LESS than 500 copies, **are accepted**. Also runs several contests. Accepts simultaneous submissions. Replies within 8 to 12 weeks. Send up to 5 poems **via Submittable only** and **follow their guidelines**.

Innisfree Poetry Journal

<https://www.innisfreepoetry.org/submissions/>

Submit by email year-round. Want “well-crafted poems, in free verse or in traditional forms”. They like “musicality”, and telling images.

Deadlines: July 31 for fall issue. One submission per issue. Submit a 3rd person bio and up to 5 poems in one Word document, attached to an email addressed to editor@innisfreepoetry.org. Accept simultaneous submissions.

MsLexia

<https://mslexia.co.uk/submit-your-work/poetry/>

UK, very well respected. Themed. Submit online via the above link, up to 4 poems of max 40 lines each on any one theme. Theme (for issue 99): “Poison: toxic substances and the damage they can cause”. Deadline June 5. Theme for issue 98: Air; Deadline April 10.

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Nimrod

<https://artsandsciences.utulsa.edu/nimrod/> ; <https://nimrodjournal.submittable.com/submit>

Biannual (spring and fall). Published by the Univ of Tulsa. Several contests. Spring issue tends to be dedicated to writers from one geographical region or country. Focuses on new writers.

Poetry Magazine

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/submit>

To submit: <https://poetry.submittable.com/submit> - up to 4 poems (max 10 pp) in a single doc.

A very old and respected US literary journal; pay at least \$300 per poem (\$10/line with \$300 minimum). Get 150,000 poems/year; respond within 8 months; allows simultaneous submissions; no previous publication including online or social media.

The Aurora Journal

<https://www.theaurorajournal.org/submit>

Founded 2020. Publishes "surreal, ethereal and dreamy" poetry and prose. Pays \$12 per piece.

Deadline for Spring 2023 volume: April 21. Send up to 5 poems (no length limit) by email to theaurorajournal@gmail.com.

Accepts simultaneous submissions;.

The Deadlands

<https://thedeadlands.com/guidelines/>

Mainly looking for works that explore death, dying, grief, loss, Death personified, the afterlife/the underworld, etc. "The sublime is as much a part of The Deadlands as the uncanny. We welcome both formal and experimental poetry."

The Heartland Review

<https://www.theheartlandreview.com/the-heartland-review>

Deadline for Fall 2023 issue: May 1. *Only read the first 100 poems submitted per month so submit early in month!* Any length or style including esp. traditional forms. Submit (via Submittable only, in one Word file with NO identifying information) only one entry per reading period. See detailed guidelines esp. re. cover letter and required filename format. Payment is a copy of the print journal.

The Threepenny Review

<https://www.threepennyreview.com/submissions/> **read before submitting!**

Submission form at: https://www.threepennyreview.com/online_submissions/

Established quarterly US literary journal; pays very well (\$200 per poem) but very low acceptance rates. Submit up to 5 poems of 100 lines or less, in one document, *via their own submission form*. Include name and address in that document AND in the submission form.

Deadline: April 30th. Response time: up to 2 months. They respond to all, so if no response received after 2 months, query. NO simultaneous submissions or previously published material.

THEMA

<http://theliterarysociety.com/submissions.html> ; submit by email to thema@cox.net .

guidelines at <http://theliterarysociety.com/PDF/GUIDELINES.pdf>

A US themed journal. Currently accepting short stories and poems on the following themes:

The Magic of Light and Shadow (by July 1st); The Missing Piece of the Puzzle (by November 1)

Previously published accepted. Pays \$10 per poem.

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