

Voices Newsletter January 2018

JANUARY MEETING DATES AND PLACES

HAIFA

Tuesday, January 30th
at 7.30 pm.
Wendy Blumfield's
19 Wingate, Haifa.
Tel: 04-8376820
0545-240412

Coordinator:

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

TEL AVIV

Monday, January 22nd
at 7.30 pm.
AACI
94 A Allenby Street,
Tel Aviv

Coordinator:

Mark Levinson
Tel; 054-444-8438
nosnivel@netvision.net.il

JERUSALEM

Tuesday, January 16th
at 6pm
Rehov Aza 5/3

Coordinator:

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

UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, January 24th
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 / MODIIN

Wednesday, January 3rd
at 8.00pm
Judy Belsky's Nahar
Hayarden 120/4 Floor 2
Bet Shemesh

Coordinator:

Dr Judy Belsky
drjudybelsky@gmail.com

NETANYA & SHARON

Monday, January 22nd
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, January 21st
at 8.30pm.
Kibbeutz Evron,
Mitoch HaLev
(formerly Beit 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

ASHKELON

Please contact
Chaim for more details

Coordinator:

Chaim Bezalel
bezalel.levy@gmail.com

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2/6 Zalman Shazar
Ramat Poleg, Netanya
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Haifa 33852
Tel: 04 838 1218
susanndick@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT JANUARY 2018

Dear members

In December, thirteen people were the happy recipients of an email from Reuben Rose poetry competition administrator Mark Levinson telling them they had been awarded either one of the first three prizes or ten Honourable Mentions in the 27th Annual Reuben Rose Competition. The fruits of the hard work of the overseas judge Rick Lupert, plus Ricky Friesem and Joyce Schmid, last year's winner and runner up, are now available to the winning poets and a wide readership. It is very good to see a number of our own members, both in Israel and overseas, represented. Do treat yourself to some time to read these excellent poems at: <http://www.voicesisrael.com/winning-poems-2017> . Warmest congratulations to the worthy winners

What presentation ceremony will there be for the 2017 Awards? It would be wonderful to have Rick Lupert with us here in Israel but at the moment this is not definite. We are planning to combine the presentation with the biennial residential poetry by the sea conference in Netanya in early May. Further updates will follow as soon as details are clarified.

A definite date for everyone's diary is the Voices AGM at Birgit Talmon's in Tel Aviv on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 18.00pm (address details to follow nearer the time).

In 2017 there were a number of Voices workshops and events throughout the country from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, Haifa to Rehovot. Any offers from groups willing to host and organise a workshop for the coming year would be very welcome.

Submissions to Volume 44 Voices Israel are now open until 15 March 2018. The judges are ready and all submissions should be made using Submittables. If you are unable to use the Submittables scheme, please do contact me if you need the skilled help of one of our volunteers.

I am delighted to report that in December we were very fortunate to have a most successful Voices workshop in Rehovot at the lovely home of Ricky Friesem. She hosted and facilitated a workshop based on writing fourteen word sonnets. This was a new format for some. Chaired ably by Nicholas Dunne Lynch, sixteen participants enjoyed not just the company and surroundings, the refreshments and social aspects but were able to prepare several examples of this new versatile format. (Please see separate report under 'Events' section.

In another positive aspect Aviva Ophir kindly offered to collate exemplars of our work. After much assiduous preparation an online chapbook is now ready. Johnmichael Simon, our ever-willing webmaster, has made this available to readers of this newsletter on our website <http://www.voicesisrael.com/sonnet-workshop-dec-2017> Warmest thanks to Aviva for her tremendous efforts in bringing this new endeavour to fruition in time for this newsletter.

Wendy Blumfield continues to make regular postings about our activities. Unfortunately the Jerusalem Post has dropped its Metro section so do look out for Wendy's updates on Facebook. Our newest groups, Bet Shemesh and Ashkelon, are developing their membership and if you know of anyone in those areas who might wish to join please ask them to contact Dr Judy Belsky drjudybelsky@gmail.com and Chaim Bezalel at bezalel.levy@gmail.com

Our very able secretary and producer of the monthly newsletter and Poet's Voice, Avril Meallem, works so hard to record all our activities. It is heart-warming to see Voices members flying the flag of our organisation in such a range of places worldwide. Well done to all.

I wish everyone good wishes for the secular New Year 2018 and hope it will be one of continuing success for our organisation and its members,

Very sincerely, Susan Olsburgh, President Voices Israel

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2018

Voices Israel annual membership fees are now due. The fee includes a copy of the 2018 Voices anthology posted to your home address.

For members in Israel: 120 shekels with an early bird offer of 100 shekels if paid before 1 April 2018.

For overseas members; \$40 with a similar early bird offer of \$35 (or the equivalent in your currency)

Checks should be sent by post to our treasurer, Chanita Milman. 15 Shachar St. Jerusalem 96263

Tel: 02 653 6770 email: millmanm@zahav.net.il

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

– Chaim & Yonah Bezael , Ashkelon

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

–VOICES ISRAEL 2018 ANTHOLOGY – REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS Submissions to Vol.44 are accepted from Voices members and non-members alike. There is no fee for submitting poems to the Anthology. Paid up members of Voices Israel will receive a copy of the anthology once it comes out, whether they are published or not, shipping fees included. Non-members may order copies for NIS50 (US\$ 25) each shipping inclusive.

GUIDELINES: Submissions for the Anthology are accepted from December 15th 2017 to March 15th 2018. Poems will then be sent to the editorial board, reviewed, selected, and notices sent out to contributors. The anthology will be printed by October 1st or earlier and distributed to paid-up Voices Israel members and others who have ordered and paid for copies. Copyright for individual poems is retained by the author of each poem. Copyright for the anthology belongs to Voices Israel Group of Poets in English.

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS: All submissions must be made online via “Submittable”. To submit your poems online please go to <http://www.voicesisrael.com/anthology.htm> on the Voices website 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. **Important: Each poem must be submitted in a separate submission. Do not try to submit 2 or 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

– **“The Deronda Review”** is looking for poems on the subject of Flight (in all meanings), also poems on seasons. Send to derondareview@gmail.com or maber4kids@yahoo.com. Reading period has been extended till mid January 2018.

Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

- This year's theme for the "**Jewish Currents**" sixth annual poetry contest is "Facts, Fakes, Fictions."
Submission deadline: January 15th 2018
Full information can be found at : <http://jewishcurrents.org/our-sixth-annual-poetry-contest>

- to our Voices women, you may be interested in submitting to writinginawomansvoice@gmail.com - it's sort of a blog but beautifully done. Poems about the moon are especially appreciated but everything is welcome.
- This winter **Ben Uri** is launching two competitions inspired by current exhibition '**A Farewell to Art: Chagall, Shakespeare and Prospero**'.
You are invited to submit a photograph and/or poem inspired by the theme: '*Mischief and Magic*'.
Entries should be submitted via social media using; #BenUriMagic Facebook: *Ben Uri Gallery*
Instagram: @BenUriGallery Twitter: @benurigallery
(Photo entries must be saved in high resolution. Winners will be contacted to supply high resolution images via email.)

- PRIZES:
Photography - A summer course (under 12s and 13-18s) or a one-to-one session (adults) provided by The Mango Lab
Poetry - Your work in a printed anthology, and the chance to perform at a spoken word evening
Winners will be exhibited at the gallery and online at benuri.org.uk.
There are three age categories: Under 12s 13-18s Adults

- Closing date: 22 January 2018 Submissions must be titled and included name and age.

- Calls for submissions from **IFLAC** for its 2018 "Anti-War and Peace Anthology" which , will contain excellent Anti-War articles, Real Life Stories, Anti-War and Peace Poems, A Contest of Haiku, and Peace, and Anti-War paintings and Art. It will be published on Amazon in three languages: English, Spanish and French, and will be translated into many more languages, including: Russian, Hebrew and Arabic. They hope that this important Anthology will pave the way to banish WAR, TERROR and VIOLENCE from our planet, and bring instead: Bridges of Culture, understanding, creativity, harmony and peace. Please send one of your best: articles, one of your best stories, 3 selected poems and 5 Haikus in English or French to: iflac2013@gmail.com, and in Spanish to the Editor of the Spanish Edition: Maria Cristina Azcona: mcrisazcona@gmail.com
Please attach your Address and Email, and a good passport photo. To participate in this prestigious IFLAC Anthology, you have to be an IFLAC member, the subscription is free, and you can subscribe by sending an email to: IFLACsubscribe@yahoo.com

- **The Ekphrastic Review** welcomes submissions form Isarel as they haven't received many in the past from here. Info at www.ekphrastic.net and www.mixedupmedia.ca Please send submissions to Lorette Luzajic: theekphrasticreview@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Matthew Anish who has had a fifth poem published in the "**New York Times**."
- to Helen Bar-Lev who had another two poems featured on "**Writing in a Woman's Voice**" and on "**Ascent Aspirations**" 22 Dec. Friday poems website. <http://www.davidpfraser.ca/fridays-poems.html>
- to Pesach Rotem whose poem "Jerusalem of Gold" was published in "**Poets Reading the News**."
<http://www.poetsreadingthenews.com/2017/12/pesach-rotem-poetry-jerusalem-of-gold/>

EVENTS

Report on **the Voices Workshop – ‘Less is More’** held in Rehovot on 5 December 2017 and led by Ricky Friesem on the subject of the 14-Word Sonnet (14WS).

This was an extremely popular workshop, dealing with the compact 14-word sonnet, which requires maximum control, and does not come easy, especially to those of us who like to set words on the wing and let them fly. The 14WS demands looking carefully at each word, clipping those wings a little, and forcing us to write *tightly*. The key features are concentration, discipline and control.

The evaluation form, just completed, produced a record 95% response and an approval rate of above 95%.

To list the positive comments would be tedious, but it appears that two factors need to be considered for future workshops, principal among them being the amount of time given for writing and the amount of comment/critique offered when each writer presents their work.

A large number of participants, fifteen at this workshop, inhibits detailed attention to each contribution, even with the 14WS, but the issue needs to be addressed, and it may be that future workshops should be restricted to, say, ten participants, and that more workshops be organized.

As well as the boost to their writing and the confidence building that most participants report, the social element is invaluable. That some participants reported ‘too much food’ also needs to be addressed for future workshops.

A chapbook of the contributions is available at: <http://www.voicesisrael.com/sonnet-workshop-dec-2017>

Nicholas Dunne-Lynch, Voices Workshop Coordinator, email: n.dunnelynch@gmail.com

REQUESTS

If you have any information on events or submission requests that would be of interest to our members then please do email them to me.

We would love to hear about any of your achievements, personal celebrations or sadly any bereavements.

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, please do keep sending me your poems.

As a reminder, please make an effort to 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.

DECEMBER 2017 Group Poetry Selections

To Shibata***

Courageously, oblivious of
form or equation
you pour out your heart
honest and simple
clean and kind.

What you see around you
what you cherish
what you treasure
is your universe.
the only world
that really counts.

Thousands of miles away
I read the book of your life.
The life I would like to live.
I wish to have the wisdom,
the ever optimistic view
favoring each and every creature
large and small, weak and strong.

I want to age like you,
accepting, welcoming every new day
with a smile and gratitude
for yet another day of grace,
lovingly embracing you.

Grateful for each stroke of wind
caressing your skin.
Still dreaming,
Still falling in love.
You changed my perception
Of life. I feel humbled.

I sense I shall probably
never succumb or conform
but let my free spirit lead the way.

Aviva Ophir, Netanya Group

****Shibata Toyo was a Japanese woman who began writing poetry at the "tender" age of 90. Her book "The Morning always comes" was translated to Hebrew, and deeply inspired me in the creation of this poem.*

Lifestyle or No Matter How Dress

I'm jealous of some women
who manage to maintain
a unique style of their own—
never once caught looking plain.

Some try to be quite sexy,
others have a knack for formal,
and then there are the comfy ones,
those who only don what's casual.

I feel I've never found one style
that suits me as I am,
because each day I dress to serve
my immediate action plan.

'Cause I'm so multifaceted,
my interests many sorts;
today I may put on a suit,
tomorrow dress for sports.

The only things I do for sure
is match my top and socks;
I coordinate my colors
to prevent aesthetic shocks.

I try to place the emphasis
on good attributes of mine
to play down several deficits—
outfits chosen by design.

Some days I feel successful,
while others please me less;
can't make a good impression
swinging 'tween finesse and mess.

Ethelea Katzenel, Southern selection

The Solingen Riddle

“Solingen”, the grinder said with his cultured, didactic, multi-accented voice, “is a big city and in it are many steel factories.” To this day I have no idea what Solingen stood for: paradise lost or on the contrary a place full of treacherous pretenses. I was in a hurry to take my scissors and leave his shop squeezed in a wall, on those slippery stairs cascading between Haifa’s upper and lower worlds.

He was a scholar of steel - always eager to share his knowledge. I should have asked: How and why did he become a grinder? Did he have a higher calling? Had a voice commanded him to keep metal objects in their ideal state of sharpness? To look for the spearhead, for the cutting edge? To count how many immaterial angels can stand on the dimensionless tip of a pin?

One day he vanished: like his entire generation of menders and fixers. Ours is a throw-away, buy-anew age, the repairer as obsolete as the discarded gadget. I will never know what he meant by the Solingen riddle. Or if he had a family left. But at times, in memoriam, my nail scissors shimmer, their blades click, flocks of angels land on each of the tips wings joining and parting in a dance

Iris Dan, Haifa selection

Fake Boobs

I stare at them
Two bowls of synthetic jello
Mimics of fatty tissue and skin
Modern day miracles!
Flesh colored, my color of course.

As I bend them the wrong way
They crease. No. Shivel...
Reminding me of future wrinkles,
Future sags and future judgments,
Future defects in need of future fixings.
Beauty, shallower than skin deep.

On the concave side,
The cellophane peels off
Revealing an adhesive surface
Strong enough to bind
Mounds of fragile insecurities.

Enhancements, I am told
You... Only better
The way You were meant to be
The way You should be
The YOU! worthy of love.

Jennifer Galanis, Southern selection

Yesterday and Today

I
shudder
fearful---
remember
swinging
him
again
and
again.
Now
a
soldier.
Same
Smile.

Yocheved Miriam Zemel , Jerusalem selection

Hainault Forest

she took me
to the forest
in her poem

she took me
to where she had fled
the sapping drudgery
of nursing wounded soldiers
and adhering and abhorring
ward sister's orders

she took me
to the trees
tall and foreboding
pastures where she had laid
her bike
taken a nap
and woken to bunnies
hopping in a circle

she took me
to the forest
in her mind
but i wasn't there

Channah Moshe, Jerusalem selection

Soft Materialism

It's earth
that you fashion
with water. Slowly mix,
round, round the potter's wheel. Go,
you press

gently.
Your thumbs indent
spaces inside. Widen,
the ball of clay. As your hand moves,
you feel

open
as you create,
evolve a universe,
a discourse between your self
and what

you make.
your mind conceives,
your eyes draw a picture
as your hands listen. They sense
what's there,

message
back to the Source
that you have an idea,
deeper perhaps, some detail that
you think

might add
to the beauty
and is ever so true,
what you know, and what is yet to
become.

Zev Davis, Haifa selection

Curtains

I wanted the curtains my mother had made
they were crafted like iron she would say
each pleat meticulously sewn
doubled stitched by machine
perfectly hemmed by hand

they had been hung with painstaking care
each fold crowned with its own metal hanger
she bit her lip as she threaded
each metal point through tiny holes
that pierced the plastic housing

I wanted the curtains my mother had made
it would have been simple - I thought -
to remove the metal inserts
undo the folds
run a seam
put up a modern rod

they had been packed in a warehouse
during home renovation
their exact location forgotten
I found them by accident
rummaging for something else
joy sank into dismay
as they emerged from the box
mildewed
the washerwoman refused to take them
I don't do mold she said

But I wanted the curtains my mother had made
perhaps they could be re-cut
re-sized from their generous length
I relentlessly spent the evening
peeling back the interfacing
the kind that used to house the hooks of yore
and as I undid Mom's handiwork
stitch by determined stitch
I relived her dedication to fabric in reverse
and contemplated how Mom's disease
has unraveled her life

Phyllsie Gross, Western Galilee selection

Birthday Celebration

Today I celebrate my day of birth,
born on a bountiful shore.
Frothing currents shipwrecked me
onto a far coast after my fall
into shock, turmoil, trauma.
A kindly stream swept me back
into my parents' staunch embrace.

With yawning fangs and numbing bite
a snake struck me down in my distant dawn.
My birthdays rushed on me and vanished;
My body was obese, my spirit famished.
I bled and bruised at each blow of fate.
My life ran out of promise
in the Great South Land.

In the Promised Land
I made my stand against the serpent.
I grew strong in combat,
wrestled the reptile into a dark cavern,
there torched and shrivelled it.

Today I celebrate rebirth
on my day of birth.

Roy Runds, Tel Aviv selection

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

Advice to Artists

with abstruseness as friend
 obscurity as muse
 writing the unfathomable
 painting the unrecognizable
 out of reach, always
 of critics who think
 in another language
 on another plane
 they who are not you
 will not understand
 the cerebral machinations
 of self expression
 nor your unique sphere of reference
 nor the ecstasies and agonies of your life;
 not the saturated technicolour delights
 nor the black-edged sympathy notes

but if you must be inaccessible, do it
 go ahead and create the impenetrable
 and answer to no one;
 but remember always
 that the price is to be alone
 in your literary or painterly universe

Don Mulcahy, Canada

Songs Yet to Be Sung

Clouds over the city
 the people expect rain
 These city dwellers
 need to be reminded
 that there are songs yet to be sung
 Eventually the sun will come out
 Shine down on the masses
 of
 city folk
 The grim mood will
 be replaced by
 laughter and dancing
 When Indian summer
 makes its appearance
 The population will be reminded
 that there are roads yet
 to be walked
 Songs yet to be sung

Matthew Anish, USA

Lips

In the mirror I see
 lip-smacking, frightening
 thinning lines

That full come-hither pucker
 on this young waitress
 pleading for a provider
 brought me
 nothing but trouble

Those full of venomous anger
 made my children feel small
 when I should have
 built them up

Kind words I was too scared to say
 will be judged by that woman in pain
 or grieving widower

Repentance I was afraid
 to confront a criminal with
 more concerned with my safety

Thinning lips
 find your fullness again
 quick! quick! time is short
 make up for your oversights

Ruth Hill, Canada

Waltzing With the Wind

The clouds are waltzing with the wind
 Formless, restless moisture filled pillows
 That coalesce, come together as family
 Then from the bulging white billows
 Break away, independent offspring
 Float aimlessly drifting dreamlike
 Across a grey, light laden sky
 Hover above seas, trees, hilltops
 And disappear into the distance
 Never to return.

Esther Lipton, UK