



## Voices Israel Group of Poets in English VOICES NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018 OCTOBER MEETING DATES AND PLACES

### HAIFA

**Tuesday, October 2  
at 7:30 pm**  
Judy Koren's  
10 Costa Rica, Danya.  
Tel: 04-834-1704  
Mobile: 054-741-7860

Coordinator:

**Wendy Blumfield**  
Tel: 04-837-6820  
Mobile: 054-524-0412  
[wendyb@netvision.net.il](mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il)

### TEL AVIV

**Sunday, October 21  
at 7:30 pm**  
AACI  
94 A Allenby Street,  
Tel Aviv

Coordinator:

**Mark Levinson**  
Tel: 054-444-8438  
[nosnivel@netvision.net.il](mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il)

### JERUSALEM

**Tuesday, October 16  
at 6pm**  
Toby Shuster's  
5 Aza Street, Rehavia  
Jerusalem

Coordinator:

**Ruth Fogelman**  
Tel: 02-628-7359  
[ruthfogelman@gmail.com](mailto:ruthfogelman@gmail.com)

### UPPER GALILEE

**Wednesday, October 17  
from 5-7pm**  
Reuven and Yehudit's  
128 Keren HaYesod  
Artists Quarter, Tzfat

Coordinator:

**Reuven Goldfarb**  
Tel: 04-6974105  
Mobile: 058-414-0266  
[poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com)

### BET SHEMESH / MODIIN

**Sunday, October 14  
at 8:00pm**  
Judy Belsky's  
Nahar Hayarden 120/4  
Floor 2  
Bet Shemesh

Coordinator:

**Dr. Judy Belsky**  
[drjudybelsky@gmail.com](mailto:drjudybelsky@gmail.com)

### NETANYA & SHARON

**Monday, October 29  
at 7:30pm**  
Susan Olsburgh's  
2/6 Zalman Shazar.  
(3rd floor) Ramat Poleg

Coordinator:

**Susan Olsburgh**  
Tel: 09-885-5629  
[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

### WESTERN GALILEE

**Monday, October 22  
at 8:30pm**  
Kibbutz Evron

Coordinator:

**Phyllsie Gross**  
Tel: 052-874-6880  
[phyllsie@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com)

### LONDON UK

For information please  
contact Esther.

**Esther Lipton:**

[eblipton@talk21.com](mailto:eblipton@talk21.com)

### GUSH ETZION

Please contact Mindy if  
you are interested in the  
group re-starting.

Coordinator:

**Mindy Aber Barad**  
Tel: 05-4667936  
[maber4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com)

### SOUTHERN

Please contact Miriam  
for more details.

Coordinator:

**Miriam Green**  
Tel: 05-7388640  
[miriamsgreen@gmail.com](mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com)

### ASHKELON

Please contact  
Chaim for more details

Coordinator:

**Chaim Bezalel**  
[bezalel.levy@gmail.com](mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com)

### President

**Susan Olsburgh**  
2/6 Zalman Shazar  
Ramat Poleg, Netanya  
Tel: 09-885-5629  
[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

### Assistant President

**Helen Bar-Lev**  
3 Hairus St.  
Metulla 1029200  
Tel: 077-353-5548  
[helentbarlev@gmail.com](mailto:helentbarlev@gmail.com)

### Secretary

**Linda Suchy**  
Haim Laskov 5/7  
Netanya 4265605  
Tel: 054-497-8812  
[secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

**Chanita Millman**  
15 Shachar St.  
Jerusalem 96263  
Tel: 02-653-6770  
[millmanm@zahav.net.il](mailto:millmanm@zahav.net.il)

### Membership Coordinator

**Susan Rosenberg**  
42/46a Leon Blum  
Haifa 33852  
Tel: 04-838-1218  
[susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com)



## Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OCTOBER 2018

Dear All,

I hope you have enjoyed the Succot holidays.

This is a reminder about the Voices Israel 2018 Anthology launch on Sunday 7 October 6-9.00pm at Stage Bar Karaoke, Netanya. (Travel details given elsewhere in this newsletter).

I am delighted to know published poets are coming from all directions but this exciting location still has room for more. It will be a very social event as well as giving the opportunity to pay tribute to our poets and to those who make the anthology possible, principally the Chief Editor Dina Yehuda, the editorial team Wendy Dickstein, Phella Hirschson and Amiel Schotz and the designer Johnmichael Simon. There is scope too for proxy readers to participate so if there is a poem in the anthology that you would like to read please email me as soon as possible to check whether it is still available ([olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)). Refreshments (kosher) with meat and vegetarian options and soft drinks all evening are included in the entrance fee of 50 shekels. Partners and non-Voices members are welcome too. If you have not booked already please ring me (054-919-3575) or email me as soon as possible as I have to submit catering numbers this week.

Remember too the launch event will be an opportunity for you to sell your poetry books. (Please note the responsibility for this is your own). Copies of this year's Voices chapbooks "On Strangers and Wine" (Nahariya) and "Inspiration by the Sea" (Netanya) will also be available for sale.

A little while ago I made an appeal in this newsletter for someone to volunteer as our webmaster for the Voices Israel website. Johnmichael Simon developed the site and has maintained it over the years but increasingly eyesight problems are troubling him. On behalf of all our members I send very best wishes to Johnmichael and thank him for his great efforts not least coordinating the handover to Voices Israel's new webmaster Judy Koren of the Haifa branch. Judy has a lot of experience in this field and she is very warmly welcomed.

There are just a couple of days left until the deadline (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) for entries to the 2018 Voices Israel's International Reuben Rose poetry competition. If you haven't already entered don't delay. There are three monetary prizes and ten honourable mentions available. Entry fees are vital for the health of Voices Israel's finances.

Autumn has arrived although temperatures remain high here in Israel. I wish you great creativity in the months ahead and thank you for your continuing support for our organisation.

With very best wishes

Susan Olsburgh  
President  
Voices Israel



## Voices Israel Group of Poets in English

### EXCITING NEWS – THE LAUNCH OF THE 2018 ANTHOLOGY

As mentioned in Susan's letter above, the Voices Israel 2018 Anthology launch is happening on Sunday 7 October 6-9.00pm at Stage Bar Karaoke, Netanya. We will have proxy readers for those poets unable to attend. And, of course, any published readers attending will be able to read their poems.

The Bar is a mere three minute walk around the corner from the new Sapir train station between Netanya and Bet Yehoshua in Netanya's new industrial area.

If you are arriving by car, there is good parking at the Y Center Parking across the street. First two hours are free and only a few shekels for the next hour. Simply enter the name or address into Waze – the Stage Bar will immediately appear as a destination.

If you prefer to travel by bus, Line 43 from the Netanya Central Bus Station will get you there in 10 minutes.

Please confirm your attendance with Susan as requested.

### CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**Reuben Rose Competition**, see the complete flyer attached to the secretary's email dated September 30 with all the information you need to enter. Deadline is **October 3!! Please enter to help support Voices Israel** and possibly win **MONEY** for yourself!

**Jewish Poetry in the Third Millennium** is a forthcoming anthology looking for unpublished poems on matters related to being Jewish in today's world with a focus on issues that affect Jewish people and have occurred since year 2000 in both America and abroad. We are looking for both English and non-English poems (with translations) from Jewish poets and non-Jewish poets. If submitting a translation, you must have already secured all needed permissions. Note: we may make an exception and consider a previously published poem but please let us know in the cover letter that you obtain the rights to reprint and why that poem should be an exception. Poems are due to Nancy Naomi Carlson & Matthew E. Silverman by November 1, 2018, to [jewpoemillennium@gmail.com](mailto:jewpoemillennium@gmail.com).

### CONGRATULATIONS

- to **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem "Comforting Pats" was published in *The Poeming Pigeon: In The News* (<https://thepoetrybox.com/bookstore/the-poeming-pigeon-in-the-news>).
- to **Seymour Mayne**, whose book "*In Your Words: Translations from the Yiddish and the Hebrew*" (Ronald P. Frye & Cdo) received a Canadian Jewish Literary Award for outstanding book in 2018.
- to **Ricky Rapaport Friesem**, who has won First Prize in the nonfiction category of the Tiferet Journal 2018 writing contest for her submission "What's in a Name?"
- to **Dov Silverman**, whose short story "Elvis Helps Me Courting" was chosen as one of the 12 winning stories in the ESRA Magazine Short Story Competition 2018.
- to **Bernard Mann**, for the interview with him in ESRA magazine Sept/Oct/Nov issue about the writing of his book *David & Avshalom, Life and Death in the Forest of Angels*.  
<http://www.esra-magazine.com/blog/post/interview-bernard-mann-196>.
- to **Esther Cameron**, the third and final installment of her article "Put Down That Smartphone and Listen" was published by Sasson Magazine at <https://sassonmag.com/put-down-that-smartphone-and-listen-part-iii/>. This installment discusses the conclusion of Rabbi Uri Cohen's book, *Tools in the Hands of Our Tools*, which is about possible responses.
- to **Judy Koren** our new Webmaster!

***Pantoum to Family:  
Estrangement***

nowadays we don't speak  
she shuns me for my past  
commissions and omissions  
long ago filed in her archives

she shuns me for my past  
he doesn't speak to her anymore  
for long-ago-filed-in-his-archives  
offenses real and imagined

nowadays he doesn't speak to her  
for commissions and omissions  
offenses real and imagined  
we don't speak anymore

**Bob Findysz,**  
Beit Shemesh Group Selection

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**Dawn**

A window looks out via a verandah  
dark clouds bunch together  
apparently still  
yet minutes later  
they have moved, their shapes  
somewhat unravelled  
the light changes  
dark clouds now show shades of grey  
almost whitened at their summits  
a cream easing the eyes from the black.  
A kettle boils for my morning coffee  
and the clouds, once apparently motionless  
have gathered into a sky  
crowding the sun  
barely showing yellowed patches  
fractals mimicing the hidden behind.  
Unknowingly, lives  
are growing others swamping in a deluge  
waiting to blossom to bloom

**Ezra Ben-Meir,** West Galil

**A Broken Heart**

A broken heart is hard to mend,  
But mend it will if you've a friend  
Who helps you through until the end.  
Until you find what you are after.

To feel remorse, to feel the pain,  
Be haunted by an old refrain,  
Familiar faces, never the same,  
Until you find what you are after.

And in the grayness of despair  
When there fares little hope, or care  
And no one will your burden share  
You'll find what you are after.

For there is someone close to you  
Who cares about the things you do  
And loves you with a love so true  
And knows what you are after.

So take this dream and enjoy your life,  
Forget your tales of woe and strife.  
Change those tears to song and laughter  
And take that which you know you're after.

**Lawrence Levene,** Jerusalem selection

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**GHOST SUKKAH**

No longer there,  
the small square  
of flapping space  
decorated with colors  
and shapes  
filled with aromas and flavors  
where we  
once welcomed friends and  
ancestors  
no longer here  
though I continue  
to embrace

**Susan Rosenberg,** Haifa

**ROSH HASHANAH PRAYERS  
AT THE "BIRKAT MOSHE" YESHIVA**

In the yeshiva on the mountainside  
We gather to entreat the Lord of all  
That in the coming year He may not hide  
From us; and youth before us in the hall  
Flings its soul into song, as they are plighted  
To the *korban* of battle. For their sake  
Far from our borders may our haters break  
And may the good among us, too, be righted,  
And may their dance's might of joy infuse  
A courage will enable us to rise,  
That we may deeply think and rightly choose  
And give our truth a form may magnetize  
The world, while falsehood shrivels and the true  
Stand up in strength, and the world's youth renew.

**Esther Cameron**  
Jerusalem



**Blood Stained Earth On the Murder of our  
friend and brother, Ari Fuld  
by a Terrorist.**

Ari, be a *Meilitz Yosher*,\*      *an advocate*  
Represent us on High.  
You are our sacrifice for Yom Hakippurim,  
May your blood redeem us.

We will continue to fight for The Land  
For which you sacrificed in life and in death.  
May your passing be a blessing for us all,  
May your blood stream through your children,  
Holy blood, as a Sacred Sacrifice.

May your blood join the blood of our ancestors.  
You *Stand Together* with a holy nation in life and in death,  
You are buried in our soil'  
Your blood nurtures a nation.

We will not allow the enemy a posthumous victory,  
We will continue to build, to plant to grow,  
May your memory, be a living memorial,  
To the future of our nation, our land and our Torah.  
May the Lord bless your soul.

**Yocheved Miriam Zemel, Jerusalem**

### Poetic Communication

It's not written for the meter,  
Nor created for the rhyme;  
It's destined to say something  
That needs saying at the time.

The content can be anything,  
The message what you will,  
But the form should entice you  
And offer you a thrill.

Ideas nicely set forth,  
Words succinctly wise and witty,  
Compact communication,  
An aesthetic, verbal ditty.

A poem's a special vehicle  
That challenges the mind,  
And ear and eye it ought to please,  
With sense/senses aligned.

**Ethelea Katzenell**  
Southern Region

### Looking on the Bright Side

At the mirror, I bewail  
the ageing lines of discontent  
etched above my mouth  
and discover that with a tweak,  
an almost imperceptible adjustment  
of the upper lip,  
I can effect damage control  
and change my personality.

My facial expression,  
always sullen and moody in repose -  
result of my lips' downward curve -  
suddenly changes and brightens  
and with it my mood  
in fact, my whole persona.

I don't feel disapproving, as before,  
but benevolent to all mankind.  
With an enigmatic air  
and a twinkle in my eye,  
I no longer look forbidding  
and on the bus, a passenger  
peering out from his sombre world,  
actually smiles at me.

**Kaila Shabat**, Netanya/Sharon

### Busy As A Bee

Busy sifting, paper listing, hurry scurry in a  
flurry, phones a ringing, what's the meaning?  
All the pressure in achieving something special,  
creative thoughts crashing round inside your  
head, chasing, racing, vigorously pacing, up and  
down, until you rest your weary head.

Another day of righteous indignation, all kinds  
of verbal machination, panic stricken energising,  
see the signs of blood arising, more and more of  
striving forward, getting to the goal of life, success  
unyielding, unremitting, the kind that doesn't  
come from sitting.

Suddenly we think we are there, the prize within  
our reach, is it closer, Is it splendid, somewhat  
confusing, so alluring, so beguiling, there  
for all to see.

When you ponder all the busy and what you think  
you have created, then looking outwards see the  
world has also moved along, considering perhaps  
there was another way to get to where you are today.  
But who knows, who cares, and really who's to say?

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### It

From Irobot and Waze  
to Didi and God knows  
what next  
we act as though supreme  
calling It SMART.  
Have we programmed it  
with all the know-how  
to increase our unemployment  
laziness  
susceptibility  
to car crashes  
and at the end of the day  
become our worst enemy  
ruling over us  
as slave owners?

**Channah Moshe**, Jerusalem

### The Long Wait

New England *Indian Summer* long  
 past, yet Seven Bumps Hill has  
 barely any snow for sledding, still;  
 it's almost the end of December  
 and the sign says NO SKATING  
 ON FELLSMERE RESERVOIRE  
 not asking for a *mountain* of ice  
 high enough to cover a whole  
 hairy mammoth, to keep it daisy  
 fresh for a million years  
 just a freeze thick enough  
 to keep from falling in  
 I'm dying to put on these new, white  
 skates that fit my feet, lace up tight,  
 keep my ankles straight upright  
 white skates and red scarf  
 billowing behind... the *look* of fast!  
 I can hear that crunchy sound blades  
 make on ice when getting up to speed;  
     a precision swivel  
     churning out a shpritz  
     of white chips  
 plan to keep skating until  
 my fingers, toes, and nose are numb  
 about that coat of mammoth fur...  
 wouldn't it be great to have one?

**Judith Fineberg**, Netanya/Sharon

### Vows

*When we met, he was almost 80, I was almost 70.  
 Both his wife and my husband had died two years  
 previously. We came to this new adventure with  
 the experience and wisdom of a lifetime. We did  
 not marry, but spent almost ten honeymoon years  
 together.*

Yes,

I did.

I took that man  
 to be my unwedded husband,  
 to hug and to hold,  
 from that day forward,  
 far better, well worth,  
 enriching and purer,  
 in sickness and in health,  
 I loved and cherished him,  
 until death did us part.

**Rumi Morkin**, Haifa group

**Fabric of Life**

Delicate, lightful lace  
Sturdy, strong denim  
Plush, rich velvet  
Smooth, slinky silk  
Rough, coarse hessian  
Waterfalling,  
Cascading  
chiffon  
Magnificent, magic mohair  
A tapestry of brocade  
A cacophony of colours  
Woven, sewn, crocheted, and knitted  
Hours spent in concentration  
Every stitch worked with love and devotion  
A heritage gift for a loved one  
Standing on the fringe of the future  
Part of the fabric of your life  
A vibrant memory of time past  
And hope to come.

**Janette Moore, Netanya/Sharon**

(Background - A present of a hand-made blanket for a granddaughter on her bat mitzvah; Poem using the word 'fabric'.)

## POEMS FROM OUR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

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### Friday Afternoon

The blue sky was a screen,  
The hills, black on the horizon  
greened as they descended  
down into the valley.

Quiet, Friday afternoon quiet,  
As a cat watchfully at rest,  
awaiting the Queen.  
Along the ridge opposite,  
silhouette trees,  
black felt lay over the blue.

On the buildings on this side  
A forest of television antennas,  
No longer used except by birds  
As perches, some leaning  
drunkenly to the side, or bent  
out of true.

**Michael Stone**, England

### The Last Exit

Wandering in a maze  
on Long Island's Cemetery

I trudge through plotted grids  
of carved prosaic prose  
time worn tombstones  
have outlasted the dust  
of loved ones below

Clouds hover over lost  
mourning adult orphans  
pleading for forgiveness  
to ears

the earth has sealed.  
Stumbling onto our family plot  
outstretched fingers reach out  
to kiss family  
weathered headstones

Unconsciously  
I observe traditions  
long discarded

Ma's lace handkerchief finds its way  
to my head  
as I chant the ancient Kaddish

**Esther Schnur-Berlot**  
USA

**Everyone or No-one**

Everyone in the café  
Is making a link  
Cafés are there  
And not just for a drink

People meet up with friends  
Catching up with the news  
Exchanging ideas and  
Expressing their views

Each place has customers  
Different in style  
But they're all the same  
With a drink and a smile

Then there are those cafés  
Offering Wi-fi  
Nobody is talking  
Nobody does try.

They're linked to their phones  
I-pads and laptops  
And sundry other  
Electrical props.

One person at each table  
Not noticing a thing  
It almost looks like  
They've forgotten their drink.

Friends around the table  
Women, men, girls and boys  
Or sad, awful loners  
With electrical toys.

The higher end cafés  
Are different again  
With dating couples and  
Working women and men.

Some are happy  
Others look tired  
All having coffee and talking  
None of them 'wired'.

I wish the furniture could talk  
The chairs and the table  
A few stories to tell  
If only they were able.

**Michael J Duke**  
England

**Present Time**

Reflections on the Heath, on a  
Sunday afternoon  
Autumn 2018

It is as though the sun  
has burned to gold  
the drops of rain  
from Heaven...

And they sing in colour  
the fragile notes  
of a divine harp...

I can see an angel's wing  
turned to pale magenta

Time and vision are a kaleidoscope

Out of the mist of soft thistledown  
turned to the colour of pale Wedgwood  
blue  
come crowds of people...

And what are they talking about?

The price of butter!

**Rosemary Wolfson, UK**

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**Another Postcard Show**

So I headed uptown  
to yet another postcard show  
Millions of images for sale - some as low as a  
quarter  
Picked up some cards from an Israeli dealer  
Images of the early leaders of that embattled land  
which I have visited only once  
Ran into a friend I know from poetry readings  
He was busy at the 25 cent box  
Been writing about postcards for years  
Actually making some money from it!  
Another postcard show  
To paraphrase the Beach Boys  
"When they buy a rare postcard they'll be sitting  
on top of the world!"

**Matthew Anish, USA**