

## Voices Newsletter April 2018

### APRIL MEETING DATES AND PLACES

#### HAIFA

Tuesday 24th April  
at 7.30 pm.  
Judy Koren's  
10 Costa Rice Street, Danya  
Tel: 04-8341704  
Mobile: 0547417860

Coordinator:  
Susan Rosenberg  
Tel; 04 838 1218  
050 933 3804  
[susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com)

#### TEL AVIV

Monday, April 23rd  
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, April 10th  
at 6pm  
Rehov Aza 5/3  
Jerusalem

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

#### UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, April 25th  
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](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com)

#### BET SHEMESH / MODIIN

Sunday, April 29th  
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, April 23rd  
at 7.30pm  
Susan Olsburgh's  
2/6 Zalman Shazar.  
(3rd floor) Ramat Poleg

Coordinator:  
Susan Olsburgh  
Tel; 098855629  
[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

#### WEST GALILEE

Please contact Phyllsie  
for details

Coordinator:  
Phyllsie Gross  
Tel ; 0528746880  
[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; 0524667936  
[maber4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com)

#### SOUTHERN

Please contact Miriam  
for more details.

Coordinator:  
Miriam Green  
Tel: 0547388640  
[miriamsgreen@gmail.com](mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com)

#### ASHKELON

Please contact  
Chaim for more details

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

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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT APRIL 2018**

Dear All

This has been a very busy month for Voices Israel members. Firstly many of our poets may have only submitted their poems for the 2018 anthology right up to the closing date on 15 March. I know the judges have been very active and the bulk of their decision making is already done. However, Chief Editor Dina Yehuda explains that there is still much to do before poets are informed about decisions ( last year that was at the end of June) and the launch of the completed anthology (last year in September.) The Reuben Rose Poetry Competition only opens in July so this is a good time for our poets to submit to other poetry publications. Of course, if you are successful don't forget to fly the flag for Voices Israel and let our secretary know of your success.

The Nahariya workshop on 4th March was a very enjoyable day for 18 participants including presenters Dr Eli Ben Joseph and myself.

We were fortunate that Francine Treat arranged a suitable venue for us and in the unavoidable absence of Phyllsie Gross, Francine did much to help. Dr Eli Ben Joseph led an inspiring workshop about the Wandering Wayfarer which evoked strong responses in the writing exercise. My topic was Spanish Medieval Hebrew Wine Poetry. The writing exercise was accompanied by a glass of Israeli red wine, not quite authentic of the medieval period but enough to stimulate creativity. Johnmichael Simon kindly agreed to prepare an online chapbook of poems written on both topics. This will feature on our website before long. The workshop was ably chaired by Nicholas Dunne Lynch.

The Annual General Meeting of Voices Israel was held on 20 March in Tel Aviv. Once again it was kindly hosted by Birgit Talmon. Attendance was very good and many members took the opportunity to participate in the Open Mike session to read their own poems. Our auditors, Donna Bechar and Amiel Schotz, were present as was the treasurer Chanita Millman. After the statutory reports a lively questions and suggestions period was held. The only election was for a new secretary on the retirement of Avril Meallem. A presentation of a Steimatzky voucher was made to Avril to mark her steadfast and able commitment over a five year tenure. Linda Suchy was elected and will work in tandem with Avril over the next couple of months.

Two important initiatives emerging from the AGM were to update our publicity modes, using a slogan suggested by new member Susan Nordell, "Do you write poetry in English? Then contact Voices Israel – details given "and also to try to attract younger members.

The biennial Voices Israel residential **Poetry by the Sea** will be held at the King Solomon Hotel Netanya from **Sunday to Monday 6-7<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. There are full details attached with this newsletter about the timetable, workshop topics, costs and registration. It is anticipated this will be a popular event. It is being combined with the presentations of the 2017 Reuben Rose Poetry Competition. The first prize winner Marc Radyzner will give a workshop on Sunday afternoon. This will be followed by a celebratory dinner, the presentation of prizes and readings of the prizewinning poems. On Monday morning two further workshops will be given by Nicholas Dunne Lynch and Professor Shlomo Sher. The King Solomon staff looked after us very well in 2016 and I recommend that all those wishing to attend as residents or non-residents complete the registration form as soon as possible. The hotel needs to have residential bookings made by **10 April**.

I do hope as many of our members as possible will take part in all or some of Poetry by the Sea as I feel sure we shall have a memorable time together.

Now to get back to my Pesach preparations.....

I wish you all a wonderful Chag.

Very sincerely

Susan Olsburgh, President Voices Israel

## **A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Janice Block, Beit-Shemesh  
 Frieda Ezriev, Beer Sheva  
 Chana Smith, Jerusalem

## **EVENTS**

- The biennial Voices Israel residential **Poetry by the Sea** will be held at the King Solomon Hotel Netanya from **Sunday to Monday 6-7<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. Please find full information and registration form in the attached flier.
- A public reading to launch the 2018 issue of **“The Deronda Review”** is scheduled for April 24, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the OU Center, Keren Hayesod 22, Jerusalem. The reading will be combined with an exhibition of paintings by contributor Judy Belsky,

## **CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

- 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](mailto:iflac2013@gmail.com), and in Spanish to the Editor of the Spanish Edition: Maria Cristina Azcona: [mcrisazcona@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:IFLACsubscribe@yahoo.com)
- **The Ekphrastic Review** welcomes submissions from Israel as they haven't received many in the past from here. Info at [www.ekphrastic.net](http://www.ekphrastic.net) and [www.mixedupmedia.ca](http://www.mixedupmedia.ca) Please send submissions to Lorette Luzajic: [theekphrasticreview@gmail.com](mailto:theekphrasticreview@gmail.com)

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

- to Seymour Mayne whose collection of biblical poems has just been published for the Canada, France, Belgium, and the francophone world: *Le chant de Moïse [The Song of Moses]*, with a Prologue, translated into French by Caroline Lavoie (Montreal: Mémoire d'encrier, 2018). Communiqué: <http://memoiredencrier.com/chant-de-moise-seymour-mayne/>
- to Matthew Anish who had 2 poems in the latest issue of “Mystical Muse” magazine.
- to Helen Bar-Lev whose poem “Who Knows?” has appeared as poem of the week on the “Poetry Super Highway.”

**March 2017 Group Poetry Selections**

**To Be Or Not To Be**

It's too soon yet, Ruth's daughter says  
pushing the groceries up on the kitchen counter,  
We can't tell which it is and it doesn't matter,  
either is good. See here, in the ultrasound  
this tiny comma, so small – I can't even feel it –  
pregnant with life.

It's too soon yet, Ruth's doctor says  
pushing his glasses up on the bridge of his nose,  
We can't tell which it is, but it doesn't matter:  
no kinds are good. See here, in the ultrasound  
this tiny blob, so small I can't even feel it,  
pregnant with...

It's only two centimeters long, her daughter says  
updating her shopping list; but it will grow  
if I can keep it this time (aye, there's the rub!) –  
Don't tell anyone yet.

It's barely a centimeter wide, her doctor says  
updating his report; but it will grow  
if kept for long – don't bear the ills you have  
just choose your surgeon.

No I haven't chosen a hospital, says daughter,  
I've enough to think about with all these check-ups  
and blood tests and ultrasounds and supplements...  
while Ruth is thinking mainly of hospitals  
and blood tests and ultrasounds and endless appointments:  
surgeon bone mapping isotope tracing  
but she smiles and nods and says nothing  
her heart aching with the need to juggle  
her bombshells of bad news, and ever fearful  
the one she drops may bear her grandchild's name,  
this grandchild who is minus seven months old  
about the same age as the one they lost.

So daughter isn't telling anyone yet  
and Ruth's not telling her anything yet:  
two women juggling three lives.

**Judy Koren**, Haifa selection

**Maintenant\***  
(quadruple 14-word sonnet)

<p><u>1</u> no handheld time now slips through tight fingers never lingers falls to earth expires</p>	<p><u>2</u> no fruit no seed not only when your hand my hand slide apart away</p>
<p><u>3</u> not ever will linger between</p>	<p><u>4</u> past future abut like terraced</p>
<p>tight fingers even gripping time slips time skips now</p>	<p>houses merge flow past steps into future over now</p>

\* maintenant (Fr) now [lit; hand holding,  
time we can hold in our hand]

**Nicholas Dunne-Lynch**, Tel Aviv selection

**An Impossible Dream**

You will say it is a pipe dream, a delusion,  
and one most unlikely to become reality.

Yet this is my vision; I see it all, as if I am there  
in Jerusalem, converging on a great auditorium  
with a mighty assembly of mothers and daughters  
of Israel, attired all in white, each bearing a note:  
her personal prayer, expressing her fondest dream;  
snippets scattered on the stage like autumn leaves.

In the lobby, water coolers and urns of cut fruit  
provide refreshment for the throng, alongside  
trestle tables laden with poetry pertaining to peace.

Women assume every role: ushers, technicians  
journalists and the orchestra with woman conductor,  
who accompany top international performers  
singing and dancing in hits from popular musicals.  
Relayed world-wide in simultaneous translation,  
an introduction of Psalms, poetry and song  
precedes speeches by prominent women leaders.

At midnight, young girls enact a dance  
of entreaty to 'Open the Gates of Righteousness'  
and the world switches to another dimension.

A new anthem for a World that is One  
is sung in unison, all over the earth  
to the accompaniment of the Celestial Chorus.

**Kaila Shabat**, Netanya

*"And the Lord shall roar from Zion, and utter His Voice from  
Jerusalem and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be a refuge  
unto his people and a stronghold  
to the children of Israel." Joel 4:16*

**Aware**

Sweet water  
Flowing swiftly  
Through shady glades.  
Bright sunlight  
In china-blue sky  
Stabs the leafy shades.

Rustling ferns  
Call to  
The humming undergrowth.  
Many smells  
Drift slowly up  
To the trey roof

Shrill calls  
From the darting birds  
Of varied hues,  
Pierce the droning silence of  
Buzzing insects,  
Trapped in the spiders'  
Cunning defenses.

What is life  
Without our senses?

**Lawrence Levene**, Jerusalem selection

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**Ageing Youth**

Soft silk  
now wrinkled skin

Greying hair  
colour all gone

Clear bright eyes  
fading sight

Bulging flabby fat  
lean body no more

Ageing innocence today  
until death steps  
in tomorrow

**Deborah Ben-Sasson**, Acre

**Pencil Me In**

I.  
I remember those eons of days  
chaining together words and arranging arithmetic  
with yellow tooth-pocked number two's

the childish jottings of leaden thoughts  
and leaded lessons not permitted the use  
of ink-definite self-assertion

only allowed the soft slur of penciled words  
vulnerable to erasure if proved unworthy  
to blemish the crisp white between blue lines

I remember the thrill of sharpening a dulled tip  
the slow rotation of the plastic-housed blade as  
the continuous roll of wooded scrap emerged

my power over the outcome, if over nothing else  
a new weapon, like a fresh-edged arrowhead  
ready to find home in a concise point

II.  
There's 'the power of the pen'  
with its I-am-what-I-am confidence  
its adamant crosshatchings in a portrait  
But it's the pencil's power to change  
to become, transmogrify, transform  
that forgives its lax-focus smearing  
little by little and time by time

III.  
I wonder if we are ephemeral  
if we are penciled in on calendar squares  
where our name - as if written on the  
ripples of a watery tablet, where  
an undercurrent stretches their tendrils  
back into the quiet calm of non-existence -  
can be rubbed off by those pink cherubs,  
grain by grain, into the crevices of wooded fibers  
instead of standing sturdy in that diehard ink

**Donna Bechar**, Netanya selection

**The Culture of Wine**

(Presentation of Susan Olsburgh)

you sit with the other  
your cups clink together  
the wine whirls and splashes  
in the colors of seasons  
the other tells you his stories  
sings you his songs

the golden or ruby-colored  
bubbly or honey-like liquid  
pours in satiny or velvety ribbons  
like a chalice you open  
for the seeds of the stories  
for the seeds of the songs

is there happiness greater  
than feeling the stirring  
of your own nascent stories  
a moment more stellar  
than feeling the bouquet  
of old wine in a new cup

and what is more bitter  
than cups shattered in anger  
wine spilled on the table  
drowning stories and songs  
drowning you and the other  
in rivers of blood

**Iris Dan**, Haifa selection

**Poems From Our Overseas Members**

**Indecision**

Shall or shall I not  
 What if I do or don't  
 Maybe I will or maybe I won't  
 Perhaps I can or perhaps I can't  
 If only it would be  
 If only it won't  
 I'll delay till tomorrow  
 I'll delay till next week  
 What if it happens  
 What if it doesn't  
 I'll wait or just postpone  
 No, no, I must act right now  
 To alleviate my indecision  
 I'll end the poem!

**Esther B Lipton, UK**

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**The Wine of Life**

The past has flown out the window  
 The present is full of sorrow  
 Look to the future  
 for a taste of  
 the sweet wine of life  
 Your tears will change to laughter  
 If you focus on what is to come  
 Tomorrow - looming ahead like  
 A bright shining star  
 is something we should never lose sight of  
 Let the dance begin!  
 Let the songs be sung  
 Let the wine of life  
 be poured  
 into gorgeous goblets of  
 purest gold!

**Matthew Anish, USA**

**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**