

Message of Katherine Gordon, 2019 Reuben Rose Competition International Judge, to the Awards ceremony, October 27, 2020.

Greetings from across the vast and lively seas to all the young and seasoned poets who gather here today.

Poetry is a powerfully unifying force for our needy planet, it transcends all of the self-imposed boundaries of race, gender and culture to reveal our true humanity: our needs, longings, aspirations for compassion, understanding and harmony. The most satisfying reward for judging the prestigious Reuben Rose Competition was in the reading of hundreds of different perspectives, cameos of the human condition, emotions, yearnings and nostalgia.

I am so fulfilled to have briefly touched the spirits of all those entrants. Every poet is a winner for bringing us, through their words, into a better understanding of why the heart beats and the soul breathes.

I am especially proud of the young writers of Bar Sagi, whose words will inspire a whole new generation to transform the world. I hope to hear of them often in these fraught times when poetry is the essential capture of truth and beauty.

Katherine L. Gordon, poet, publisher, judge, reviewer, literary critic.

Autumn, 2020.