



## VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All

I am very happy to report that the recent Jerusalem Voices Israel workshop "Imagery, Imagination and Poems that Build to a Series", was a great success. 30 people attended the event in a central Jerusalem location, the charming Poetry Place. Dr. Judy Belsky always provides insightful and helpful feedback to individuals when they read their drafts. Socially the workshop was also successful with a natural hardcore of Jerusalemites plus followers of Jerusalem coordinator Ruth Fogelman's Pri Hadash group. Voices members travelled from Haifa, Nazareth, Efrat, Netanya, Bet Shemesh and Ashkelon. Thanks are due to Ruth for undertaking key tasks in the day's organisation and to our secretary Linda Suchy for her very capable handling of the registrar's role.

Linda has also just undertaken a pruning of her distribution list for the emailed Voices newsletter. It is now much more reflective of our current membership.

There is scope to expand membership. Sadly, there have been natural losses. Although membership is healthy, I am issuing a challenge to our Israeli members to recruit by printing off one of the community flyers attached to Linda Suchy's email and placing it somewhere you consider suitable in your locality. Please complete the details of your local coordinator. Hopefully all our coordinators will be kept busy with responses and we shall happily welcome some new members to Voices Israel.

Submissions are now invited for the 2019 volume of our Voices Israel anthology. Chief Editor Dina Jehuda and her editorial team are already in action evaluating which poems will be in this 45<sup>th</sup> volume. (Submissions open until 15 March).

Please note that membership payments are now due. It would help hugely if people pay the 100 shekels dues early in the early bird stage (120 after 1<sup>st</sup> April). Many people are now paying by bank transfer rather than sending cheques. Our treasure of a treasurer Chanita Millman is ready and waiting.

There will be an exciting poetry event in Tzfat on Thursday 24 January featuring both Voices Israel poets and members of IAWE Israel Association of Writers in English. Please see Tzfat coordinator Reuven Goldfarb's notice.

I am pleased to inform members that our assistant president Helen Bar-Lev now has the title of Overseas Connections Coordinator. Helen is very valuable to our organisation in promoting Voices Israel worldwide. Thank you, Helen, and hatzlacha.

The Reuben Rose Poetry Competition judges are deep in the midst of their deliberations and we all look forward to hearing the results soon. Then it will be time to think about planning the presentation ceremony.

In the meantime, the correct date for your diary for the AGM is Tuesday 12 March in Tel Aviv 6.00 pm. More details nearer the time.

This leaves me just enough space to wish you all the best for the secular new year with much creativity and success in 2019.

Warm good wishes,

*Susan*

Susan Olsburgh, President Voices Israel



## JANUARY 2019 MEETING DATES AND PLACES

### HAIFA

Tuesday, January 22  
at 7:30 pm  
at Wendy Blumfield's  
19 SD. Wingate  
Haifa

Coordinator:

**Wendy Blumfield**

Tel: 04-837-6820

Mobile: 054-524-0412

[wendyb@netvision.net.il](mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il)

### TEL AVIV

Sunday, January 20  
at 7:30 pm  
Beit Ariela (in T.A. main  
library bldg.)  
Conf Room, Floor -1  
25 Shaul HaMelech Blvd.  
Tel Aviv  
Call Mark to confirm

Coordinator:

**Mark Levinson**

Tel: 054-444-8438

[nosnivel@netvision.net.il](mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il)

### JERUSALEM

Tuesday, January 22  
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, January 16  
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

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

Judy Belsky's  
Nahar Hayarden 120/4  
Floor 2  
Bet Shemesh

### NETANYA & SHARON

Monday, January 28  
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

Sunday, January 20  
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.

Coordinator:

**Dr. Judy Belsky**

[drjudybelsky@gmail.com](mailto:drjudybelsky@gmail.com)

### GUSH ETZION

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

### SOUTHERN

Sunday, January 20  
at 5:00pm

### ASHKELON

For information, please  
contact Chaim.

### BERLIN, GERMANY

For information, please  
contact Britta.

Coordinator:

**Mindy Aber Barad**

Tel: 05-4667936

[maber4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com)

Coordinator:

**Miriam Green**

Tel: 05-7388640

[miriamsgreen@gmail.com](mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com)

Coordinator:

**Chaim Bezalel**

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

Coordinator:

**Britta R. Kollberg**

[brkollberg@yahoo.de](mailto:brkollberg@yahoo.de)

#### *President*

**Susan Olsburgh**

2/6 Zalman Shazar  
Ramat Poleg, Netanya  
Tel: 09-885-5629

[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

#### *Overseas Connections Coordinator*

**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 9626323  
Tel: 02-653-6770

[millmanm@zahav.net.il](mailto:millmanm@zahav.net.il)

#### *Membership Coordinator*

**Susan Rosenberg**

42/46a Leon Blum  
Haifa 3385209  
Tel: 04-838-1218

[susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com)



## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

Miriam Botzer, Upper Galilee

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

*Prosopisa*- the flag ship of ARAWLI is once again set out for its creative journey and the winter issue will hopefully see the light of the day by the end of Jan'19. We invite your creative pieces-- poems, short stories and write ups for the upcoming issue of the journal. The deadline for sending the submissions is 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019. For more information see

<http://www.facebook.com/ARAWLI>

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Poetry Reading in Tzfat** — January 24, 6:30 pm — at Mystic Mountain Studio and Brewery. Featured poets: Reuven Goldfarb, Shlomo Sher, Michael Dickel (Dekel); invitees: Yehudit Goldfarb, Ann Bar-Dov, Pesach Rotem, and Michael Kagan. Location: 2 Revitsky, 13221;

<https://goo.gl/maps/RcYjec2Umna>. Readers include members of both Voices Israel and the IAWE. Signed books for sale. Mystic Mountain serves micro-brewed beers and ales, local organic wine, and home-made food. **Further info:** [poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com) and 04-697-4105.

## CONGRATULATIONS

- **Edit Gavrielly**, on the birth of two grandsons!



- **Eli Ben-Joseph**, on the birth of a grandchild



- **Helen Bar-Lev**, on her appointment as Overseas Connections Coordinator for Voices Israel.
- **Hannah Moshe**, who has poems and works published in the following: "Ai Way Way" (a poem in English) and *חודש סליחות* (a poem in Hebrew with an English translation) in *Amaravati Poetic Prism 2018, the international multilingual poetry anthology 2018*. "Autumn" in *Mizmor Anthology eCollection, December 2018*. "May Every Step" and "Taking Time" in an extremely beautiful anthology called *Family Celebrations 2018*.
- **Avril Meallem**, whose poetry books, *Dancing with the Wind* and *Come Sit with Me by the River*, together with her two collections of *Tapestry Poetry* (co-authored with Indian poetess Shernaz Wadia) have now been published on Amazon (worldwide) and are available as both paperback and Kindle e-book editions (entering her name on any Amazon website will bring up all the books). The paperback versions are still available in Israel via <https://tapestrypoetry.webs.com/> or <https://avril.m.webs.com/>



- **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem "Ripple" was published in *Nine Mile Magazine* (<http://ninemile.org>) and whose poem "Drawing Hands: Part One" was published in *Constellations* ([www.constellations-lit.com/issues/vol8.html](http://www.constellations-lit.com/issues/vol8.html)).
- **Channah Moshe, Hayim Abramson** and **Avril Meallem** for having their poems published in the "Amaravati Poetic Prism 2018" – an International Multilingual Poetry Anthology.

## REMINDERS:

**VOICES ISRAEL 2019 ANTHOLOGY** is open for submissions from December 16, 2018 to March 15, 2019. There is no fee for submission. [See submission guidelines on page 5 of this newsletter.](#)

**VOICES ISRAEL 2019 DUES:** Take advantage of a **special offer** of only 100 shekels if paid before April 1, 2019. After April 1, dues will be 120 shekels. Although we prefer payment by bank transfer, you may still send a cheque as in the past.

Instructions for payment are as follows:

*If paying by check*, please make it out to Voices Israel and send it to our Treasurer:

Chanita Millman,  
15, Shachar St.,  
Beit Hakerem,  
9626323 Jerusalem,  
ISRAEL.

*If paying by bank transfer*: our bank account information is:

Bank Discount - bank No.11, Branch 159.

Account Number: 6624199 in the name of Kolot Israel (our name in Hebrew: Kolot means Voices).

In the case of a bank transfer, please let Chanita ([millmanm@zahav.net.il](mailto:millmanm@zahav.net.il)) know that payment has been made by bank transfer, so that she can check it has actually arrived and record your dues payment.

**NOTICE: PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR ANSWERS TO MANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE: [WWW.VOICESISRAEL.COM](http://WWW.VOICESISRAEL.COM)**

Judy Koren has our Voices Israel website up and running. It contains a wealth of information about our organisation, including but not limited to answers about the Anthology, Reuben Rose Competition, payment information, email addresses of Board Members, and much, much more.



## **VOICES ISRAEL 2019 ANTHOLOGY REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Submissions to Vol.45 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. Extra copies for members of Voices Israel are NIS 40 (US\$20) each, shipping inclusive. Non-members may order copies for NIS50 (US\$ 25) each shipping inclusive. Please send orders to our Treasurer, Chanita Millman, 15 Shachar St., Beit Hakerem, 9626323 Jerusalem, ISRAEL; or by email to [millmanm@zahav.net.il](mailto:millmanm@zahav.net.il).

### **GUIDELINES**

Submissions for the Anthology are accepted from December 16, 2018 to March 15, 2019. Poems will then be sent to the editorial board, reviewed, selected, and notices sent out to contributors. The anthology will be printed by October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 How to Submit.

- Submit a maximum of 3 poems on any subject. Poems should not exceed 40 lines including stanza breaks but not including title.

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE THAT POEMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONE BY ONE ON SUBMITTABLE. EACH POEM IN A SEPARATE SUBMISSION. PLEASE 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 in the resulting chapbook of the workshop and/or 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!



## GROUP POETRY SELECTIONS

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### Dear God

Leaves rustle in the wind  
The sun sinks  
The sky pinks

A plane overhead  
Chirping birds  
Whispered words

I'm your greatest fan  
Admiration  
For Creation

Don't take it away  
Humanity  
Vitality

Please let me go on  
Keep me strong  
Love me long

### Ethelea Katzenell

Southern Region selection

### Haiku

1

snuggle of blanket  
enormous feeling of peace  
this endless moment

2

squeak of his chair  
after morning espresso  
time to confront news

3

so much wisdom  
my book collection  
just within reach

### Judih Weinstein

Southern Region selection

\* \* \* \* \*

### A Day Laborer

Daniel was casual labor  
(sack of charcoal, heavy shopping bags,  
large oil can).  
He carried these until  
the command: "Stop here."  
The people seldom gave a dime,  
and flicked his nose.  
He came to the bazaar.  
He moved the money from one hand to the other.  
Suddenly, a peddler took the money  
and gave him a donut.  
He slept,  
and thought where will  
I get more money.

Isaac Cohen, Tel Aviv selection



## Haifa Beach by Moonlight

Beach cafés: loud lights and glaring music  
dazzle like fiery beads scattered across  
the intervening silence moonlit darkness  
and glimmering wavelets sighing soft to shore.  
A lone light on the breakwater discloses  
a fisherman at peace; on the promenade  
election promises from contesting mayors  
tear in the wind. On the deserted deck  
of the Surfboard Café two figures kiss in moonlight,  
their kisses likewise fragile promises.

Along the shoreline between sand and sea  
a thickset, unmistakably un-Indian  
Indian guru, in white pantaloons  
headband and sash, strides ankle-deep in surf,  
followed five paces after by a woman  
a bit overweight and very discontented,  
picking her surly way through the same water  
his holy feet have blessed a moment before  
holding her shoes aloft to keep them dry.  
Silent they walk and fade into the dark.

What in their joint life has beached this pair?  
Did they once kiss like the Surfboard Café couple  
locked together in Mediterranean moonlight?  
Did Eastern philosophy bring them together?  
Did it then seep away like the outgoing tide  
leaving behind only the empty shell of  
flowing skirt, ridiculous pantaloons  
which cannot disguise the chasm now between them –  
three metres of sand and foam, eternity?  
Part of me dares to hope this walk through water  
unlikely as it seems, may nonetheless  
help them achieve nirvana.

**Judy Koren**  
Haifa selection

## Utopia

*Google: an imagined place or state of things  
in which everything is perfect.*

I remember winter before we fled,  
my bed womb-warm and welcoming,  
soft and soothing - a comfortable cocoon  
that I snuggled into, wearing night clothes  
and thick, warm socks, eyes already closed.  
I imagine the quilt top tucked under my chin,  
in a room with a door and a window,  
a light bulb hanging from the ceiling.

I pull the thin blanket around me  
in our plastic tent surrounded by mud,  
our home in this terrible refugee camp  
so far from my home in Syria.  
I shiver, clutch my rag doll,  
huddle close to my mother,  
shut my ears to the pounding rain,  
tent walls flapping in the cold wind,  
try to sleep and dream  
of that remembered utopia.

**Rumi Morkin**, Haifa selection



## The Human Bouquet

"A lot of different flowers make a bouquet."  
*Muslim origen saying.*

Humanity in the billions  
A veritable galaxy of stars,  
each one independent in worth  
of his character and genius.

Connected by ties  
in complicated social webs.  
Share collective memories  
of cultural reminiscence.

Comrades to experiences  
in some small segment  
scattered among the countries  
each one the same and yet rare.

All isolated but yet share  
passions, feelings and sympathies.  
Insofar as we are authentic  
to reach a sincere happiness plateau.

Insofar as we share sentiments  
We keep our spirits up  
as trials come, as they do  
and accept to bear the weight.

As we perform our duties,  
to take upon ourselves various tasks  
we remember that not all is money  
but there is value in caring for others.

True is we restrain ourselves  
since we are not free in all routines.  
We search the golden mean  
and we are happy endure.

There is a personal place  
our very own ledger  
of this life in trust  
and surely are accountable for that.

We can expect  
as the stream of events flows on  
to know we are in the middle of events  
with some control for our own happiness.

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For Rena Navon  
**Hayim Abramson**, Beit El

## In Balance Not

The lilac bushes smelt  
of opiate cologne.  
How could the child help  
but swoon into a spell?

An anodyne evade  
brought infidelity  
to honest love's embrace  
in sullied escapades.

Yet late he woke in time  
to crush indecencies,  
beginning to do right,  
to tie a knot on life.

Now in his recollect  
of love he gave not well  
he harbors those regrets  
of harms he can't dispel.

**Eli Ben-Joseph**,  
Western Galilee selection

\* \* \* \* \*

## Yet They Repeated:

"Don't forget, young lad:  
Until you see  
Your chosen one  
Amongst own ..."  
Then they said no more.

Guessing  
What the full mantra  
Might hold  
Sparked off  
Youthful stubbornness  
Not ever letting on the truth  
Anchored  
In their unspoken words.

**Birgit Talmon**, Tel Aviv selection



## Total Body Scan

Almost as frozen is the room I enter  
as the winter morning I come from.  
The device is highly sensitive to heat,  
so said my husband; who also asked me  
to note down, for once, its make and model.  
I glow with radioactive iodine like a ballroom.  
For 40 minutes I'll be motionlessly posing  
for the moving device, with my body parts cut  
into many convenient cone-shaped sections  
re-puzzled together for the oracular sentence.

A lead-aproned technician bends over me.  
A boy almost, round face not yet settled  
into firm adulthood, still radiating  
with adolescent juices. He smiles, his teeth  
are healthy. His nametag reads Igor.  
"I'll bring you another blanket", he says  
understanding my tight muscles,  
then with well-mannered movements  
belts me in and ships me on my way.  
I'm flattered. I'm moved. I'm scared.

I feel like freeing a hand to touch him.  
Can this radioactive outpouring of feeling  
break through his apron and do harm?  
Soon Igor is back behind the glass wall  
separating the clean from the unclean.  
He writes down the iodine absorption,  
my medical history encrypted in figures:  
innocuous or not so innocuous nodules  
for which I am here, a missing gland,  
transparent tissues, bones turned lacey.

As the device descends close to my head  
he can surely read all the wicked thoughts,  
poisoned words, errors of judgment,  
questionable attachment, the foolishness,  
the vanity not to be shown to the young.  
The device is done, I'm free from my shackles.  
I thank Igor for the extra blanket. I leave glowing  
with gratitude and shame. Once again  
erasing from my memory the make and model  
of the device on which my husband had worked.

© Iris Dan, Haifa selection

## Desert and Rebirth

### Part One

It's my destiny  
I move to deserts,  
Lands of sand upon sand,  
With no promise of growth.  
No rain from heaven,  
Hard, unyielding earth,  
No entering it's warm bosom.

And I pray,  
And I water,  
And I dream,  
And I gather other dreamers,  
And we break the barren earth,  
And we plant,  
And we build,  
And we water the dry sand,  
And we plant seeds,  
And we grow plants and flowers,  
Colorful, nutritious, and hearty.  
And we thank the God of our fathers  
For the miracle of life, growth, and sustenance.

We move to barren lands,  
That were left for the desert gazelles to wander,  
Vacant of life.  
Vacant of growth  
These lands flourish.  
Because we dream,  
And we break the barren earth,  
And we find fellow dreamers,  
And we till the soil together,  
The earth of our forefathers and mothers,  
The land that generations dreamed of from afar.

**Yocheved Miriam Zemel**, Jerusalem



## **'SUNSET IN HADES'**

Have you ever heard the sound of fear  
remorse and sorrow screaming in your ear  
have you ever felt the churning yearning  
crying dying yell of deep despair.

Emitting from a broken recess within the soul  
a primeval howl like a hungry dying wolf  
whose wretched gut is starved of food,  
yet in the darkness of the night finds truth.

Head held back faces blackened sky  
stretched neck with protruding muscles,  
mouth open wide releasing an ancient  
devil's lament which lurks from deep inside.

An inaudible wail no one should ever hear  
agony so terrifying your heart will stop, your  
blood turn cold, the hairs upon your neck  
thrust violently out and your skin turns old.

The blood drains from your every vein  
and death is your desire, there is no light  
wherein this injurious cry begins and evil  
pervades within a molten fire of sins.

No sound will ever penetrate your senses  
no smell no taste no eyes can see the deep  
despair inside the heart of thee nor those  
afflicted perhaps within a secret part of me.

There is no flight or haven neither shelter  
to escape no harbour to discover no sense  
or reason or freedom for spiritual peace of mind  
no protection or asylum one may seek to find.

Blighting every joy it suspends belief and  
like a looming pendulum upon the sickly air or  
the scaffold with an empty noose and the axe  
that waits to fall and severs nerve ends loose.

We wait, each one of us upon the inevitable day,  
praying it will come upon us late in life, hoping  
it will never ever be, yet knowing in our heart of  
hearts none of us escapes our clear mortality.

**David Fellerman**, Netanya/Sharon selection

## *Butterfly Dance*

I am a butterfly with multi coloured wings,  
ever changing as I fly into the thoughts of others  
seeking only to bring peace into the world.

My wings are white,  
when delving into the depths of my being,  
red when fighting the evil around,  
blue on soaring skywards in free flight,  
green when flitting amongst nature's garden,  
yellow and orange when filled with passion,  
turquoise blue when drinking God's living waters.

I am beyond knowing,  
living in a world of creation.  
I see I hear  
I feel the pain and suffering of humanity.  
War and destruction are clouding out  
the beauty of our world.

Oh mankind! Where are you going?  
Wake up!  
Get up from your slumber.  
Join me in my butterfly dance.  
Search for the Light that is all around us,  
yet hidden behind your self-built walls.

Come, follow me....

**Avril Meallem**, Jerusalem



## POEMS FROM OUR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

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### Streetlamp

Cutting through the shadows  
of the asphalt homeland  
As wicked winter winds blow  
in Gotham  
Light continues to shine  
and passers - are lit up  
temporarily  
Streetlamp - the only way  
you communicate is with light  
Man has mastered light  
Ever since the Neanderthals  
first used fire  
Man has utilized light  
to his advantage  
Street lamp on the pavement  
Just a continuation  
of man's struggle against darkness  
Candles, fireplaces and yes, streetlamps  
mark man's conquest  
over eternal night

**Matthew Anish, USA**

People worshipping peacefully  
Were struck down by bullets  
Happens far too often in this country  
Perhaps time will  
change for the better  
Let u pray that that they will  
Violence begets violence  
Broken lives  
cannot always be repaired  
One day  
swords will be beaten into ploughshares  
Let us hope that day comes soon

**Matthew Anish, USA**