LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All

August is now past, and the humidity may drop. That may mean a little more time and energy for poetry writing.

Those of you who had planned to attend the joint venture between Haifa Voices and the Haifa English Theatre groups will be disappointed at its cancellation (because of circumstances beyond our control). I want to thank Wendy Blumfield and Judy Koren for the considerable effort they had made and hope that there may be a dramatic reading opportunity for our poetry at some future date.

Submissions to the 40th International Reuben Rose Poetry Competition continue until 3 October but if you have not already done so please do send in your entries very soon via Submittable. Queries should be directed to the administrator Mark Levinson nosnivel@netvision.net.il. This competition is a major feature of the Voices Israel year. The entry fees are our only other source of income apart from membership fees.

I am happy to announce that the chapbook resulting from the workshop at Susan Rosenberg’s Haifa home on 25 June is now ready. It is an attractive and exciting addition to our range of workshop chapbooks. Not only has Judith Fineberg collated it but she is willing to handle distribution too. Please see separate order instructions. Huge thanks to Johnmichael Simon for the design of “Inspiration by the Bay.”

Wendy Dickstein, the administrator of the new Voices Israel Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize is making final arrangements with her team (Susan Bell, Itamar Blumfield and advisor Ricky Friesem) to promote the prize to teachers in Israeli high schools. It is intended that first submissions will be invited this autumn. “Poetry makes children feel important, that they’re heard” said Oxford, UK teacher Kate Clanchy recently and we are hopeful there will be a great response and that will honour the memory and talents of the late young poet Bar Sagi.

The final stages of proofreading and preparing the 2019 Voices Israel Anthology have been rather trying and time-consuming for all involved. We aim to have a very professional publication, and this takes hours and hours of voluntary effort. The launch of the new anthology is being planned for November and I hope members will receive their copy of Volume 45 during September.

A new editorial team of three to support the Voices Anthology Chief Editor Dina Yehuda is now needed. Please email me if the two-year commitment interests you. A balance between experienced Voices Israel members and representation of our geographically widely spread groups is desirable so expressing an interest does not I am sorry to say mean automatic appointment. Queries about the role can be addressed to me, Dina Yehuda or maybe to any of the three esteemed retiring members of the editorial team Wendy Dickstein, Phella Hirschson and Amiel Schotz.

I am very aware that Rosh Hashanah 5780 is approaching. Probably the next newsletter will arrive a little later than normal so I want to wish all our members and all those interested in our activities warmest best wishes for peace, good health, happiness and creative fulfilment in the coming year. May it be a sweet one.

Susan Olsburgh
President Voices Israel
### SEPTEMBER 2019

#### MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAIFA</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 10</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Wendy Blumfield's 19 Sd. Wingate, Haifa</td>
<td><strong>Wendy Blumfield</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 04-837-6820, Mobile: 054-524-0412 <a href="mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il">wendyb@netvision.net.il</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TEL AVIV</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, Sept 15</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Beit Ariela (in T.A. main library bldg.), Conf Room, Floor -1, 25 Shaul HaMelech Blvd., Tel Aviv</td>
<td><strong>Mark Levinson</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 054-444-8438, <a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JERUSALEM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Meeting in September</td>
<td><strong>Avril Meallem</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 02-567-0998, <a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UPPER GALILEE</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 18</td>
<td>5:30-8 PM</td>
<td>Reuven and Yehudit's 128 Keren HaYesod, Artists Quarter, Tzfat</td>
<td><strong>Reuven Goldfarb</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 04-6974105, Mobile: 058-414-0262 <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BET SHEMESH / MODIIN</strong></td>
<td>No Meetings planned</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NETANYA &amp; SHARON</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 24</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Susan Olsburgh's 2/6 Zalman Shazar, (3rd floor) Ramat Poleg</td>
<td><strong>Susan Olsburgh</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 074-704-2736, <a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WESTERN GALILEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact Phyllsie for Details, Kibbutz Evron</td>
<td><strong>Phyllsie Gross</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 052-874-6880, <a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LONDON UK</strong></td>
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<td>For information, please contact Esther.</td>
<td><strong>Esther Lipton</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 077-353-5548, <a href="mailto:eblipton@talk21.com">eblipton@talk21.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GUSH ETZION</strong></td>
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<td>Please contact Mindy if you are interested in the group re-starting.</td>
<td><strong>Mindy Aber Barad</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 05-4667936, <a href="mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com">maber4kids@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHERN</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>No Meeting in September</td>
<td><strong>Miriam Green</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 05-7388640, <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASHKELON</strong></td>
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<td>For information, please contact Chaim</td>
<td><strong>Chaim Bezalel</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 054-674-5900, <a href="mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com">bezalel.levy@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BERLIN, GERMANY</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>For information, please contact Britta.</td>
<td><strong>Britta R. Kollberg</strong></td>
<td>Tel: 077-353-5548, <a href="mailto:brkollberg@yahoo.de">brkollberg@yahoo.de</a></td>
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millmannj@zahav.net.il

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helentbarlev@gmail.com
REGRETS
Voices Israel regrets that due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, we have had to cancel the Poetry/Drama café on 19th September. We have informed the poets and guests who had registered for the event.

WELCOME BACK TO A RETURNING MEMBER:
Helen Luttenberg, Tel Aviv

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS
REUBEN ROSE POETRY COMPETITION
Don’t forget to send in your poems to the Reuben Rose Poetry Competition!! Submission ends on October 3rd. See attachment 1 at the end of the newsletter with all information.

Inaugural Kore Press Institute Poetry Prize! Sept 15. deadline.
We are honored to announce that Erica Hunt will be the judge for the inaugural Kore Press Institute Poetry Prize. **Deadline: September 15.** A prize of $1,500, publication and promotion by Kore Press, and 20 author copies will be given for an original, unpublished full-length poetry collection by a woman or transgender poet, or a writer of marginalized gender and gender histories. Open to poets writing in English. Poets can be at any point in their career, and this may be their first, second, or mid-career book. $28 reading fee.

WORLD POETRY PEACE POETATHON FOR SEPTEMBER.
Thanks to Helen Bar-Lev who sent in information about a “peace poetathon” started by World Poetry Canada International. See World Poetry Peace Poetathon 2019 website. Go to link at the top of their page for all information about the Peace Poetathon 2019. What a wonderful idea.

Poetry Super Highway Announcing the 2019 Poetry Super Highway Poetry Contest - It’s the twenty-second annual Poetry Contest featuring cash prizes and 60 sponsors who’ve donated 128 additional prizes. Last year we were able to send every contest entrant a prize for participating and we’re hoping to do the same this year. See, [http://poetrysuperhighway.com/psh/](http://poetrysuperhighway.com/psh/)

The Mslexia and PBS Women’s Poetry and Pamphlet Competitions are back! Entries are now open until the 16th September 2019, 5pm GMT. [https://www.poetrybooks.co.uk/pages/mslexia-pbs-womens-poetry-prize](https://www.poetrybooks.co.uk/pages/mslexia-pbs-womens-poetry-prize). The Poetry Book Society (PBS) is delighted to be partnering with Mslexia on two prestigious women’s poetry prizes. The Women’s Poetry Competition will be judged by the award-winning poet Malika Booker. Entrants can win up to £2000, alongside publication in Mslexia and the PBS Bulletin poetry magazine, as well as the chance to be mentored by PBS Book Selector Sandeep Parmar and attend a writing retreat at Scotland's International Artist Residency Centre, Cove Park. The Women’s Pamphlet Competition offers women poets the life-changing opportunity to publish a pamphlet with leading independent publisher, Seren. Both competitions are open via our Submittable page from the 1st June to 16th September.
CONGRATULATIONS

- to Wendy Blumfield, whose two-page article: “Poetry – a neglected art?” was published in the Jerusalem Report July 22nd, with full coverage of Voices Israel events and pictures of workshops. See the following review by our member Reuven Goldfarb:

  Dear Wendy, thank you for your graceful article about the role that Voices Israel plays in fostering the growth of English language poetry in Israel.

- to Pesach Rotem, who had four poems (“Eclipse,” “Electoral College,” “Professor Hofstadter’s Brain,” “The Ironic Demise of Dr. Lodge”) published in Synchronized Chaos at http://synchchaos.com/poetry-from-pesach-rotem/

- to Matthew Anish whose poem was published in the August issue of Spontaneous Spirits and another published by the American Tolkien Society on their website.

- to Esther Cameron whose poem "At This Late Date: A Reply to Robert Frost" is now up on Sassonmag.com. It responds to a blank verse letter written by Robert Frost to Louis Untermeyer, justifying Frost's refusal to participate in a group of writers opposing fascism during World War II.

POETRY FROM THE VOICES ISRAEL HAIFA WORKSHOP

Our beautiful chapbook from the workshop is ready!! As always, a wonderful production by Johnmichael Simon, including an “inspiring” book cover. See attachment 2, an order form to own a copy of the chapbook.
CLASSES IN “FORMAL ELEMENTS IN POETRY”

On Wednesday, September 25th, the Upper Galilee group will hold the first in a series of classes entitled "Formal Elements in Poetry," taught by Reuven Goldfarb. Focus will be on the sonic qualities of poetry — its most basic elements — the rhythmic and musical qualities of the many varieties of English verse. Classes will be at the home of Reuven and Yehudit Goldfarb, 128 Keren HaYesod, Artists Quarter, Tzfat, start time, 5 pm. If interested in attending, please write to Reuven via poetsprogress@gmail.com for an overview and advance copies of readings.

Reuven is dedicating this class to Zev Davis, z”l, an ardent practitioner of traditional forms and an active member of Voices Israel, who regularly attended both the Haifa and Upper Galilee group meetings.

See the Class Description from Reuven attachment 3 below.
Falling Dreams (rondeau redoublé)

I dreamt of falling from the sky last night –
I never used to be afraid to fall;
I dreamt of soaring upward like a kite
beyond humdrum existence and its crawl,

soaring until the Earth looked like a ball,
upward and upward for the mere delight
of flying – till there was no air at all…
I dreamt of falling from the sky last night.

Why did this dream arouse in me such fright?
Why did I dream I’d soar only to stall?
I never used to be afraid of flight,
I never used to be afraid to fall:

I used to boldly face what might befall
embracing every risk, shirking no fight;
in all my enterprises, great and small
I dreamt of soaring upward like a kite

fixing upon the future all my sight,
righting the wrongs that hold the Earth in thrall
while ever rising upward, to a height
beyond humdrum existence and its crawl.

But I awoke today under a pall
seeing that my successes were but slight –
a younger generation must stand tall
and do its best to set the world aright:
I dreamt of falling.

**Judy Koren**, Haifa group selection

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**Retro**

Dipping
Into
Holy
Water
Meant
A
Bumpy
One-way
Ticket
To
The
Blue
With
You.

**Birgit Talmon**
Tel Aviv selection
I Don’t Know Age

“I don’t know age,” said the sparrow to the lion in the cage
“I do” said the lion. “I’ve grown old sitting on this concrete stage."

“I don’t know time,” said the eagle to the ox pulling its load behind
“I do,” said the ox. “I’ve counted the minutes and seconds of my daily grind.”

“I don’t know space,” said the seagull to the bear guarding its place.
“I do,” said the bear. “If you cross my territory, you’ll have me to face.”

“I don’t know other,” said the parrot to the crocodile lurking in the ground cover.
“I do” said the crocodile. “The other is not my sister or my brother.”

The four birds could have just flown away. Instead they all chose to stay.
They met each other in an open field. A vision shared, their mission sealed.

The sparrow hopped to the lion’s home. She opened the door to let him roam.
“Come out”, she said, “You’re free of age. You’re no longer trapped inside that cage.”

The eagle soared over the ox’s head. “You’ll never again count minutes”, he said.
He cut her loose from her wooden box. “I’m free of time”, exclaimed the ox.

The seagull glided to where the bear kept watch, making sure his territory would not be touched.
“Believe me, friend”, the seagull said. “Space is only in your head.”

The parrot spoke as the crocodile stood, beside the river and near the wood.
“If you dare to look, I know you’ll see, that the other is actually you and me.”

The eight friends met at the water’s edge. They worked all night on their freedom pledge.
“We vow to labour tirelessly, so that all G-d’s creatures will be free.

Free of time and free of age. No one trapped in a lion’s cage.
Free of space, there is no other. For we are children of the very same mother.”

Shoshana Kent, Western Galilee selection
Shabbat Nachamu

standing by the open Torah scroll
seeing shapes and forms, not words
but bold letters exuding a certain energy
a meaning beyond the words inscribed
a dancing pattern, a force
a comfort in these troubling times

Edit Gavriely, Haifa selection

Conditions – Calm

Every week at the same time
you both emerge from the distant view
that fronts my sea-facing balcony.
Forward you come plodding
side by side leisured pace
one on the outside one inside
no words spoken that I can detect
just the comfortable communion that
characterizes years of togetherness
purposefully going to a chosen place
a steadiness reflecting calm inner space.

You are a living version of those weather vanes
where the male doll went in and the female out
year in year out to mark changing conditions.
Now an advancing aging pair
regular as a timepiece
you take the morning air
in a synchronized saunter - of being watched unaware.

Susan Olsburgh
Netanya/Sharon selection

I Will Be Your Shadow

I will be your shadow
and walk beside you
on your path

Wherever you go
I will follow in your footsteps
and ask not to where

Glad to know your ways,
wishing only to please you
with my presence.

Simcha Angel
Jerusalem selection July 2019

Van Gogh’s “Cypress and Star”

here are sun and moon gold and silver
balanced in a twilight sky above a road
a wobbly cypress dances with the orbs
in the viewer’s sight and the artist’s eye
as the globes glide in skies lighting
pedestrian and passenger on their way
for us the cypress swaying with the lights
born in swirling line and striking hue
betray or else reflect the artist’s mind
inseparable are the parts and whole

Eli Ben-Joseph
Western Galilee selection
Wicks

You have to think a bit till you remember what a wick is. Then probably the limp, over-long wicks of those cheap Hanukkah candles come to your mind: how they curled, wiggled, flickered, stretched laterally, how at times the flames of two adjoining candles formed a circumflex. How they finally settled in pleasing verticality.

You know the wicks in perfumed candles though you never think of them except when the flame dies out as soon as it is lit. (No, of course, not the elegant candles for a “spa experience” but those some people put in the toilet when they have guests). Perhaps you remember the honey-colored bee wax candles which had good wicks and smelled nice, those I lit on Shabbat.

If you ask me about a wick, I think of the broad woven band coiled in the petrol lamps of my childhood. My grandmother would remove the blackened, sooty, smelly edge with a sharp cut of the scissors. Wipe the glass cylinder with a cloth until it sparkled. Adjust the height of the flame from the little metal wheel on the side. And there was light.

Don’t look so smug, of course we had electricity. There just were lots of power shortages, especially during storms – I would do my homework in the kitchen by the petrol lamp while filaments of soot spotted the cylinder - yes indeed, you can see lamps of this kind in faux rustic restaurants - and there are lots of things you cannot begin to understand.

Iris Dan, Haifa selection
HADN'T IT BEEN FOR THAT OLD SCHOOL OF MINE…

… I might have learned in just another school
and everything might have been just as fine:
addition would have been the same old rule,
sequence of tenses would have worked the same,
each plant would have kept its same Latin name...
It seems nothing would have changed around me.
But inside me?
What kind of person I'd have tried to be?
Without meeting my first schoolmistress dear
so long ago during my first school year…
I might have been another person now.
This poem wouldn’t have been written anyhow.

Luiza Carol, Netanya/Sharon selection
Araucaria Araucana

That monkey-puzzle tree
Chilean exile, simian quandary
squatted, cactus-like
hirsute and barbed
coned but impotent
on the front lawn
of our grandparents’ hillside home

Curiosity, enigma,
mind-boggler and poser
of source and destiny unknown to us
it persisted year after year
a survivor, a resourceful holdout
against industrial toxicity
and weather’s frequent inclemency

Becoming eventually
the mute beacon
that reassured us
that signalled through rain, fog, snow
our arrival once more
at their gate
where we would leave
our intimidating, disorienting world
for the slippered shuffle
the fleeting whisper
of diminishing grandparenthood

Their spectral status
a wispy, fragile unreality
that, surely, would never beset us
we youths, striving in innocence
to set ourselves apart
from whatever chill prospects
whatever threats of such decay
that destiny might hint at

Don Mulcahy
Canada

Never Give In

All was ready
All was planned
Fliers were printed
And ready at hand

The North Finchley Festival
With poets and band
Lined up in cafés and pubs
With all feeling grand

But then came changes
When venues sold out
New owners cancelled everything
That the festival was about

I know the poets
Good people all
I will not sit by
And let their good work fall

There’s Helen and Keith
And then there is Chris
Why not a monthly meeting
With a good literary mix

Poetry. Verse.
A selection of prose
Refreshments for the palette
And the ears and the nose

A hot summer evening (for London)
And the sun through my window pours in
Poetry Chez Moi
The killjoys won’t win.

This new group is now active
Like the phoenix we’ve risen.
We have our meetings so
Nothing is missing.

Michael Duke, UK
Memories of Rabbi Harold Swiss

When I met him
his hair was grey
And his wisdom shone forth
lie a beacon
He knew that Shabbat
is an important part of Judaism
He played guitar and
led us in prayer
He loved his family, his congregation, his church
Gone from the Earth
Rabbi Harold Swiss

Matthew Anish, USA
Attachment 1:

The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the 2019 annual Reuben Rose Poetry Competition

Submission Period

Entries must be received no earlier than July 15th 2019, and no later than October 3rd 2019. Judges

Overseas Judge – Katherine L. Gordon, Canada

Katherine L. Gordon is a rural Ontario poet, publisher, author, judge and reviewer. She is an award-winning writer whose works have been published internationally and translated into several languages. Her books may be found at Craigleigh Press, Passion among the Cacti Press, Hidden Brook Press, Serengeti Press, Melinda, Cochrane International, Cyclamens and Swords Publishing, as well as many anthologies, books and chapbooks with fine contemporaries whose works inspire her. She dedicates her time to the promotion of poetry as the essential link to cultural unity.

John Gallas of U.K, last year’s Reuben Rose first prize winner

Donna Bechar of Israel, last year’s Reuben Rose second prize winner

Prizes

First prize is $500, second prize is $150, third prize is $50. Ten honorable mentions are awarded. Prizewinners and all honorable mentions will be published in the Voices Israel 2020 poetry anthology.

Guidelines

Entries may deal with any topic. Focus need not be Jewish or Israeli. Challenging, humorous, and/or eccentric poetry is welcome, but typographical tricks are discouraged.

- Poems should be unpublished (in print and online) however poems only published in the Voices Israel Newsletter are exempt from this provision.
- Maximum length is 41 lines, including stanza breaks, subtitles and epigraphs, but not including title.
- Poems are judged without the poets’ names. Please omit your names from files submitted.
- Submission and payment via “Submittable”. Click the link to submit directly: https://voicesisrael.submittable.com/submit
- Or see full guidelines and submission details at http://www.voicesisrael.com/reubenerosecompetition.htm
Attachment 2

Chapbook from Haifa Workshop:

Ordering *Inspiration by the Bay*

Your name…………………………………………………

Your full address…………………………………………

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...........................................................................

Number of copies required………………..

Please email Judith Fineberg Judith.fineberg@gmail.com with number of copies required @ 30 shekels each plus postage

Judith will advise you of postage cost and total cost
Payment should then be made to The Treasurer

either
by cheque, payable Voices Israel and sent to
Chanita Millman 15 Shachar Street Jerusalem 9626323

or
Bank transfer to
Bank Discount No 11, Branch 159
Account 6624199
Beneficiary Kolot Israel (Voices Israel)

Please email Judith again when you have made your payment and copy the email to Chanita millmanm@zahav.net.il

Judith will then happily despatch the chapbook(s) to you.
Thank you for your interest.

Voices Israel Amuta 580197036
attachment 3 – reuben goldfarb classes

formal elements in poetry

1. meet the anapest

the anapestic meter, also known as "the galloping meter," is one of the four main meters that English language poets have employed in their verse. It is also a rhyming meter, especially adapted to couplets.

in the first class we will read aloud several poems written in this meter — poems by Byron, Scott, Browning, and the instructor, Reuven Goldfarb. Anyone interested in trying their hand at composing in this form is welcome to do so.

in this series of classes, I want to focus first of all on the sonic qualities of poetry — the most basic elements — the rhythmic and musical qualities of the many varieties of English verse. There will be plenty of time to talk about the meaning, but I caution us about jumping there too soon.

Many readers of poetry confuse it with expository prose and immediately set out to understand and explain the contents. I urge us not to consider the content apart from the form and to give the form pride of place, since that is what distinguishes poetry from prose.

in subsequent meetings we'll examine other forms — the Spenserian stanza, the ballad, the sonnet, the ode, ottava rima, and, of course, iambic pentamer, including blank verse.

The first class will take place on Wednesday, September 25, at 5 pm, at 128 Keren HaYesod in the Artists Quarter, Tzfat, the home of Reuven & Yehudit Goldfarb. Refreshments will be served, and copies of the poems will be provided. Please indicate your interest and your intention to attend in advance, so that I will know how many copies to make. If you are able to make copies on your own, that is all the better. To facilitate this, and to enable attendees to familiarize themselves with the texts prior to the class, I will send email copies to everyone who informs me that he or she plans to attend.

I dedicate this class to Zev Davis, z"l, an ardent practitioner of traditional forms and an active member of Voices Israel, who regularly attended both the Haifa and Upper Galilee group meetings.

Thank you!

Reuven poetsprogress@gmail.com

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/glossary-terms