



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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All photos taken during visit of Voices Members at National Library of Israel to deposit 2019 Anthology, courtesy of Judith Fineberg.



BET MIDRASH ABRABANEL LIBRARY 1892

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

Our Secretary Linda has been working hard for a couple of months to give our newsletter a new look. In this issue it finally “goes live.” We hope you like the result as much as we do!

This month saw the transfer of two important national roles – that of President and Membership Coordinator. In the process of the handover, there was a mix-up of some records, so that some of our members received reminders to pay membership dues even though they had already paid. To those of you who received such letters – our regrets and apologies. To those who really haven’t yet paid the dues – please do find the opportunity to do so!

We hope this month to put on our website an option to make payments, such as membership dues, via PayPal. This will solve the problem of how to pay for people who are self-isolating, and especially our members abroad.

We have continued to refine our use of Zoom for group meetings and have discovered that although only the official Voices host (our Past President, Susan Olsburgh) can schedule meetings, she can designate the group coordinator, or another group member, as an “alternate host.” This means that the group coordinator can take full control of the meeting. As usual, please contact Susan if you’d like to take advantage of this arrangement.

We welcomed back our Ashkelon group, which Chaim Bezalel has re-started with a meeting on June 9th. Happy Muse-ing, Ashkelon! Ashkelon was thus the guinea-pig for our new Zoom scheduling arrangement.

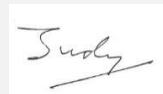
The Anthology, after intensive proof-reading, is finally at the printer’s. We look forward to being able to distribute it in the Fall. Our warm thanks to Johnmichael Simon, who has once again produced a beautiful volume, but, to our regret, is now retiring as Anthology producer. Johnmichael, we can never thank you enough for all you have done for Voices for so many years! We look forward

to continuing to meet you, virtually or in person, at Voices events.

The Reuben Rose competition is once again set to start in mid-July. Watch our website – the Submit button will appear there when submissions start.

Finally, we have become aware that putting the Newsletter on the website jeopardizes the “unpublished” status of the poems in it: most literary outlets define “publication” to include anything put on the Internet, even if it is in the back pages of a society newsletter. Each outlet makes its own policy, but if a magazine finds a submitted poem on our website and queries it, neither the poet nor Voices as an organization have any valid argument to fall back on, regarding why it should not be considered “published.” **Therefore, in order not to restrict our members’ publication options, the version of the Newsletter uploaded to our website will, as of this month, no longer include the poems.** The full Newsletter including the poems will of course continue to be circulated to our members by email – such distribution to specific people definitely does *not* constitute publication.

Corona is once again raising its ugly head so that our return to normal for the events currently “on hold” looks uncertain. Meanwhile: take care and stay safe! With best wishes,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

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JULY 2020

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

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|---|--|---|--|
| <p>HAIFA MEETING VIA ZOOM SUNDAY, JULY 19 AT 8:00 PM CONTACT WENDY FOR DETAILS</p> <p>Coordinator: Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412 wendyb@netvision.net.il</p> | <p>TEL AVIV MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, JULY 23 AT 7:30 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p> | <p>JERUSALEM MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, JULY 14 AT 6:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 aemeallem@gmail.com</p> | <p>UPPER GALILEE MEETING VIA ZOOM (WITH WESTERN GALILEE GROUP) WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 AT 5-7 PM</p> <p>GUESTS WELCOME Call 04-697-4105 or write poetsprogress@gmail.com for a link & guidelines.</p> <p>Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-6974105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 poetsprogress@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>BET SHEMESH / MODIIN NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p> | <p>NETANYA & SHARON MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, JULY 27 AT NOON</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Tel: 074-704-2736 olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p> | <p>WESTERN GALILEE MEETING VIA ZOOM (WITH UPPER GALILEE GROUP) WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 AT 5-7PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Phyllsie Gross Tel: 052-874-6880 phyllsie@hotmail.com</p> | <p>LONDON UK FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ESTHER.</p> <p>Coordinator: Esther Lipton eblipton@talk21.com</p> |
| <p>GUSH ETZION PLEASE CONTACT MINDY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE GROUP RE- STARTING.</p> <p>Coordinator: Mindy Aber Barad Tel: 05-4667936 maber4kids@yahoo.com</p> | <p>SOUTHERN FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MIRIAM</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p> | <p>ASHKELON MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, JULY 21 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Chaim Bezalel Mobile: 054-674-5900 bezalel.levy@gmail.com</p> | <p>BERLIN, GERMANY FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BRITTA.</p> <p>Coordinator: Britta R. Kollberg brkollberg@yahoo.de</p> |

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DEBORAH GOLDEN, ZICHRON YAACOV

ADAM SMITH, ASHKELON

FROM JOHNMICHAEL SIMON

Johnmichael Simon is once again offering his chapbook design services to Voices Israel members and friends.

If you would like to possess a beautifully presented and published collection of your own favorite poems, please contact Johnmichael at johnmichaelsimon@gmail.com for details of this special offer.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATORS:

Voices Israel has a beautiful and informative Facebook page in case you were not aware. Join the page and enjoy announcements and photos. Here is a link to the page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VoicesIsrael/permalink/10158107258160155/>

CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

FORMAL STRUCTURES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE
POETRY FOR MONTH OF JULY

VIA ZOOM

Wed., July 1, 5-7 pm, Hamlet, Act II

Wed., July 15, 5-7 pm, Hamlet, Act III;

Wed., July 22, 5-7 pm, Hamlet, Act IV;

Our Formal Elements in English Language Poetry class members read the first act of Hamlet last Wednesday, June 24th. Six of us attended: Ann, Miriam, Dina, Yehudit, Susan, and myself. It was exciting, and I asked the group members if they would be willing to break precedent and meet next Wednesday as well. All agreed, although Susan has another commitment at that time and cannot attend. So, if you have an interest in reading Shakespeare aloud, in good company, let me know, and I'll send you a zoom invitation — and the text of Act II. For an online text of the whole play: <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/full.html>

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The **Aesthetica Creative Writing Award** is an international literary prize that is a hotbed for new talent in Poetry and Short Fiction. Now in its 14th year, the Prize supports both emerging and established writers. By entering, writers can showcase their work to key industry figures and organizations including The Poetry Society, *Granta*, VINTAGE and more. Winners are selected for both categories and awarded with £1,000. Publication within the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Anthology*, is also awarded to a further 60 writers whose works are highly commended. Aesthetica is proud to champion new writing talent and supports its writing alumni beyond the Prize, offering print and digital publicity and continued exposure across our channels. **Deadline August 31, 2020.** See <https://aestheticamagazine.com/>

Winning Writers is calling for submissions through membership in FanStory. Membership is \$9.95 a month. FanStory regularly sends information on all the writing contests available some with deadlines clear to the end of 2020. See: <https://www.fanstory.com/index1n.jsp>

Devour Art & Lit Canada is calling for Panku Poem Submissions for a future book: "In These Strange Pandemic Days." Only uplifting, fun, light, amusing and/or entertaining pandemic poems in the form of a Panku will be accepted. No deadline indicated. Just send in your poems ASAP to: pankupoems@gmail.com. See guidelines at [pp. 124-125 of Issue 007 of Devour: Art & Lit Canada Panku Issue.](#)

Poetica Publishing has announced their call for submissions to the **2020 Mizmor Poetry Anthology**. **Deadline is August 15.** The Theme: Braving the Spiritual Wilderness. Editors are looking for poems reflecting on the spiritual connection between human beings, nature and the environment." [Poetica Magazine](#)

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CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS, (CONT.)

FROM OUR MEMBER, LUIZA CAROL

Dr. Zhang Zhi, chief editor of "The World Poets Quarterly" invites Israeli poets to contribute to his magazine. His address: iptrc@163.com. You are also invited to visit their website: <http://iptrc.blogspot.com/>

Thank you, Luiza!)

The Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE) will be accepting submissions for the 28th issue of *arc*, their annual literary journal, from July 15th until September 1st 2020. The theme for *arc* 28 is "The Kiss." See [IAWE arc 28 submission guidelines](#)

Frontier Poetry has announced submissions are called for their Industry Award, deadline July 19. [Guidelines are at this link.](#) \$3,000 awarded to one prize.

Frontier Poetry, responding to Black Lives Matter, is running three endeavors to raise money for Black communities saying Frontier Poetry would not exist without the talent and courage and artistry of Black voices. www.frontierpoetry.com

Inner Child Press is announcing several anthologies that are now open for submission. See the following link: <http://www.innerchildpress.com/>

Winning Writers is calling for submission to their next Rattle Poetry Prize with a deadline of July 15. They are offering \$15,000 for a single poem, and \$5,000 for runner-up. [About Rattle Poetry Prize](#)

FROM DR. DEAN P. BELL, SPERTUS INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH LEARNING & LEADERSHIP

Dr. Bell writes that "We Are All In This Together" in an announcement about online courses and seminars being offered by the Institute (located in Chicago, Illinois USA). The Institute is "proud to continue the venerable Jewish tradition of learning together, even when we are apart." The Institutes website offers full information about the Institute and its offerings. [Spertus Webpage](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

To – **Wendy Blumfield** - The current issue of *The Jerusalem Report* (June 8, 2020) includes an essay by Wendy, entitled, "Coping with Social Isolation," on p. 24. It is accompanied by a photo of Wendy with her late husband, David. See the essay: <https://www.jpost.com/jerusalem-report/coping-with-social-isolation-628574>

To – **Judy Koren**, whose poem "Dear Adam" was one of the winners of *Lighten Up Online's* March competition. Judy's poem "Jaffa, as microcosm" is being published in the June 2020 issue of the *Taj Mahal Review*.

To – **Michael Stone**, whose poem "Fresh Air" has been published in the *2019 Poetry Edition of Mizmor Anthology*.

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