



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Website address: [www.voicesisrael.com](http://www.voicesisrael.com)

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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Photo at 2019 Anthology Launch.  
From L-R: Dina Yehuda, Yair Yehuda,  
Mark Levinson, Wendy Blumfield, Judy  
Koren

Photo courtesy of Judith Fineberg

### 2020 Anthology Launch:

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 7:30  
– 9:30 p.m.**

**Change in Reuben Rose  
submission dates: July 15 to  
October 1, 2020**

**Link to access website for joining  
or renewing membership:**



**<https://www.voicesisrael.com/join-us-or-renew-membership> -**



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

There is a lot going on in the next couple of months! The anthology has been printed and you should all get it in time for the Zoomed Launch event on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have had a wonderful response for the Anthology launch - 35 poets have registered to read poems, which means that we'll be limited to one poem each. If there's time left after that, we can have a second round, but it looks unlikely. **Everyone who has registered to read at the launch event - please email me which poem you would like to read in Round 1** (remembering that there will probably not be time to read the second one).

**We're now closing the list of readers. Those who haven't registered are welcome to attend without reading a poem - sorry!**

**North American event** - Diane Ray in Seattle is organizing a Voices Israel poetry-reading event for our US and Canadian members, to take place (of course via Zoom) on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11 am Seattle time: see the invitation included in this newsletter. Israeli members are welcome to come as guests, although only our North American members will be reading their poems. If you are interested, please contact Diane at [draywrite@gmail.com](mailto:draywrite@gmail.com).

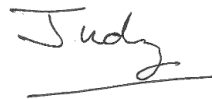
**We'll be holding the joint Reuben Rose and Bar Sagi prize-giving events after Sukkot, on October 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm Israel time - again, by Zoom. Our sponsor for the Bar Sagi prize, Bar's grandfather Prof. Anthony Joseph and his wife, will take part, and we really hope that as many of our members as possible will attend to honour our Reuben Rose prize-winners and especially to encourage our young poets, the winners of the Bar Sagi prize.

**We are opening the next Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize to a number of Jewish schools overseas**, for a trial year. The prize will remain general - all subjects accepted, not limited to "the Jewish experience". Many thanks to our sponsor, Prof. Anthony Joseph, and to our team leaders: Ricky Friesem, consultant, and Wendy Dickstein, administrator and one of the judges, for all their help in making this possible.

**North American members take note** - Diane would also like to start a North American "local" group after the High Holidays, via Zoom. It will hold monthly meetings where you can bring your poems for friendly critique and get to know each other, the way our Israeli members do. We have enough North American members to run two such groups, so optimally this could be a Western group, with a parallel Central-and-Eastern group. **If any of you living in the Central or Eastern time zones of the US or Canada would like to coordinate such a group, please contact me ([president@voicesisrael.com](mailto:president@voicesisrael.com)).**

Finally, to those of you who have not yet paid their membership dues for 2020: **remember that you can now pay them [via the website Membership page](#) without leaving your home** - we don't like sending out reminders and I'm sure you don't like receiving them, so please get this out of the way so that you can sit back and continue to enjoy our newsletter, monthly meetings, the Anthology, and our upcoming events.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## SEPTEMBER 2020

### ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 8:00 PM CONTACT WENDY FOR DETAILS</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Wendy Blumfield Tel: 04-837-6820 Mobile: 054-524-0412 <a href="mailto:wendyb@netvision.net.il">wendyb@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>TEL AVIV</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM SEPTEMBER MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT 7:30-10:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Mark Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 <a href="mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il">nosnivel@netvision.net.il</a></p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 6:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 <a href="mailto:aemeallem@gmail.com">aemeallem@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPPER GALILEE</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER WITH WESTERN GALILEE GROUP) WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 AT 5-7 PM</p> <p>GUESTS WELCOME Call 04-697-4105 or write <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a> for a link &amp; guidelines.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-6974105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 <a href="mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com">poetsprogress@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>ASHKELON</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Chaim Bezalel Mobile: 054-674-5900 <a href="mailto:bezalel.levy@gmail.com">bezalel.levy@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>NETANYA &amp; SHARON</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AT 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Susan Olsburgh Tel: 074-704-2736 <a href="mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com">olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>WESTERN GALILEE</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM (TOGETHER WITH UPPER GALILEE GROUP) WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 AT 5-7PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Phyllsie Gross Tel: 052-874-6880 <a href="mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com">phyllsie@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>LONDON UK</b> FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ESTHER.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Esther Lipton <a href="mailto:eblipton@talk21.com">eblipton@talk21.com</a></p> <p>***** <b>BERLIN, GERMANY</b> FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BRITTA.</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Britta R. Kollberg <a href="mailto:brkollberg@yahoo.de">brkollberg@yahoo.de</a></p>
<p><b>GUSH ETZION</b> <u>PLEASE CONTACT MINDY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE GROUP RE- STARTING.</u></p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Mindy Aber Barad Tel: 05-4667936 <a href="mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com">maber4kids@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>SOUTHERN</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 5:00 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Miriam Green Tel: 05-7388640 <a href="mailto:miriamsgreen@gmail.com">miriamsgreen@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>BET SHEMESH / MODIIN</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>USA/CANADA</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AT 9:00 PM (ISRAELI TIME)</p> <p>11 AM SEATTLE &amp; CHETWYND 12 NOON MEDICINE HAT 1 PM SKOKIE &amp; AUSTIN 2 PM NEW YORK &amp; STRATHROY</p> <p><b>COORDINATOR: DIANE RAY</b> <a href="mailto:draywrite@gmail.com">draywrite@gmail.com</a></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## REMINDER

### 2020 VOICES ISRAEL ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

**Reminder!** - The launch of the Anthology will be held on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**, (two days after Rosh Hashanah), at 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Israel time**. By then everyone should have received their copy of the Anthology. (Poets who wish to read their poems – please keep available the PDF you received for proof-reading, just in case there is a problem with the postal service).

The bad news is that we will each have to provide our own refreshment. The good news is that the event is free (no entrance fee!), nobody has to travel, and ***the event is open to all our members worldwide***. **Overseas poets, especially those with poems in the Anthology – this is a wonderful chance to attend the event.** Let's all make the best of the situation and have a fun evening!

**Overseas attendees please note: 7:30 pm Israel time on this date is 5:30 pm UK time, 12:30 noon US Eastern time and 9:30 am US Pacific time.**

**If you'd like to attend without reading your poems - registration is required no later than Tuesday, 15 September.**

**To register**, please email [secretary.voices@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.voices@gmail.com) or call Linda Suchy at her mobile: 054-497-8812.

An invitation with a link to the meeting will be sent to registered participants, by email, before the meeting. **Please note that you *must* register in order to receive the Zoom invitation!**

Come and enjoy! Poets will be reading their published poems, and proxy readings are also available.

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## *The Voices Israel Group of Poets*

### IN ENGLISH

Warmly invites you to participate in

The *Voices Israel* American/Canadian Poets Reading

bringing us together on Zoom

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

11 am in Seattle and Chetwynd

12 noon in Medicine Hat

1 pm in Skokie and Austin

2 pm in New York and Strathroy

21:00 (9 pm) in Jerusalem

**Please take a moment now to mark**

**your calendar and R.S.V.P.**

to Diane Ray: [draywrite@gmail.com](mailto:draywrite@gmail.com)

**but no later than the deadline, September 2**

We are twenty-five US and Canadian member poets, a few of us dividing the year between Israel and the US. Please indicate whether you will be coming as a reader or to cheer others on. Let me know if you are new to Zoom and need some gentle help. Once the list of participants is finalized, you will receive the Zoom link, along with the roster of readers and how much time each will be given to read. Here's to us, the American and Canadian *Voices* poets, breaching our four time zones with strong support from our colleagues in Israel, joining together on Zoom!

Meanwhile, wishing you health, hope, and resilience through difficult times,

Diane Ray  
*Voices Israel* Overseas Member  
Seattle, USA

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

**Michael Greenberg**, Tel Aviv (New)

**Irene Bloom**, Port Townsend, USA (Returning)

### REFUAH SHLEMA (GET WELL)

We wish our very best to **Roy Runds** of our Tel Aviv group. Hoping you find strength with each new day.

We send all good wishes for a full and speedy recovery to Voices Past President, **Susan Olsburgh**.

### CONDOLENCES

**Mike Leaf z"l**

(see Johnmichael Simon's tribute to Mike Leaf in poetry section)

### A SPECIAL OFFER FROM JOHNMICHAEL SIMON

Johnmichael Simon is 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 for details of this special offer at [johnmichaelsimon@gmail.com](mailto:johnmichaelsimon@gmail.com).

### NEWS FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB -

One of our former Upper Galilee poets, Esther Heller, is enrolled in Courses in Modern and Contemporary Poetry. Here is some of the information about the courses along with a link to register/enroll.

Registration requires an email address and name; that's all. And again we do not charge any fee to participate whatsoever. The Writers House offers this "on the house," as it were.

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<http://www.voicesisrael.com/>

Here is some of the information about the courses along with a link to register/enroll.

"ModPo" is a 10-week course on modern poetry that is **free and open to all**—and can be done, here and there each week, in your own time. ModPo is about to begin its 9th year. The course is hosted by the Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania. The new 10-week season of ModPo begins on Saturday, September 5. You can register/enroll here:

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/modpo> .

For more about the course, go here:

[modpo.org](http://modpo.org) — and/or watch this 3-minute intro video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ho7MSvu5LYo>

If you have questions, write to the ModPo team at [modpo@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:modpo@writing.upenn.edu).

### CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

#### FORMAL ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE POETRY

The class will meet once in September, exact date to be determined, but it will be on a Wednesday from 5-7 pm on ZOOM. Our focus will be on Emily Bronte and her unique family and family lore. Emily Bronte (1818-1848).

### CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**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>

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

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

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**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](mailto:pankupoems@gmail.com).

**Palette Poetry** announces that every middle of the month: new deadlines, new contests, and new opportunities for your voice to find the world. The next six weeks include: our own Palette Poetry Prize, Pank Book Awards, Black Warrior Review, Asian American Literary Review, multiple residencies and grants, and more. <https://www.palettepoetry.com/2020/08/16/deadlines-august-september-2020/>

**Poetica Magazine Contemporary Jewish Writing** has announced that it is now open for submissions to a new eEdition. No fee to submit! Open edition - No deadline! Selected works will be included in a special print edition - publication TBD. <https://www.poeticamagazine.com/>

**Winning Writers** publishes a monthly newsletter with pages and pages of writing contests (too many to mention in our Newsletter)! See [winningwriters.com](http://winningwriters.com).

**Winning Writers**, Our 2021 Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest is now **open for entries**. We are **doubling the top prize to \$2,000 and the second prize to \$500**. Our co-sponsor **Duotrope** will give the winner a two-year gift certificate (a \$100 value) to go with their \$2,000 prize. As always, this contest has no fee.

**Palette Poetry (exciting new projects)** offering space to stretch poets' creativity into new and exciting projects. The 2020 Brush & Lyre Prize, \$3500 awarded for Artfully Communicated Poetry **deadline October 18, 2020**. This unique multimedia contest will accept work that incorporates poetry into new media formats, including but not limited to music, video, art, photography, sculpture, and performance. See instructions, etc., at <https://www.palettepoetry.com/current-contest/>

**Winning Writers** is calling for submissions to the Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest 18th year. They have increased the Tom Howard Prize to \$3,000 for a poem in any style or genre, and the Margaret Reid Prize to \$3,000 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style. Ten Honorable Mentions will receive \$200 each (any style). The top 12 entries will be published online. The top two winners will also receive two-year gift certificates from our co-sponsor, Duotrope (a \$100 value). Length limit: 250 lines per poem. Entry fee: \$15 per poem. Final judge: S. Mei Sheng Frazier, assisted by Jim DuBois. Deadline: **September 30**. [Submit online here](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS

To –The family of Bar Sagi, the young Israeli poet who passed away very young, for the publication of a musical film based on Bar's last poem before her passing, Echoes of Hope. Here is the link to a lovely remembrance of the young, talented poet. The film is animation and the poem set to music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHZZj16Q44A&feature=youtu.be>

To - **Wendy Dickstein** (Israel), whose poem "Esther's Angels" was published by the Jewish Book Council in its Berru Poetry series. See the following link to the poem. <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/pb-daily/esthers-angels>

To - **Anne Hall Levine** (USA), whose poem "My Rose of Sharon" has been published in Poetica Magazine Contemporary Jewish Writing. See the following link: <https://www.poeticamagazine.com/anne-hall-levine>

To – **All September Birthdays** – Happy Birthday. May your day be filled with happiness, good health, and may all your wishes come true.



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