

Voices Newsletter November 2017

NOVEMBER MEETING DATES AND PLACES

HAIFA

Tuesday, October 31st
at 7.30 pm
Susan Rosenberg's
42 Leon Blum St.
Apartment 46

Coordinator:
Susan Rosenberg
Tel; 04 838 1218
050 933 3804
susanndick@gmail.com

TEL AVIV

Thursday November 23rd
at 7.30 pm.
AACI
94 A Allenby Street,
Tel Aviv

Coordinator:
Mark Levinson
Tel; 09 955 5720
nosnivel@netvision.net.il

JERUSALEM

Tuesday, November 21st
at 6pm
Rehov Aza 5/3

Coordinator:
Ruth Fogelman
Tel; 02 628 7359
ruthfogelman@gmail.com

UPPER GALILEE

Wednesday, November 22nd
from 5–7 pm.
Reuven and Yehudit's
128 Keren HaYesod
Artists Quarter, Tzfat

Coordinator:
Reuven Goldfarb
Tel; 04-697-4105
058-414-0266
poetsprogress@gmail.com

BET SHEMESH / MODIIN

Wednesday, November 22nd
at 8.00pm
Judy Belsky's Nahar
Hayarden 120/4 Floor 2
Bet Shemesh

Coordinator:
Dr Judy Belsky
drjudybelsky@gmail.com

NETANYA & SHARON

Thursday, November 23rd
at 7.30pm
Susan Olsburgh's
2/6 Zalman Shazar.
(3rd floor) Ramat Poleg

Coordinator:
Susan Olsburgh
Tel; 098855629
olsburghsusan@gmail.com

WEST GALILEE

Sunday, Sunday 19th
at 8.30pm.
Kibbeutz Evron,
Mitoch HaLev
(formerly Beit Edna)

Coordinator:
Phyllsie Gross
Tel ; 0528746880
phyllsie@hotmail.com

LONDON UK

For information please
contact Esther.

Esther Lipton:
eblipton@talk21.com

GUSH ETZION

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

Coordinator:
Mindy Aber Barad
Tel; 0524667936
maber4kids@yahoo.com

SOUTHERN

Please contact Miriam
for more details.

Coordinator:
Miriam Green
Tel: 0547388640
miriamsgreen@gmail.com

President
Susan Olsburg
2/6 Zalman Shazar
Ramat Poleg, Netanya
Tel: 098855629
olsburgh.susan@gmail.com

Assistant President
Helen Bar-Lev
3 Hairus St.
Metulla 1029200
Tel: 077 353 5548
helentbarlev@gmail.com

Secretary
Avril Mealem
27/4 Metudela St.
Jerusalem 92305
Tel: 02 567 0998
secretary.voices@gmail.com

Treasurer
Chanita Millman
15 Shachar St.
Jerusalem 96263
Tel: 02 653 6770
millmanm@zahav.net.il

Membership Coordinator
Susan Rosenberg
42/46a Leon Blum
Haifa 33852
Tel: 04 838 1218
susanndick@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NOVEMBER 2017

Dear All

I am delighted to inform you that in preparation for the launch of the 2018 Voices Israel anthology Volume 44 three new editors have been appointed to begin a two year term of office as editorial team members under the direction of Chief Editor Dina Yehuda. They are Wendy Dickstein of Jerusalem, Phella Hirschson, Tel Aviv and Amiel Schotz, Beersheba. I am sure their collective wisdom and experience will be a great advantage in the onerous process of choosing the poems to be selected. 15 December is the starting date for submissions but more information will be in the December newsletter.

Ricky Friesem is now fit again and ready to organise a workshop at her home in Rehovot. This is scheduled for **Tuesday 5 December from 11.30- 3.30**. Fuller details about the topic will be sent out soon but please do put this date in your diary. Ricky's home is on campus at the Weizmann Institute and there are very good public transport connections. The station is just a five minute walk away. Ricky is a very experienced and fine poet. She was the winner of the 2016 Reuben Rose Poetry competition.

Last week I very much enjoyed the launch of a revitalised Voices Israel group in Bet Shemesh under the direction of Dr Judy Belsky. From small acorns great oak trees grow and I am sure this group designated as Bet Shemesh Modiin will flourish. It is hoped more poets in both towns will attend the next meeting scheduled for 22 November (details in this newsletter).

An entirely new Voices Israel group is meeting in Ashkelon on Tuesday 7 November at the home of the group coordinator, Chaim Bezalel and his wife Yonah. A good show of interest has already been manifested but if you know of anyone who might wish to attend please ask them to contact bezalel.levy@gmail.com I am looking forward to meeting all the members of this group at the inaugural meeting.

Voices Israel was one of the sponsors of the recent Poetry Super Highway 20th poetry competition. Our two gifts of backdated Voices publications have now been despatched as promised. Rick Lupert, whose brainchild PSH is, is currently adjudicating as the overseas judge of the 2017 Reuben Rose Competition together with Ricky Friesem, Joyce Schmid (USA) and under the direction of Mark Levinson.

Very best wishes for a month ahead full of poetic creativity to you all. Apart from the information you receive in our newsletter, so conscientiously edited by Avril Meallem, do also check out our Facebook site for updates and interesting postings. Currently there are 596 members on the Facebook Voices Israel site.

Susan Olsburgh
President
Voices Israel



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Yoni Hammer Kossoy, Jerusalem
- Judy Koren, Haifa
- Bob Findysz, Kibutz Palmach-Tzuba

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- “**The Deronda Review**” is looking for poems on the subject of Flight (in all meanings), also poems on seasons. Send to derondareview@gmail.com or maber4kids@yahoo.com. Reading period ends December 31.
- “**Narrow Road**” are open to submissions for the Winter Issue. Deadline is November 15, 2017. Anything submitted after that will be considered for the Spring (April 2018) issue. You can check out the last two issues here: <https://issuu.com/narrowroad.mag>
Submission guidelines here: <https://sites.google.com/view/raameshgowriraghavan/narrow-road?authuser=0>
- “**Frontier Poetry**”, in their pursuit to recognize today's best poets, want to celebrate one outstanding piece of poetry with a \$5000 award and publication. Ten finalists will also receive \$100 each and all winners will earn publication with Frontier Poetry. The Frontier staff will select the winners and finalists. The winners and honorable mentions will be announced in February 2018.

Submission deadline, November 30th 2017. Fee \$20 Full details at:
<https://frontier.submittable.com/submit/95567/the-frontier-open-one-poem-5000-prize>

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Ricky Friesem who had two poems accepted for the “**Jewish Currents Music**” issue Jam Session I and Jam Session II.
- to Bernard Mann whose book “**David & Avshalom: Life and Death in the Forest of Angels**” is now available on Kindle and shortly will be available in paperback on Amazon. The link to the kindle is:
https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=node%3D154606011&field-keywords=david+%26+avshalom+jewish&rh=n%3A133140011%2Cn%3A154606011%2Ck%3Adavid+%26+avshalom+jewish
- to the following poets, all of whom had poems published in ARC 2: Miriam Davis, Judy Belsky, Esther Cameron, Wendy Dickstein, Mindy Aber Barad, Ruth Fogelman, Miriam Green, Ricky Rapoport Friesem, Helen Bar-Lev, Eva Eliav, Helen Schary Motro, Reuven Goldfarb, Bill Freedman, Larry Lefkowitz, the late Gretti Izak, Pesach Rotem, Roy Runds, Rachel Heimowitz, Celia Merlin, Hannah Amit, Johnmichael Simon and Michael Stone,
- to the following poets who have bi-lingual poems published in the “**International Multilingual Poetry Anthology Amaravati Poetic Prism 2017**” – **India:** Channah Moshe (Hebrew and French), Avril Meallem (Hebrew and English) and Hayim Abramson (Hebrew and English).
- to Matthew Anish who had 6 poems in the last issue of the American Tolkien Society publication – “**Minas Tirith Evening Star**”.

EVENTS

– Bernard Mann will be lecturing at the Haifa Technion Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning on 6th November at 2:30 p.m. in the Sege Building, room 404 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. The public is invited. The topic is: Sustainable Coastal Margins and Riverfronts.

CONDOLENCES

– our sympathies go to Lisa Aigen on the sad passing on of her father. Her poem *Father's Library*, which originally appeared in the Voices 2012 anthology, is presented in the “Group Poetry” section

REQUESTS –

If you have any information on events or submission requests that would be of interest to our members then please do email them to me.

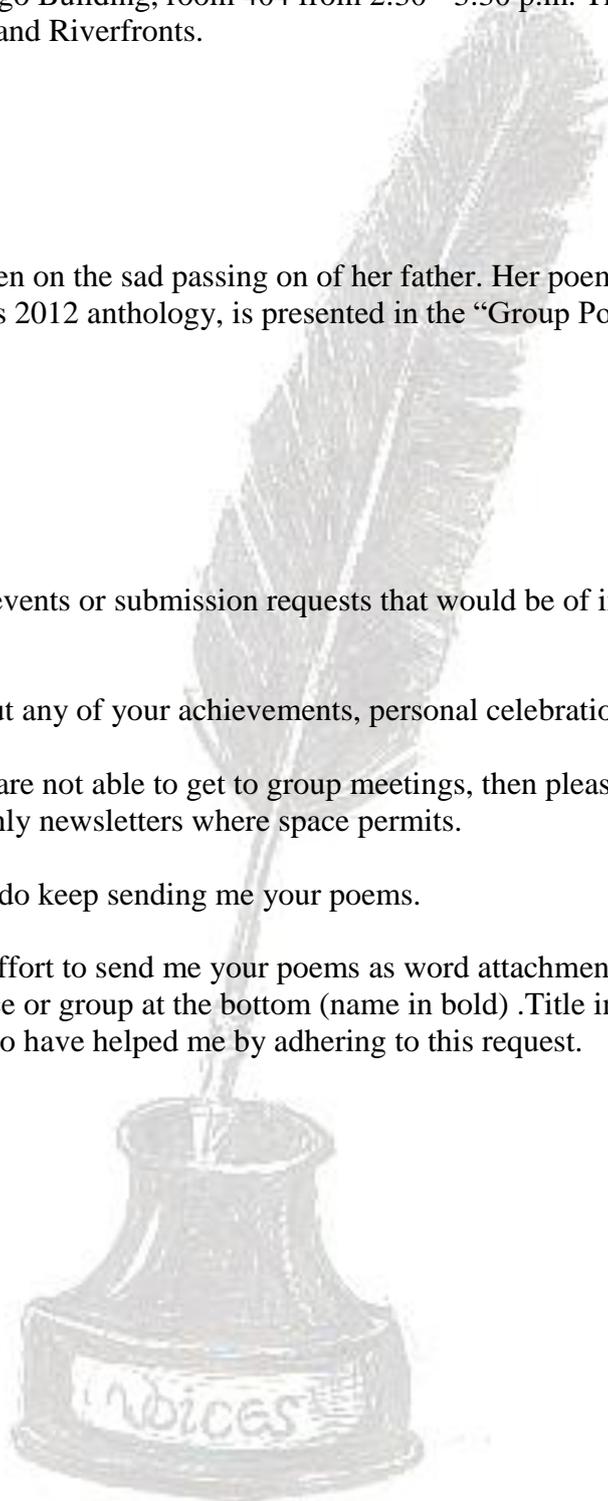
Also we would love to hear about any of your achievements, personal celebrations or sadly any bereavements.

If you are a Voices member but are not able to get to group meetings, then please do send me some of your poems for inclusion in the monthly newsletters where space permits.

Also, overseas members, please do keep sending me your poems.

As a reminder, please make an effort to send me your poems as word attachments in Arial 11 font, single spaced, with your name and place or group at the bottom (name in bold) .Title in Arial 12 bold.

A big thank you to all of you who have helped me by adhering to this request.



OCTOBER 2017 Group Poetry Selections

Getting Their Act Together

Cooped up within selves
Routinely
They dash to and fro
Moving silently between
Shower and wardrobe
Respectively dabbing
Perfume and aftershave

In their birthday suits
They slip past each other's
So déjà vu
Private parts
Posing in plain sight
No longer noticed

In festive attire
Coiffed and well-groomed
They're off to party
Still flamboyantly
Keeping up appearances

Birgit Talmon, Tel Aviv selection

Apple Life

I'm about to eat an apple
Slightly bruised
Just like life
After I cut out
All the brown areas
I'm left with a juicy
And tasty apple
Just like life

Channah Moshe, Jerusalem selection

Cleaning at Seventy

No need to clean the whole house
my grown son occupies and scrubs
his apartment in the basement
where boyfriend lived in the family
house when I was blossoming
I had to take care of a little
sister and brother to help mom
because I was the oldest
and my one-year younger sister
refused and tempted my beau
who I'd lie with on the yard grass
beneath a summer maple tree
whose trunk I used to stroke
my pet duck, beagle, Burmese cat
but the cat came later
after my wrecked loves

I wished to keep ground
floor kitchen, salon and dining room
where jokes once dismissed
the gloom foretelling parents' breakup
but beau and I made love on the couch
while family slept upstairs
I held him so we'd all stay glued
till he drifted so I washed him out
but now cleaning ladies have less
to do in this smaller home
my studies and practice
helped my man and me buy
and live the good life
past old loves and bodily insults
once inflicted on my beauty
now dried in maturity

I'm queen as I ascend the stairs
to sweep the conjugal bedroom
and there is a queensize bed
where with my husband I recline
embracing or reflecting

Eli Ben-Joseph, Western Galilee selection

July Rain in Bet Shemesh

Fresh like unexpected summer rain you arrive
without having immersed
in the cool springs of our Land.
You glisten with morning dew,
gifting me with the lustre of youth
inspiring me to plant roots
in the hard soil of my ancestral land.

You delight in my being
wise, though old, for you.

Your eyes upon mine
reflect the woman of promise I can be,
tasty as *manna*
true as the first word of Creation.
I tickle my toes at the edges of the Sea of Reeds
as the waters part.

Joanne Jackson Yelenik,
Bet Shemesh/Modiin selection

An Open Book

I imagine it is visibly apparent
that I am completely transparent

With a roll of my eyes or an eyebrow raised
it is obvious to all that they have been appraised

I try to hide it, I honestly do
I bite my tongue almost in two

My mouth begins to twist and turn
my expression becomes extremely stern

Critical, disapproving, impatient, just a few
of my imperfections that render me a shrew

Ah, but when my love enters the room
my heart flutters and my cheeks bloom

Then I am delighted that it is so apparent
I am categorically, shamelessly, transparent

Linda Suchy. Netanya selection

Pantoum: Obsession

Just from forgetting what I came to find
I wonder why things won't stay in my head:
Perhaps something's the matter with my mind?
And mere annoyance deepens into dread

I wonder WHY things won't stay in my head,
Forgetfulness is giving me a fright
And mere annoyance deepens into dread:

Forgetfulness is giving me a fright
PERHAPS SOMETHING'S THE MATTER
WITH MY MIND???
Fears of *senility* darken my night...
Just from forgetting what I came to find!

Judy Koren, Haifa selection

Freeeeeeee

So now I am free
to do as I please
I'll stay home when I'm sick
with a contagious disease
so not to plague others
every time that I sneeze
though the years flew by
not unlike a breeze
now's not the time to shut down
or to freeze.

I have great plans
for the future ahead
and perhaps now and then
I will stay late in bed
but as soon as I wake up
rested, showered and fed
I'll start studding architecture
just like I said.

Itamar Blumfield, Haifa selection

Father's Library

The scent of brittle pages
and aftershave
hover in the sanctuary,
view obscured
by a lifeless Swedish ivy
swinging in a terra cotta cradle,
and window dust,
too thick
to let us see the garden.

We excavate the detritus of a lifetime.
Pages yellowed to ochre, scatter like confetti
Photographs of friends long dead,
My mother, sepia and younger than I am,
My uncle in short pants.
A shy gangly version of yourself.

You would part with none of it,
Not even fliers for operas
sung seasons ago.
Passports with stamps
Of countries which no longer exist.

We eroded a narrow valley
Between the mountains of books,
changed the topography of your world,
made room for
a small pure space to inhale.

From the opaque window,
I heard sparrows that morning
Crickets at eventide,
Trucks humming, children laughing.
Now that you are going blind.

Lisa Aigen

The Girl at the Palmachim Beach

Seen from his vantage point far above her
The girl below standing close to the water's edge
Does hoop dancing exercises
Twirling her hoop
From her hip
From her neck
Throwing it in the air
And catching it
Pirouetting
Skilled enough
It seems to him
To make the national team
She is oblivious
Of the octogenarian watching her
Or of the sun descending
Into the sea
But he is most aware of it

Larry Lefkowitz, Modiin

Besieged, Still

High cement walls
Surround her.
Thick, impenetrable.
Atop, barbed wire curls
And watchtowers
Resonate of the camps.
A prison?
Where the rustic charm of
Hillside sloping
Graceful domed roof,
Lonely sheltering olive tree?
Within
Constant murmur and hum
Expanse of flickering flames,
Air redolent of burning candles.
Tearful prayers
Beseeching.
Rachel Imeinu,
Do not cease crying!
Beg for your
Children's safe return!
Besieged
Still.

Miriam Feigelman Netanya

Voices Israel Group of Poets in English Poems From Our Overseas Members

Moment in Time

Away from the country mansion
 Away from the conference
 Of pompous pontificating lawyers
 I escape into the manicured gardens
 Through the wild flowered meadow
 Down to the meandering river
 And sit on the bank alone
 Warmed by the smile of the sun.
 All is quiet save for birdsong
 The buzz of insects and rippling water
 Then, as if from nowhere, I see the dragonfly
 Hovering, its luminescent wings and body
 Startlingly blue and purple, reflected
 Bright gems in the mirrored water
 Darting here and there without direction
 It drops onto a marsh lily
 At water's edge poses prettily
 Still for a few seconds, pirouettes
 Then is gone.
 Yet the memory recalls
 After fifty years and more,
 This moment in time.

Esther Lipton, London

Emigration

It felt
 like there was a war going on
 I ducked my head low
 to avoid the shouts, whistles
 bombs and bullets
 there was a bang and blinding flash
 and then I could not see
 I crawled on my belly
 crawled and crawled
 my eyes tightly shut
 til I seemed to enter
 some kind of tunnel
 I crawled on further
 til the explosions and shouting
 were only a vague rumble in the distance
 then I lay there in the quiet,
 panting, not moving,
 my fingers stroking the earth beneath them
 so glad to be safe

after what seemed like ages, when my breathing had
 stilled, I raised my head, it bumped
 against something.

I tried to move my foot
 but it struck some sort of barrier
 I tried the other leg -
 something held it fast
 I dared to open my eyes a little
 gradually my sight returned
 and I was able to glance around.
 I was in a suburban house
 in a Sydney suburb
 with a mortgage disappearing into the future
 and stamped on my forehead

a sell by date
 receding into the past.

Immanuel Suttner Sydney Australia