

## Voices Newsletter May 2017

### MAY MEETING DATES AND PLACES

#### HAIFA

Tuesday, May 16th  
at 7:30 PM  
Edit Gavriely's  
11A Sinai Ave.  
Tel: 04 825 3939  
or 054 497 2747

**Coordinator:**

Susan Rosenberg  
Tel; 04 838 1218  
050 933 3804  
[susanndick@gmail.com](mailto:susanndick@gmail.com)

#### TEL AVIV

Monday, May 22nd  
at 7.30 pm.  
AACI  
94 A Allenby Street,  
Tel Aviv v

**Coordinator:**

Mark Levinson  
Tel; 09 955 5720  
[nosnivel@netvision.net.il](mailto:nosnivel@netvision.net.il)

#### JERUSALEM

Thursday, May 18th  
at 6 pm,  
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, May 17th  
at 5 pm  
Reuven and Yehudit's  
128 Keren HaYesod  
Artists Quarter, Tzfat

**Coordinator:**

Reuven Goldfarb  
Tel; 04-697-4105  
058-414-0266  
[poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com)

#### BET SHEMESH

No details available as yet  
for further meetings of this  
group

#### NETANYA & SHARON

Monday May 22nd,  
at 7.30pm  
Susan Olsburgh's  
2/6 Zalman Shazar.  
(3rd floor) Ramat Poleg

**Coordinator:**

Susan Olsburgh  
Tel; 098855629  
[olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com)

#### WEST GALILEE

Please contact Phyllsie  
for date of meeting

**Coordinator:**

Phyllsie Gross  
Tel ; 0528746880  
[phyllsie@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllsie@hotmail.com)

#### LONDON UK

For information please  
contact Esther.

**Esther Lipton:**

[eblipton@talk21.com](mailto: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](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com)

#### SOUTHERN

Please contact Miriam  
for more details.

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

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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT MAY 2017**

Dear All

When this newsletter reaches you it will be just before the annual Reuben Rose Competition presentation evening, Wednesday 3 May at the revised time 5-8.00pm, Beit Daniel Tel Aviv.

We have a new format this year and I am sure all those who come will enjoy hearing some of the prizewinners read their poems as well as poems from the other winners and honourable mentions which will be read by proxy readers. No doubt these poems will inspire us but we shall also gain inspiration from the workshop Joanna Chen will be facilitating first. Joanna's theme is "Writing the self" and will include a writing exercise and sharing of poems. Light refreshments will be served as people arrive from 5.00-5.30.

It is not too late to rsvp [olsburgh.susan@gmail.com](mailto:olsburgh.susan@gmail.com) and this would be much appreciated, but if you will only know at the last minute then you will be still most welcome to just turn up on the evening. This is a great opportunity to congratulate this year's stars and also to meet Voices Israel members from around the country in a convivial setting. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible and to share with you the feedback comments from the overseas judge Clem Cairns. Please note there is no charge for this event so make sure you are getting value for your Voices Israel membership by attending.

It came to my attention recently that there is a Book Law in Israel that publications of 50+ print run, with an ISBN number should have two copies of each volume deposited in the National Library in Jerusalem. Coincidentally, our secretary Avril Meallem alerted me to the library of the late Gretti Izak z"l which includes single copies of early Voices Israel anthologies as well as more recent ones. These volumes have been made available to Voices Israel. It would be much appreciated if any of our members who have spare copies of past anthologies could contact me so that we can arrange to deposit a complete archive with the National Library. In a few days I shall be able to send out the list of volumes we do now have so as to help people in their search.

The next big event in the Voices calendar will be the publication of the Voices Anthology 2017, volume 43. The editing board has now completed its task and the compilation process is taking part. This is a complex process and involves further arduous work. Publication is expected around June/July.

Of course, our organization hopes to hold further poetry workshops in the autumn so if your group wishes to suggest a theme and organize an event please do get in touch.

After the sadness and poignancy of Yom Ha'Zikoron, I wish you and your families a wonderful Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

With very best wishes

Susan Olsburgh

President Voices Israel

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

Aviva Ophir, Netanya

## EVENTS

### Last Call for The Reuben Rose Award Ceremony and Workshop

Wednesday, 3rd May 5.00pm at Beit Daniel, 62 Bnai Dan Street in Tel Aviv not far from where Route 2, the coastal highway, crosses the Yarkon River.

(See <http://www.beit-daniel.org.il/en/merkazim/beit-daniel/> for map, phone number, e-mail, etc.)

5.00-5.30 arrivals and refreshments

5.30-7.15 Workshop led by Joanna Chen titled "Writing the Self" which will also include a writing exercise and sharing of poems.

7.15 Reuben Rose Presentation and Readings

8.00 pm approx close

The evening is going to be inspirational, creative and hopefully fun.

It is also open to the public and is free of charge.

If you are unable to RSVP you will be more than welcome to just turn up on the evening.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

– **2017 Mizmor L'David Anthology** is now open for submissions.

Please visit the Poetica website for the complete guidelines. [www.PoeticaMagazine.com](http://www.PoeticaMagazine.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS

– to Richard Shavei-Tzion's whose series of poetry on the *Parshat Hashavua* appear in print and online in the weekly "Torah Tidbits" publication <http://www.ttidbits.com/>

– to Ada Aharoni whose fascinating novel, *From the Nile to the Jordan* is now available on Amazon Kindle.

– to our partner Lidia Actis (Immagine & Poesia), who was awarded the 29th International Poetry Prize "Cinque Terre – Golfo dei Poeti" 2017

– to Johnmichael Simon who has one of his poems appear in the Polish anthology "Krytyka-Literacka" <https://www.scribd.com/document/344257262/Krytyka-Literacka-1-2017>

**APRIL 2016 Poetry Selections**

**Carried by the Flow**

When you go to prostrate yourself  
in the great museums of the world  
try finding them empty (or be important  
enough to have them emptied for you)  
otherwise you will be squeezed  
in a now resigned, now seething multitude  
swept in a major population transfer

Forget what you have planned to see:  
obediently follow your leader  
- one of the innumerable, but your one  
and only – who shows you the right way  
by means of a scarf tied to a stick  
or of a brightly colored umbrella  
like a tribal chief raising his staff

Even Adam above, newly insufflated  
with the divine breath, will ignore  
the glory of creation pointed out to him  
by the finger of God; will ignore  
God Himself; with eyes still heavy  
with the sleep of matter, he will follow  
the Japanese guide's umbrella

**Iris Dan**, Haifa selection

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**Gratitude**

a matter of attitude  
in troubling times

a beautiful family  
each one finding a personal way

an abundance of grandchildren  
bringing joy

good food, good weather  
holiday gatherings

a bounty of gratitude  
to make my day

**Edit Gavriely**, Haifa selection

**Grain**

There's not a grain of truth in his  
Saying I love you. He didn't mean it  
His meanness won him my love  
He didn't hear me wittingly  
Hurting me hard, was his way  
I cherished our entwined lives  
Like grains of sand  
Sea-swirled  
Wind-blown

Don't believe him in love, only in death  
I loved him through our lives together

Looking at remains of photos  
When he was seven years old  
Playing with his brother, ash-blond hair  
Lying flat on surfboard  
Grainy prints, saying of his life  
That it wasn't a life. It was a misery  
Colour turned to sepia when found  
Dead today, hanging from the washing line  
Aged 53 years

**Susan Bell**, Netanya and Sharon selection

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**Weather Warning**

You're here again,  
the mighty Son of Desert,  
the hot dry wind.  
You crack my skin,  
you blow my mind apart.  
*Hamsin, sharav* –  
whatever name I call you  
you stop right here.  
You can't dry my heart.

**Anna Krakovich**, Haifa selection

**After**

And after I'm gone —  
Yeah?  
Will you stay clear of it?  
Well yes,  
Sure?  
No.

By nature  
Not yet having met the challenge  
With her gone beyond the veil  
There was no telling  
How he'd withstand  
The ever present temptation  
And as such the question  
Seemed to him  
Pretty much out-of-place  
Hope, though,  
Perhaps not so.

**Birgit Talmon**, Tel Aviv selection

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**Waiting for Him**

Would That I Could Wait For The Messiah  
as I Wait For Him

With Desire So Intense  
that My Heart Aches With The Longing

With Thoughts So Alive  
that My Mind Bursts With The Awareness

With Prayers So Fervent  
that My Body Moves With The Energy

O That I Could Yearn For The Messiah  
as I Yearn For Him

For Surely Then The Messiah Would Come.

**Simcha Angel**, Jerusalem selection

**Remembrance**

I used to care for an elderly fellow  
Baruch Mann  
with kind eyes and a ready laugh  
and a name meaning blessed

his right arm hung limp from the War  
Ukrainian thugs had rampaged down his street  
slitting  
slashing  
attacking mercilessly with their axes

wounded  
bleeding  
freezing  
hungry  
the ten year old Baruch fled to the forest  
as the pogrom gathered momentum  
and spread throughout the town  
few were spared

at twelve he found work  
posing as a Christian farmhand  
the barn his hideout  
he slept beneath straw  
among cows

at thirteen he witnessed his father's corpse  
hanging from the town gates of Terlytsya

after the war surviving family  
moved to the States  
but not Baruch  
for him it was Palestine  
only Palestine

a passenger on the Exodus  
he found himself with others  
back to wretched Europe  
undaunted  
Baruch trekked from port to port  
until he found a boat to Palestine  
only Palestine

redemption rose  
from the midst of the waters  
and, as they approached the land  
the State of Israel had come to be  
and Baruch had been blessed

**Phyllsie Gross**, West Galilee selection

Poems From Our Overseas Members

**At One-ment**

I met this woman in the park  
her dog was a serious chap, I  
fancied he took a liking to me, a  
cross between a Jack Russell and a Pug,  
mistakenly I called him a puggle  
she explained it was more correct to say Jug  
and thus, as people do  
we began to talk  
she told me about her 39 year old gay son  
who is making a lot of money in New Zealand  
with Fly In Fly Out work  
I told her how my one son has my face  
and the other  
my baby toe  
and she told me how she looks after the Jug  
for some other people who separated  
and how she too separated from her partner  
when their now 39 year old was still young  
and how this ex died last year.

By this stage the little Jug  
had softened a bit, though  
still refusing to smile, and he and  
our angel in a fur suit  
chased each other round and around  
on the cartoon green grass  
in intersecting and diverging lines  
that, gently rebuking my default sadness,  
spelled out the words  
*Eloheem hu Adonai*  
the Lord of Separation  
is also the G-d  
of meetings in the park.

**Immanuel Suttner**, Australia

*Eloheem hu Adonai* – the aspect of Justice, or limits,  
or boundaries and the aspect of Mercy, or infinite  
possibility, are two sides of the same essential and  
unified reality. The reversed expression - *Adonai hu*  
*Elohim* - is chanted seven times at the end of Yom  
Kippur, the Jewish Day of At-One-Ment

**Omen**

When mom’s pain  
measures 10 on a 1-10 scale,  
hospice nurses administer methadone,  
medication to help her sleep,  
ease labored breathing.

While her body fails,  
dark skies bombard saturated earth  
with additional showers,  
then display a fragile rainbow  
over restless, metal-gray ocean.

Friends tell me it’s a sign of good luck.  
Right now, I welcome any positive omen.

**Jennifer Lagier** USA

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**The Leaning Fence**

I glance every day at the wooden fence  
to see how far it is leaning,  
but my mind drifts with feelings’ revisit  
into the backyard biography.  
Through temporal mists come the mixed voices,  
now in echoes, of the familial chorus,  
singing our memories:  
young squeals of delighted surprise  
when the dog jumped into the plastic pool  
to join the kids;  
ascent of the “happy birthday” song,  
again and again, in smiling discordance;  
a shouted advisement from near the smoky grill—  
“Food’s ready!”;  
cake and candles that count the years.  
Now we sit alone in the aftermath of thoughts,  
my wife and I, in our faithful fold-up chairs.  
A squirrel runs over the live oak limb,  
then jumps onto the roof,  
little head disappearing, then reappearing,  
to stare down at us, over the edge,  
while, silently, once more I glance  
to see how far the fence may be tilting.  
The years have dimmed in color and strength.  
Now time leans precariously, trying not to fall,  
but the fence, in last posture,  
keeps guarding what once was.  
And, suddenly, I see what the leaning fence is  
as I slowly smile and gratefully look at...  
a lovely, rustic, wooden frame  
for the portrait of our lives.

**Tom McFadden**, USA

