



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

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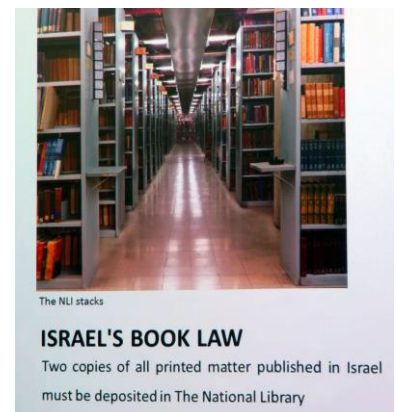


Photo courtesy of Judith Fineberg  
taken at National Library of Israel

**Link to access website for  
everything you want to  
know but are afraid to ask:  
[www.voicesisrael.com](http://www.voicesisrael.com)**



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

The big news of this past month was of course the arrival of a Covid-19 vaccine, which we hope will put us all in the clear by the Spring and enable us, at long last, **to hold our Netanya residential workshop, Poetry By The Sea, in the second half of May.**

This month - probably within a few days - I'll be putting out a circular, asking if you think you'll have been vaccinated by then and how likely you think you are to attend a late-May residential workshop. **Please reply quickly when you get it, we do need a reasonable idea of whether it's worthwhile going ahead and making the arrangements.**

Submissions for the **Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize** have so far been fewer than we hoped, and we're therefore **extending the submission period until the end of February.** Please do inform all your friends and relatives with children or grandchildren (aged 12 to 19) about this prize, and ask them to update the children's English teachers. Since this competition is now accepting entries from students abroad, you can include your contacts abroad as well as in Israel.

Our **Global Group** had a very enjoyable second meeting this month and is now one of our largest groups. Until now it has accepted members even if they also attend a local group, but **It seems likely that in future we will have to limit the group to those for whom it was originally opened: people (in Israel and abroad) who do not have a local group that they can attend.**

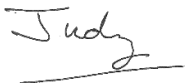
Mark, the Reuben Rose competition administrator, has finalized the list of winners of prizes and Honourable Mentions, and I'm delighted to see that our very own Ricky Friesem won first prize! Congratulations to Ricky and to all the 13 winners; I look forward to seeing the texts of the poems when Mark circulates them. Thanks too to Mark and the judges for all their hard work.

In December we also finalized the contract with EBSCO and uploaded to them the pdf of the 2020 Anthology. As explained last month, this is an ongoing yearly commitment. Hopefully it will bring us some added publicity among college and public library users.

Right at the end of December we held our first Zoom workshop, on Metrical Poetry. Twenty-five people attended with a couple unhappily left on the waiting list; and despite the rather dry, technical subject, and the need to limit the time, it went very well. Happily there were no technical glitches! Our Membership Coordinator, Yochanan, has distributed a link to the online evaluation questionnaire to all the workshop participants, and I do urge you all to click through and give us your feedback - we really need it to enable us to improve our workshops going forward.

We have another workshop planned for the first week of March. We'll be publicizing it later this month. And then in May we'll either hold our Netanya residential workshop, or if that's still not possible, have another Zoom one. So Watch This Space!

All the best,



Judy Koren, President, Voices Israel.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## JANUARY 2021

### ZOOM MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

<p><b>HAIFA</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 AT 8:00 PM</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 THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 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 TUESDAY, JANUARY 12 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 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 5-7 PM</p> <p><b>GUESTS WELCOME</b> 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 CONTACT CHAIM FOR DETAILS</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 MONDAY, JANUARY 25 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 CONTACT PHYLLSIE FOR DETAILS</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>*****</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> PLEASE CONTACT MINDY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE GROUP RE- STARTING.</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 SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 5:00-6:45 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>*****</p> <p><b>USA/CANADA</b> NO MEETINGS PLANNED</p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GROUP</b> MEETING VIA ZOOM TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Coordinator:</b> Judy Koren Tel: 054-741-7860 <a href="mailto:koren.judy@gmail.com">koren.judy@gmail.com</a></p>

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## The Voices Israel Group of Poets in English announces the Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize Competition, 2021 **CLOSING DATE EXTENDED**

### **SUBMISSION PERIOD IN PROCESS – CLOSING FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

The Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize competition commemorates a talented young Israeli poet, Bar Sagi, who died at the age of fifteen. The competition was established by Bar's family and is administered by the Voices Israel Group of Poets in English.

The 2021 competition is open to Israeli school students, and this year we are also opening it to students from schools outside Israel.

**Submission dates:** November 15, 2020 through February 28, 2021.

**Cash prizes will be awarded** to three winning poems: 600 NIS first prize, 400 NIS second prize, 200 NIS third prize – or the equivalent in the winner's local currency. One or more other poems may be awarded an honorable mention.

**There is no fee** for entering the competition.

### **Competition rules and submission guidelines**

- The competition is open to young poets aged 12 to 19 when the poem was written.
- There is no submission fee.
- Poets may use their whole name, first name, or a pseudonym. We will not publish any contact information.
- Poets submit by sending up to three poems, by email, in one file – either in the body of the email, or as an attached Word file – to [barsagivoices@gmail.com](mailto:barsagivoices@gmail.com)
- The parent or guardian's name and mailing address, and the child's age when the poems were written, must be included somewhere within the document.
- Poems may be in any style and on any subject, but each must have no more than 41 lines (not including title, but including stanza breaks), and they must be in English.
- Poems must be previously unpublished. The poets retain sole copyright of their poems.
- Prizes will be presented by Bar Sagi's family. The winning poets will read their poems at a prize-giving ceremony held by Voices Israel. This is held in conjunction with the Voices Israel adult's prize in the Reuben Rose competition.
- The winning poems and honorable mention poems will be published in the annual Voices Israel Anthology. Upon acceptance, a parent or legal guardian must sign a release allowing us to publish the poem.

For further questions, contact Susan Bell, the administrator of the competition, at [sujubell@gmail.com](mailto:sujubell@gmail.com)

For information about the 2020 competition and its winners, and a PDF file of the 2020 winning poems, see <https://www.voicesisrael.com/bar-sagi-prize>.

Voices Israel is a fully accredited and approved organization registered since 1993 with the Israel Organizations Authority: number 580197036.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## VOICES ISRAEL 2021 ANTHOLOGY – REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS

**THE SUBMISSION PERIOD IS NOW OPEN. PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.**

The submission period for the 2021 Anthology opened on December 15 and will end on March 15, 2021. Submissions are accepted from Voices members and non-members alike. There is no fee for submitting poems to the Anthology. Paid up members of Voices Israel will receive a copy of the anthology once it comes out, whether they are published or not, shipping fees included. Non-members may order copies for NIS50 (US\$ 25) each shipping inclusive.

Copyright for individual poems is retained by the author of each poem. Copyright for the Anthology belongs to Voices Israel Group of Poets in English.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

Poems must be submitted using the Voices Israel Online Submission Manager, powered by Submittable. *This is the only way to submit your poems.* Email submissions to any of our team will not be considered.

**As of last year, we have streamlined and partially automated the submission and judging procedure. Therefore, even if you are a long-time contributor, you MUST read the full Guidelines at the top of the submission form on the Submittable page.**

Submit a maximum of 3 poems on any subject. Poems should not exceed 40 lines including stanza breaks but not including title.

**Important!** Please note that *poems must be submitted one by one on Submittable, each poem in a separate submission.* Please do not try to submit 2 or 3 poems at once.

Poems *must* be submitted by typing or copying them into the space provided in the online form. **We no longer accept uploaded files.**

Poems should be previously unpublished. However, poems that have been included in the monthly Voices Israel Poetry Page attached to the newsletter or were written at Voices workshops and published in the resulting chapbook of the workshop and/or on the Voices website are acceptable.

Translations of living poets' poems are acceptable as long as the translations have not been previously published. The translator must have the permission of the poet if it is not the same person.

Fancy or unconventional formatting is not encouraged.

Judging is anonymous and the poems will be forwarded to the editorial board without names. No revisions of poems will be accepted after submission!

### TO SUBMIT:

**Go to the Voices Israel website: [www.voicesisrael.com](http://www.voicesisrael.com).**

**From the Anthology menu choose Submitting to the Anthology.**

**At the bottom of that page is the Submit button.**

After reading the guidelines on that page, please click the Submit button to go to the Voices Israel Submittable page and start the submissions process.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

LAMI HALPERIN, ISRAEL

ARNOLD LOGAN-LITWIN, ON CANADA



## CONDOLENCES

Our friend, colleague and poet, a special soul, has gone to his final rest. It is with heavy heart that we tell you of the passing of Roy Runds ל"י on Shabbat, 12 December 2020. Kaila Shabat has written a heartfelt report about Roy which you will find later in this newsletter.

### 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).

### CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REUVEN GOLDFARB

#### FORMAL ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE POETRY

Our next Formal Elements in English Language Poetry resumes on Wednesday, January 20, starting at 5 pm. We'll be focusing on poets of the late nineteenth century, starting with Christina Rossetti, and moving on to Emma Lazarus, Edward Fitzgerald, Lewis Carroll, and Edward Lear (probably not all in one day, however). [poetsprogress@gmail.com](mailto:poetsprogress@gmail.com) or 04-697-4105.

#### With thanks to Reuven Goldfarb:

Want to attend a rather nifty poetry reading? Well, I spent a very enjoyable hour and a half last week watching and listening to this very fine program called The Power of Poetry. Here is a description of this large, public event, staged in a large auditorium about two years ago, in London:

Looking for a prescription of poetry? In this Intelligence Squared video, William Sieghart, author of *The Poetry Pharmacy: Tried-and-True Prescriptions for the Heart, Mind and Soul* (Penguin Books, 2017), and Jeanette Winterson, author of *Frankissstein: A Love Story* (Grove Press, 2019), introduce poems that have changed their lives, as a cast of actors—including Tom Burke, Helena Bonham Carter, Jason Isaacs, and Sue Perkins—recite them. [https://www.pw.org/content/the\\_power\\_of\\_poetry](https://www.pw.org/content/the_power_of_poetry)

**The Writing School, established by award-winning poet Kathryn Bevis in the UK**, is re-running its small-group online course, *The Elements of Poetry*, via Zoom. We know of at least four Voices members (three in Israel and one in the UK) who have taken this course to date, and warmly recommended it. It starts on January 13th and runs through March 24th, 2021 inclusive with one week's break, 7-9pm UK time = 9 to 11 pm Israel time. The course consists of ten weekly two-hour sessions, each built around a theme or idea and paying particular attention to the poem's form, language, imagery, sound, line, voice, and more. Each session includes two exercise periods for writing a first draft of two poems. For details see the course website at <https://www.thewritingschool.co.uk/tours>.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

**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. Just send in your poems ASAP to: [pankupoems@gmail.com](mailto:pankupoems@gmail.com).

**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/>



# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

**Winning Writers**, the 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. **Deadline April 1, 2021.**

## Anthology Magazine

Entries are now invited for the *Anthology Magazine* Poetry Prize. Established to recognize and encourage excellence in the craft of poetry writing and to provide a platform for publication, it is open to original and previously unpublished poems in the English language. Entries are invited from poets of all nationalities, living anywhere in the world. Poems submitted must be on the theme of 'Expectations' and should not exceed 40 lines. There is no limit to entries per person. Go to their website for details and for the "Submit a Poem" button.

**Winning Writers** has notified us of a new contest in fiction and poetry from a new "kid on the block" as described by themselves, **Subnivean**. *Subnivean's* editorial mission is "to curate and produce bone-deep, high-caliber literary art that speaks urgently to an evermore connected international audience." Submission is open now – **closing February 2021**. See <http://subnivean.org/> for submission details.

**Palette Poetry** has announced their 2021 **Previously Published** Poem Prize is open with a closing date of **17 January**. \$3500 will be awarded for previously published poetry. <https://www.palettepoetry.com/current-contest/>

**Aesthetica** has announced their 2021 Creative Writing Award for Poetry and/or Fiction. The closing date is 31 August 2021. [Aesthetica 2021 Creative Writing Award](#)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

**Received from the Reuben Rose Poetry Competition Administrator, Mark L. Levinson, the following announcement:**

Thanks again for entering the Reuben Rose Poetry Competition.

We know everyone is eager to read the winning poems. The titles and authors are below, and we'll make the full texts available soon.

We'll also send details regarding the awards ceremony, and in the meantime we hope everyone will submit further poetry to the editors of our anthology (no submission fee) and, in due course, to the all- new panel of judges for next year's competition.

The Voices Israel anthology is open for submissions till March 15 and although all the winning poems will appear there, it has space for many more. The panel that edits the anthology does not overlap the panel that judges the contest. See, <https://www.voicesisrael.com/submitting-to-the-anthology>

## Top poems from the 31st annual Reuben Rose Poetry Competition

**First prize:** "David's Shield,"  
by Ricky Rapoport Friesem (Israel)

**Second prize:** "Lantern Fish,"  
by Jane Seitel (USA)

**Third prize:** "The Burden of Memory,"  
by Esther B. Lipton (UK)

**Honorable mentions**, in random order:

"Blind," by Haya Onallah (Israel)

"Now that you're here," by Immanuel Suttner (Australia)

"The Color Jew," by Sarah Sassoon (Israel)

"Walks Along Oirase Gorge," by Mervyn R, Seivwright (USA)

"Gates," by Susan B. Olsburgh (Israel)

"Acceptance Speech," by Anne McCrady (USA)

"Pictures from an Exhibition," by Iris Dan (Israel)

"Silent Night, Revisited," by John Cecil Dendy (USA)

"Babushkas," by Johnmichael Simon (Israel)

"The Mist," by Amiel Schotz (Israel)

Thanks again for entering the competition, and happy new year.

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## CONGRATULATIONS

To – **All the REUBEN ROSE COMPETITION winners and honorable mentions.**

To – **Helen Bar-Lev (Israel)**, for her article published in ESRA magazine about her Ghana paintings and Sheenway. See, <https://magazine.esra.org.il/esramagazine/look-into-it/latest-esramagazine/entry/sisters-of-the-same-tree.html>

To – **Wendy Blumfield (Israel)**, whose article about the Bar Sagi Young poets competition was published both in the Jerusalem report (as mentioned in the December newsletter) and in the December issue of the ESRA Magazine. Her article from ESRA is attached on page 8 of this newsletter.

To - **Ellen Jaffe (USA)**, whose 2006 young-adult novel, *Feast of Lights* (for readers 10-14 or so) is now a Kindle e-book, though the paper copy is out of print. It is set during Chanukah (which her Canadian publisher spelled Hanukkah), and is the story of a girl connecting with her ancestors through a "magic" menorah. Here is the link:

[https://www.amazon.ca/Feast-Lights-young-adult-Ellen-Jaffe-ebook/dp/B07P1JRYD5/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.ca/Feast-Lights-young-adult-Ellen-Jaffe-ebook/dp/B07P1JRYD5/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

To – **VOICES ISRAEL 2020 ANTHOLOGY**, our latest issue of the anthology has been reviewed by Marty Leibowitz of ESRA magazine with a very nice write up. It is attached on page 10 of this newsletter.

To – **Judy Koren**, whose terza rima "A Night of Rain" has been accepted by the literary magazine *Better Than Starbucks* for publication in their Formal Poetry section in the February 2021 issue.

To – **All January Birthdays** – Happy Birthday. May your day and year be filled with happiness, good health, and may all your happy dreams come true.





# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

## Tribute to Voices Israel Poet, Roy Runds

of blessed memory

By Kaila Shabat

I have been struggling for over a week to write a tribute to our dear friend and poet, Roy Runds who passed away on 10.12.2020 after a long hospitalization. I finally realize that I cannot express his eulogy better than the poems he left behind him. Among others, he published three volumes of selected poetry; 'Sunspots and Sunbeams,' 'Lava & Lavender' and 'Soot & Sapphires.' Unexplainably, the first poem in the latter book, printed in Israel, in 2010, is entitled CORONA.

Against all odds, Roy was a powerful Australian poet. As a child he suffered brain damage, which he describes as:

'the kick/that fate gave me down a steep staircase in my early infancy.'

It was difficult to understand his speech except when he recited his poetry in a loud and expressive voice.

We met at my first Voices Israel meeting in the spring of 2002. Roy critiqued my first poems with great sensitivity and shared some of his early work. I particularly liked the account of his Aliya.

**RETURNED TO LIFE** Roy Runds 6/2/1986

*I have made my ascent on a high plateau.*

*I turn once more toward the Star of Zion,*

*which summoned me from afar on silvery wings*

*into the staunch embrace*

*of this land of my Jewish brothers and sisters -*

*my Israel!*

*They have helped me to heal my heart,*

*mend my broken spirit,*

*have harmonized and uplifted my thoughts*

*and have restored and comforted my soul*

*with lavish kindness, warmth, love, hope and blissful peace.*

*I am alive!*

*I am a man!*

*I am a Jew!*

*My heart, my mind, my soul are yours, O God.*

*I drink deeply from Your never-emptying cup of life.*

*L'chaim!*

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

At his funeral, I felt he prompted me to read  
**ENDLESS BLISS**, that we should not mourn him in his  
everlasting peace:

**ENDLESS BLISS** Roy Runds 4/9/2019

*Peace, everlasting peace,  
quiet, eternal quiet,  
freedom, endless freedom  
from earthly turmoil;  
envy my state  
of complete repose,  
no more trapping of  
my wandering self,  
no more scrabbling or  
dabbling  
from a mad painter's palette,  
no more tormenting lusts  
or struggling for moldy crusts,  
no more goading  
towards ungodly goals,  
no more hellish breakdown  
of mind or body,  
no more choking dust,  
or stinging sands  
to blind me  
or clog my pores and sores;  
no more neighbors or friends  
to help me or to fall on me.  
Am I not truly blessed  
in my oblivious rest?*

I recently discovered among his papers, his vision of  
after-life, which surely gives us much comfort.

**THE DREAMERS** Roy Runds 31/5/2000

*In the cold dark hours  
My heart is warmed,  
I am wafted to another world,  
Beckoned by those  
Dearest beyond power  
of words to portray.  
They are by my side,  
I see them,  
Hear their voices  
Expressing endless love.  
They have never left me  
As they enter my dreams –  
Or do I enter theirs?  
They have not died,  
They will never die.  
Reality is dreams  
And dreams are all.*

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

The day before he died at the convalescent home in Bat Yam, where he spent his last month, he finally received the VOICES 2020 Anthology in which the following poem appeared:

**INTREPID** Roy Runds 13/12/2002

*Blazing bolts, black daggers*

*flashed across the sky.*

*Horrendous torrents and*

*wild wailing winds*

*lashed, bashed the craft,*

*ripped rigging,*

*smashed through wood.*

*Foamy fiends*

*Clawed, gored.*

*Crewmen, flung off course,*

*clung frantically*

*to the bucking bulwarks.*

*Mariners jut their jaws*

*against the storm,*

*wrestle down the demons of the deep.*

*Floodwaters flee.*

*Stalwart hands seize ropes,*

*right masts,*

*repair rigging,*

*fix the compass.*

*Decks clang with tools and hammers.*

*The furnace is re-stoked.*

*Feeble rays lace the clouds.*

*Shimmering sunbeams warm shivering men.*

*Dolphins dance on the depths.*

*Bellies fill with aromatic fish,*

*rum flows freely,*

*Song resounds on the rolling sea.*

# VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

I find I wrote and published a tribute to Roy from us 'collected matrons' in my book 'Back from Beyond' 2008 when he was ill in 2004.

## TO A FELLOW POET

*A treasury of verse  
is poised on your prolific pen  
but you are comatose  
and the poems of the future  
curl mutely behind your brow.*

*Tubes run in and out  
of your defenceless body:  
a machine breathes for you,  
another feeds you drop by drop.  
Your pale eyes stare ahead  
blank, unseeing;  
your friends speak to you  
but you hear nothing.*

*You came to us from afar,  
from the other side of the earth.  
Out of your 'childhood blight'  
you emerged witty and erudite  
to enrich our lives with the world  
you create with your words  
and the friendship you proffer:  
you call it: "the heart of love."*

*The collected matrons,  
with whom you choose  
to share your new verses,  
disconcertingly, at all hours  
of the day and night,  
now discover new meaning  
in the bold beauty of your lines  
as you battle for your life.*

## **A poem to Kaila for her beautiful tribute to our friend, Roy Runds, BDE From an anonymous friend**

Kaila, dear Kaila; my heart is full of gratitude to you for so many reasons:

For sending me the very sad news of Roy's demise  
For caring about him so much  
for understanding him so well  
for understanding the meaning of friendship so well  
for paying tribute to him in the way you did  
for preserving his poems and understanding their worth  
for understanding his worth  
for bringing it all to the attention of many  
For all this, I pay tribute to you

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