



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Picture Quiz - Who are these gentlemen and how did they make their living?



Answer – next month.

Quiz Question

Which Rabbie wrote "The First Psalm" and "The Ninetieth Psalm"?

Answer – next month.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

It was such a joy to see so many of you at the Netanya Residential Workshop this past month. Twenty-six members registered and 25 actually made it, plus three or four accompanying spouses or friends. Very soon now, Elana our Workshop Coordinator will send out the link to the evaluation form – please do answer it so that we can improve where necessary! But meanwhile, all the feedback I've received has been extremely positive and it's clear that people were delighted at the chance to get together in person, and really appreciated all the sessions. Many thanks to Susan Olsburgh for bringing us her Poetry Please group as a joint session with Voices; to our presenters; and to Elana for all her hard work to make the event a success.

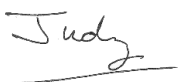
Bob Findysz, our new Secretary, and Julian Alper, our new newsletter editor, have both started off so smoothly that you'd scarcely notice there's been a change! Congratulations to both of them. And Julian, as President-Elect, is also working with me to make this next change-over, at the end of June, as smooth as possible. Julian will then have two Voices email accounts: newsletter.voices@gmail.com for everything connected with the newsletter, and president.voices@gmail.com (which I'll hand over to him) for everything connected with running Voices Israel. ***Please do remember to send to the right one*** – it makes life so much easier!

Meanwhile Dina and I have been working hard on producing the 2024 Anthology. A couple of days ago I sent out a pdf for proofreading to everyone who has a poem in it. ***Please send any needed corrections in to me by June 5th*** (a week after receiving it). Production of the anthology is of course entirely separate from the role of President and Julian will be relieved to know that I'll continue doing it: he won't have a third hat to wear!

The memorial chapbook for Judih Weinstein Haggai z"l is also ready to roll. We'll be printing and distributing it together with the anthology. I've had a few enquiries about acceptance of late, which led me to think that we must not have sent out the acceptance/rejection notices. On checking, however, I see they all went out around March 12th. Perhaps we missed a few or perhaps a few poets missed the notice. If anyone is still unsure whether one or more of their poems were accepted, do contact me.

Finally: the start of the Reuben Rose Poetry Competition is just around the corner – it opens on July 15th. Last year we raised the fees and the prizes, and are debating why we only got two-thirds of the usual number of poems. Was it because we're all depressed by the war? (The Anthology also got fewer entries than usual). Was it because we raised the fees, even though we raised the prizes more? In any case, for this year we're adjusting both fees and prizes to somewhere between where they originally were, and where they were last year – the amount we can give out in prizes depends to a large extent on the amount we receive in entry fees, we aim to at least cover costs which we didn't manage to do last year. So we can't offer higher prizes without raising the entry fees at least a little. We're also trying out the idea of having more than one Third Prize. Details will be on the Reuben Rose section of the website Real Soon Now.

Happy writing!



Judy Koren,
President, Voices Israel.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Hi,

Here are the **Answers to last month's quiz questions.**

Picture Quiz - Who is this?

Hint: Old King [Cole] at a high point [ridge]



Answer:

This is a 1795 portrait of **Samuel Talyor Coleridge**, by Peter Vandyke. Coleridge, as well as being a poet was a scholar of languages including Hebrew.

Quiz Question - What's the connection between:

- Robert Browning
- John Lennon and
- Rabbi Avraham ibn Ezra?

Answer: Robert Browning wrote a poem about Rabbi Avraham ibn Ezra, called **Rabbi Ben Ezra**. The poem begins:

Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be ...

Inspired by Browning's poem, John Lennon wrote a song, called **Grow Old with Me**. Sadly, Lennon was murdered before the song was released.

Please do suggest quiz questions for the next Newsletter.

Julian Alper
Newsletter Editor, Voices Israel
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MEETING DATES TIMES AND PLACES - JUNE 2024

SOUTHERN Meeting via Zoom Sunday, June 16 at 5:00 PM Coordinator: Miriam Green miriamsgreen@gmail.com	TEL AVIV Meeting via Zoom Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 PM Coordinator: Mark L. Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosnivel@netvision.net.il	JERUSALEM Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, June 26 At 7:30 PM Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 aemeallem@gmail.com	UPPER GALILEE Wednesday, June 19 at 10:30 AM at Miriam Botzer's home. Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 poetsprogress@gmail.com
HAIFA Wednesday, 5 June at 7:00PM at Elana Dorfman's home Contact Naomi Yalin for details Coordinator: Naomi Yalin Mobile: 054-794-3738 naomiyalin@gmail.com	NETANYA/SHARON Tuesday, 25 June at 7:00 PM at Susan Olsburgh's home 2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575 olsburgh.susan@gmail.com	GLOBAL GROUP 1 Meeting via Zoom Thursday, June 6 At 19:30 Israel time Note the change of e-mail address below. Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: +972-52-808-9365 y2nosh@gmail.com	GLOBAL GROUP 2 Meeting via Zoom Sunday, June 23 At 19:00 Israel time Coordinator: Judy Koren Mobile: +972-54-741-7860 koren.judy@gmail.com

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Voices Israel is pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new members:

- **Shoshana Bloomberg** of Petah-Tikva
- **Laurence Seeff** of Netanya

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

- To - **All our members** whose poems were selected for the Voices Israel Anthology 2024
- To - **Susan Olsburgh, Judith Robinson and Rifkah Goldberg** whose poems were published on the Poetry Super Highway, special Yom HaShoah issue – you can see them [here](#).
- To - **Eli Ben-Joseph**, whose poems were published in the special “Poems for Israel, October 2023” section of The Deronda Review online – you can see them [here](#).
- To - **Pesach Rotem**, whose poem "Smile" was published in Green Golem Magazine - you can see it [here](#).
- To - **Gabriel Emanuel Wiseman**, whose poem was a prize winner in the 1st INTERNATIONAL LITERARY COMPETITION AMILCARE SOLFERINI
- To - **Isaac Cohen**, whose poem “Relativity” was published in the Amaravati Anthology of Poems Volume 2. His poem “Global Warming” was also published, as were three translations into Spanish for Mexico Magazine. And “Matrix Fantasy Island” was published in Prodigy Magazine, May 2024.

DERONDA REVIEW SEEKS YOUR WAR POEMS

THE DERONDA REVIEW (www.derondareview.org), continues to accept poems for its page “Poems for Israel, October 2023,” which now contains the work of more than 40 poets. The page is being updated as new poems come in, so scroll down to find the latest! Poems for posting on this page may be sent to derondareview@gmail.com.

GREEN GOLEM: THE ZIONIST LITERARY MAGAZINE

Green Golem is a new online Zionist literary magazine that is now open for submissions. Visit the Golem at <https://greengolemmag.com/>.



We're calling the project *Green Golem: The Zionist Literary Magazine*. The golem, a stone creature from Jewish mythology, is a symbol of Jewish innovation and self-defense. The color green represents Israel's farmers and kibbutzniks; Israel's green energy advancements; and the green uniforms of the IDF, who protect Israel today.

Green Golem will consider quality fiction, nonfiction, and poetry of any kind, but with special preference to works that include Jewish or Zionist elements; works that are set in the State of Israel; works by Jewish authors; works by Israeli authors of any faith; and works by U.S. and international authors who support Israel. Besides writing, we will also ask for submissions from painters, drawers, and other visual artists.

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EVENTS

- The 2024 Yetzirah Jewish Poetry Conference is scheduled for July 2–5 in North Carolina and on Zoom. All the events are technically free of charge; donations are welcomed. Some of the scheduling is reasonably convenient for the Israeli time zone. For more information and for registration: <https://yetzirahpoets.org/2024-public-events/>.
- Creative Writing Conference at Bar-Ilan University (June 2–4): for more details see <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/event/580641>

“NOW” EXHIBITION AT THE GEZER GALLERY

<p><i>Now</i></p> <p><i>April through June 2024</i></p> <p><i>You are invited to a virtual international multimedia exhibition in our Gezer Gallery FaceBook Group with artists from Austria, Canada, Israel, South Korea, Swaziland, USA</i></p>	<p><i>Now</i></p> <p><i>Paintings:</i> Choi Ok Young '최옥영', Leslye Dale Tofflemire, Debbie Director, Ira Director. <i>Drawings:</i> Erika Jean Chamberlin, Hilde Engelmann, Mary Kushilevich. <i>Sculptures:</i> Kathy Anderson, Ho Baron, Chandra Garsson. <i>Photographs:</i> Haim Berman, Enon De Groot. <i>Poetry:</i> Karen Alkalay-Gut, Tami Hattis, Judy Koren, Moore Ngwenya, Olga Stein, Jan Steckel. <i>Fabric design:</i> Judy Halper. <i>Graphic design:</i> Ian Kirkpatrick. <i>AI:</i> Uzi Dornai. <i>Song:</i> Gene Keller</p> <p><i>curated by Ira Director</i> <i>Gezer Gallery, Kibbutz Gezer, Israel</i></p> <p>More at www.facebook.com/groups/gezergallery/.</p>
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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.

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CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE) will be accepting submissions from citizens and residents of Israel for the 31st issue of *arc*, its annual literary journal, until September 1st, 2024. The theme for *arc* 31 is "The Phoenix". "The Phoenix" is a theme with a very broad canvas to explore:

- We are looking for poems that make us sit up and take note.
- We are looking for language that is innovative, striking and imaginative.
- We are looking for insight, courage; a step out of your comfort zone to explore experiences that are personal and characterize our zeitgeist.

The editor, Mike Stone, will consider original, unpublished poetry and short stories in English. You do not have to be a member of IAWE to submit your work.

Submission guidelines:

Submit 1-3 poems no longer than 150 lines in all, or prose of no more than 1,500 words, together with your name and contact details all in a single file in Word format, and email to: iawearc31submissions@gmail.com. Do not submit more than one file. Please use Times New Roman, font 12, single spacing for poems and double spacing for prose.

Deronda Review - Annual reading period is from May 15 to July 15, 2024. This time the theme is "trust" - chiefly trust among us, fellow-humans. E-mail submissions to derondareview@gmail.com.

For more details see - [submit \(derondareview.org\)](http://submit(derondareview.org))

All Your Poems Magazine – seeks submissions for August 1st Edition – deadline for submitting is 18th July 2024. Submit up to 4 poems on any subject – see [Submission Guidelines and Information](#).

The VOLE Summer Competition - 'AUTUMN MAKES ME SING' - Entries are invited from 1st May to 31st July 2024
NO THEME (despite the title) – poems on any subject are invited. Open to international entries. 1st Prize: £50; 2nd Prize: £30; 3rd Prize: £20. 50 poems will be selected and published in an anthology and all poets included will receive a free copy. Poems on any topic, up to 30 lines plus title, previously unpublished and original, not translations.

Entry fee: 1 poem: £5.50; up to 3 poems: £10.50.

The deadline for emailed entries to reach dempseyandwindle@gmail.com is Wednesday July 31st at 9pm.

For more details see <https://www.dempseyandwindle.com/competition.html>.

Free the Verse - International Poetry Competition 2024, Nature Poetry - looking for all kinds of nature poetry. You are welcome to submit anything from eco / environmental poetry to pastoral poetry. Deadline for entry: July 31st 2024
The winning poet will receive a prize of \$100, plus publication of their poem as a standalone piece on Free the Verse. The entry fee is \$2.49, and you may submit 1 poem per entry. Multiple entries are permitted. Poems which have previously been published, are permitted.

See [Nature Poetry Contest | Free the Verse \(free-the-verse.com\)](#)

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