

VOICES ISRAEL

GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Website Address: <https://voicesisrael.com/>

Amuta No. 58-019-703-6

President
 Judy Koren
 Mobile: 054-741-7860
president.voices@gmail.com

Secretary
 Bob Findysz
 Mobile: 054-563-7362
secretary.voices@gmail.com

Treasurer
 Chanita Millman
 Tel: 02-653-6770
millmanm@inter.net.il

Membership Coordinator
 Yochanan Zaqantov
 Mobile: 053-708-9140
zaqantov@gmail.com

Workshop Coordinator
 Elana Dorfman
 Mobile: 054-668-6513
elanado@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor
 Julian Alper
 Mobile: 054-307-3587
newsletter.voices@gmail.com

Webmistress
 Judy Koren
 Mobile: 054-741-7860
koren.judy@gmail.com

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This month's humour



Zoom meetings are just modern seances



"There's someone who wants to join us."
 "Elizabeth, are you there?"
 "We can't hear you."
 "Can you hear us?"

Short Poem of the Month

There once was a poet
 from Cork, who got Limericks
 and Haikus mixed up.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Poets,

This is my last President's Letter to you all. I have handed over to Julian Alper, our incoming President, the president.voices@gmail.com email account, and have reverted to being merely webmistress, anthology and chapbook designer/producer, and a few other techie things. With all the recent changes of the guard, please do remember to write to the correct email addresses: newsletter.voices@gmail.com for anything related to the newsletter; president.voices@gmail.com for anything related to running Voices; my personal email address, koren.judy@gmail.com for anything related to book production and printing, Submittable, PayPal or the website; and our Secretary, Bob Findysz, at secretary.voices@gmail.com, if asked to do so or if you can't decide where to send it to 😊. **Writing to the correct address makes all our lives so much easier!** Thank you.

So: what's happened in my last month on the job? (Apart, that is, from too much cheesecake and too many blintzes over Shavuot? – but I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did!)

The 2024 Anthology was finalized for printing a few days ago. We hope to distribute it towards the end of July. Many thanks to all the poets, to Helen Bar-Lev whose eagle eyes during a final proof-read caught a few errors, and to Chanita our indefatigable Treasurer, who has all the work of packaging and mailing all those copies.

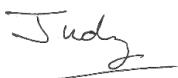
The memorial chapbook for Judith Weinstein Haggai is at the printer's too. We'll distribute a copy (together with the Anthology) to all paid-up members, and give ten copies to the Haggai family. Unlike the Anthology, the chapbook will not be offered for sale. The editors (Dina Yehuda, Miriam Green and myself) think it's a beautiful little volume and a fitting memorial, and we hope that you'll agree. **If you haven't yet paid your 2024 membership dues and want a copy of the Anthology and the chapbook – now is the time to do so!** Do remember that the amount is now the "regular" "fee *not* the "Early Bird" discount! The easiest way is via PayPal at <https://voicesisrael.com/about-voices-israel/membership/>

The Reuben Rose Competition starts in two weeks' time. This year's fee structure will be a little higher than it used to be, but lower than last year: \$6 for one poem, \$14 for three, and \$19 for six poems. And the prizes, correspondingly, will be: First place: \$500; Second place: \$200, and **three** third-place prizes of \$100 each — versus only one third-place prize in previous years. We hope this will encourage more people to enter.

The International Judge this year will be Nancy Shiffrin, who regrettably had to drop out of judging last year due to technical problems, and agreed to judge this year instead. The other two judges will be Dina Yehuda (First Prize winner last year), and myself (Second Prize winner last year). We could both accept the role since neither of us will have, during the submission and judging period of the competition, any Voices-related functions that interfere with being judges: I am no longer President, and the submission period for the 2025 Anthology doesn't start till after the Reuben Rose Competition judging period.

I have really enjoyed my years as President and I'm sure that Julian will enjoy his – but I also look forward to having more time to write poetry!

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 are these gentlemen and how did they make their living?



Answer – this is Henri Fantin-Latour's painting "**Coin de table**" and depicts several of the **Parnassian** 19th Century French poets who tried to make a good living (*parnassah*).



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

Answer – Rabbie Burns, of course, whose Chasidim don't wear a shtreimel, but rather, a Tam o' Shanter.



Please send your humour and/or quiz questions for next month's Newsletter.

Kind regards,

Julian Alper
Newsletter Editor, Voices Israel
newsletter.voices@gmail.com

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MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES - JULY 2024

SOUTHERN	TEL AVIV	JERUSALEM	UPPER GALILEE
Meeting via Zoom Sunday, July 14 at 5:00 PM	Meeting via Zoom Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 PM	Meeting via Zoom Thursday, July 25 At 7:30 PM	Wednesday, July 31 at 10:30 AM at Lisa Aigen's home.
Coordinator: Miriam Green miriamsgreen@gmail.com	Coordinator: Mark L. Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438 nosniv@netvision.net.il	Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998 aemeallem@gmail.com	Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262 poetsprogress@gmail.com
HAIFA	NETANYA/SHARON	GLOBAL GROUP 1	GLOBAL GROUP 2
Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00PM at Naomi Yalin's home Contact Naomi Yalin for details	Monday, July 29 at 7:00 PM at Susan Olsburgh's home 2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg	Meeting via Zoom Thursday, July 11 At 19:30 Israel time	Meeting via Zoom Sunday, July 28 At 19:00 Israel time
Coordinator: Naomi Yalin Mobile: 054-794-3738 naomiyalin@gmail.com	Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575 olsburgh.susan@gmail.com	Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: +972-52-808-9365 y2nosh@gmail.com	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 member:

- **Joanna Stuart** - New Haven CT

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

- To - **Gail Wasserman** whose poem "Take A Leap of Faith" was selected for inclusion in the Being Human Anthology of Inner Child Press Ltd.
- To - **Julian Alper** whose poem/photo "Lunch" has been published on Green Golem's web site – you can see it [here](#).
- To - **Issaac Cohen** who received a Certificate of Appreciation from Prodigy Magazine
- To - **Pressy Krausz** whose article "From manna to cheesecake" was published in The Jerusalem Post's Shavuot magazine – it can be read [here](#).
- To - **Reuven Goldfarb** whose poem "Living Off the Land Around the Bay" appears in a new anthology, Savor: Poems for the Tongue, published by Friendly City Books.
And Reuven's essay, "Our Portion in the Torah" was published in the Shavuot magazine of The Jerusalem Post – it can be read [here](#).
- To - **Mark L. Levinson** whose poem "Carrots" was published in the anthology, Savor: Poems for the Tongue, published by Friendly City Books.

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/>.

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CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Reuben Rose Competition - The submission period runs from mid-July through mid-October each year.

All poems must be submitted and entry fees paid via the online submissions service, Submittable. If you find you are unable to use the Submittable.com website, please write to reubenrosepoetrycompetition@gmail.com.

Entry fees for the 2024 competition:

US\$6.00 for 1 poem; US\$14.00 for 3 poems; US\$19.00 for 6 poems.

Line limit per poem: 41 lines, including any stanza breaks, dedication, epigraph, etc., but not including the title. Lines that are too long to fit on one page line using a standard 12-pt font will be counted as two lines.

Do not use unconventional formatting (such as tilting words, inserting symbols, mixing font sizes, etc.).

We do not accept illustrations. Any included with the submitted poems will be discarded.

Poems must be in English and previously unpublished, in print or online, and must remain unpublished until the list of winners is e-mailed to the entrants. Inclusion in the monthly Voices Israel newsletter or in a chapbook from Voices Israel workshops is not considered publication.

Poems must have been written by the owner of the Submittable account used to submit them. Do not use someone else's account, e.g. that of a friend or relative, to submit — the submission will be recorded as the work of the account owner.

Poems are judged anonymously, without the poets' names. Please make sure that your name appears only on the Submission page, not anywhere in the file you send or in the file's name. Failure to observe this rule may result in your inability to enter the competition.

No poet may win more than one prize or Honorable Mention in the same year's competition – i.e. among the top 13, no poet will be included more than once.

We retain a non-exclusive right to publish and republish the winning poems and honorable mention winners in all media, while the poet retains copyright and can also publish elsewhere after the winners are announced.

The submission period for the 2024 competition is July 15th through October 15th, 2024. To submit, during the submission period only, please use this link <https://voicesisrael.submittable.com/submit>.

Poetry Society of New Hampshire (PSNH) is delighted to announce that we are accepting submissions of poetry and art from June 1 through July 15, 2024 for our next issue of Touchstone. We are open to a wide range of forms and styles and look forward to receiving your best work! We aim to respond to all submissions in less than 2 months, but final decisions may take longer. Please read guidelines carefully. Entries that do not meet the guidelines will not be considered.

For guidelines and to submit your work see [here](#).

Dreamquest

Open to anyone who loves expressing innermost thoughts and feelings into the beautiful literary art of poetry and/or writing a story that is worth telling everyone! Guidelines: (1) Write a poem, 30 lines or fewer on any subject, form, or style. And/or (2) Write a short story, 5 pages maximum length, single or double line spacing, on any subject or theme, fiction, nonfiction, or creative nonfiction. Multiple and simultaneous entries are accepted Prizes: Poetry First Prize: \$250; Second: \$125; Third: \$50. Writing First Prize is \$500; Second: \$250; Third: \$100. Entry fees: \$5 per poem, \$10 per story. Postmark deadline: September 30, 2024. Visit <https://www.dreamquestone.com/> for details on how to enter!

Spellbinder

Their [website](#) says, they're "particularly keen to promote the works of those who are at the beginning of their literary careers. However, they also welcome submissions from writers and artists who have been published before and feature widely-known creatives in each issue as well." They accept fiction, nonfiction, poetry, translations, drama, as well as (themed) artwork. Submission is via a [form](#). They pay £3. They plan to reopen for submissions on 1 July 2024. Details [here](#).

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Chestnut Review

This is a print and online magazine. "We are drawn to beautiful language, resonant images, and we crave narrative." They have fee-free submissions of flash (up to 1,000 words), poetry, and art. Also, "If you have work that doesn't fit neatly into the below categories, that doesn't mean we won't want to see it. Choose the most appropriate and include a note—we'll figure it out." They read throughout the year, with cut-off dates for issues. General submissions of short prose, and of more than 3 poems, have a fee attached. They pay \$120. Details [here](#).

Twelve Mile Review: <https://www.twelvemilereview.org/submissions>

From July 1: Seeking Poetry Submissions for their Winter issue. A biannual print publication of poetry, established in 2021 and edited by two poets. They publish a wide range of forms and styles, but they are most interested in poetry that gives them, "the sense that we have just heard what we most needed to hear." "What are we looking for? Poetry that explores the overlaps and borderlines, the interstices, the eddies and turbulences of change, — personal, cultural, environmental. Strong, clear, diverse voices." Also imagery that's striking and memorable, and language that feels unexpected and new. Each edition includes poetry from 25-30 contributors and *they close submissions when they've received enough for that issue* so submit early! Send 3-5 poems as a single MS Word document attachment to twelvemilereview@gmail.com. One poem per page, with author name and contact info on each page. Use 12 point font. Include a brief author bio of 50 words or less, also in MS Word. They aim to respond within 90 days. Simultaneous submissions OK, *not* previously published.

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.

THE DERONDA REVIEW - For its 2024 issue, THE DERONDA REVIEW is seeking poems relating to the current theme of Trust, continuing previous themes ("The Soul," "Building," "Utopia"), or celebrating the seasons and the land. See guidelines on the "submit" page of www.derondareview.org. Deadline July 15.

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.

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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.

SPECIAL OFFERS

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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