

VOICES ISRAEL
GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026





VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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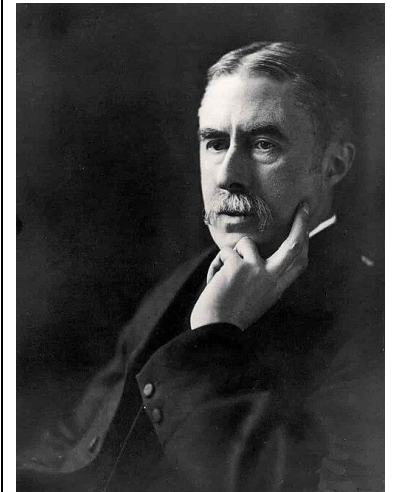
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A E Housman

[Wikipedia]

**Nonagenarian
Tribute Evening
(provisionally)
7th or 14th July.
To be confirmed**



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*As full of spirit as the month of May
Shakespeare*

Dear Friends,

April was a busy month for Voices Israel; soon after Pesach we had a special interview evening in which Miriam Botzer of Tzfat was interviewed by Dina Yehuda. Together, they explored Miriam's life and creative journey, focusing on seven of her poems. You can read the poems in the Appendix to this Newsletter and see a recording of the live interview by clicking [here](#). Passcode is: Gp*^2t3B. Then, right at the end of the month, we had a wonderful evening to celebrate the prize winners and those who received honourable mentions in the Bar Sagi and Reuben Rose prize competitions. It was lovely to see a full house on Zoom with more than fifty participants, and everyone particularly enjoyed hearing the young poets read their poems so well, as well as the older poets. A recording of the event will be posted on our YouTube channel very soon - <https://www.youtube.com/@voicesisrael>.

Congratulations to the judges for this year's Anthology, who completed their assessments of the poems submitted. Thank you to the Chief Editor, Judy Koren, and her co-judges, the editorial board: Deborah Golden, Avril Meallem, and Elana Wolff. And congratulations to all members whose poems have been selected for publication. This year, for the first time ever, the picture on the front cover of the Anthology will be selected in a competition. For more details of how and when to submit your pictures, please see page 7 of this Newsletter.

We have provisionally chosen to honour our nonagenarians on 7th or 14th July – the date has still to be confirmed. The nonagenarians we have been in touch with are Ada Aharoni, Amiel Schotz, Miriam Webber, Ricky Rapoport Friesem, and Stanley Barkan. Please let us know if there are more nonagenarians.

Newsletter - please continue sending your artwork, photos, essays, letters, and, of course, poems to newsletter.voices@gmail.com. Members truly enjoy reading and viewing what you create, and it is wonderful to share the many and varied talents of our community.

Have a wonderful month and stay safe and well!

Kind regards,



Julian Alper,
President, Voices Israel.

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES - MAY 2026

<p>SOUTHERN</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Sunday, May 31 at 5:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Miriam Green</p> <p>miriamsgreen@gmail.com</p>	<p>TEL AVIV</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Mark L. Levinson Mobile: 054-444-8438</p> <p>nosnivel@netvision.net.il</p>	<p>JERUSALEM</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Sunday, May 24 at 7:30 PM</p> <p>Coordinator: Avril Meallem Tel: 02-567-0998</p> <p>aemeallem@gmail.com</p>	<p>UPPER GALILEE</p> <p>Wednesday, May 6 at 10:30. at the home of Reuven and Yehudit.</p> <p>128 Keren HaYesod Artists Quarter, Tzfat</p> <p>Coordinator: Reuven Goldfarb Tel: 04-697-4105 Mobile: 058-414-0262</p> <p>poetsprogress@gmail.com</p>
<p>HAIFA</p> <p>Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 PM at Naomi Yalin's home</p> <p>Contact Naomi Yalin for details</p> <p>Coordinator: Naomi Yalin Mobile: 054-794-3738</p> <p>naomiyalin@gmail.com</p>	<p>NETANYA/SHARON</p> <p>Monday, May 25 at 7:00 PM at Susan Olsburgh's home</p> <p>2/6 Zalman Shazar, 3rd floor Ramat Poleg</p> <p>Coordinator: Susan Olsburgh Mobile: 054-919-3575</p> <p>olsburgh.susan@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP 1</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Thursday, May 28 at 19:15 Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Shoshana Kent Mobile: +972-52-808-9365</p> <p>y2nosh@gmail.com</p>	<p>GLOBAL GROUP 2</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom Sunday, May 3 at 19:00 Israel time</p> <p>Coordinator: Judy Koren Mobile: +972-54-741-7860</p> <p>koren.judy@gmail.com</p>

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Voices Israel is pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new member(s):

- **Walter Gonzalez** of Long Beach, NY

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

- To - **All our members who had poems accepted for publication in the 2026 Voices Israel Anthology.**
- To - **Isaac Cohen** for his many successes throughout the month.
- To - **Miriam Jaskierowicz Arman, Helen Bar-Lev, Judy Robinson, Susan Olsburgh and Julian Alper** who have poems included in Poetry Super Highway's 28th Annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Poetry Issue – you can read the poems [here](#).
- To - Mara Lee Grayson who has had two poems published:
1) "[On the Actor or His Magnificent Face](#)" in *Hole in the Head Review*
2) "[People Also Ask \(Google-suggested Questions at 4:53 p.m.\)](#)" in *The Westchester Review*
The poems can be read by clicking on the blue link.
- To - **Elana Wolff** - the latest addition to the Kay Sage "In the Third Sleep" ekphrastic project can be seen here: <https://inthethirdsleep.blogspot.com>
- And Elana's essay "Kafka and Wartime" is in the Apr/May issue of **Eclectica Magazine!** It's here - <https://www.eclectica.org/v30n2/wolff.html>

REFUAH SHELEIMA - LINDA

We wish a *refuah sheleimah* to Linda Suchy and hope she will return to full strength very soon.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERS

ESRA Book Shop Haifa - ESRA (English Speaking Residents Association) has opened a SECOND-HAND ENGLISH BOOKSHOP in HAIFA. All are welcome to visit and explore the wonderful collection of books of all genres. Voices poets may like to donate one copy of their collections to expand our poetry shelf. It would draw attention to your great work. Members who have access to Haifa are welcome to donate or just visit. 5 Rehov Kiryat Sefer - adjacent to Kiryat Sefer Circle on Moriah, Ahuza.

Opening hours:

Sunday to Thursday 10.00 till 12.00 and 16.00 to 18.00 and Friday 10.00 till 12.00.



Notice from IAWE (Israel Association of Writers in English)

Writing workshops for women, on Zoom

Our member Rachel Neve-Midbar, founding editor of Calul Journal, is offering three workshops on Zoom, for women, in the coming weeks:

Dispatches from the Present: Four Weeks of Writing the World We're In

A four-week workshop on bearing witness to conflict, antisemitism, war, and grief — through the personal and the historical. For women who need to put the present moment on the page.

Sundays: May 17, 24, 31 and June 7 — 9:30 AM PST / 12:30 PM EST, via Zoom

The Words We've Been Avoiding

A single session for writers circling around something hard — and ready to move closer to it. You will leave different from how you arrived.

Thursday, May 21 — 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST, via Zoom

First Draft of the Flesh

A single session on how the visceral body becomes material on the page. You will leave having written something you did not know you were capable of.

Thursday, June 4 — 12:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM EST, via Zoom

All workshops are multi-genre. All levels of writing are welcome. All sessions take place online via Zoom.

For more details, see <https://www.rachelnevemidbar.com/about-3>

Address for registration, and for any questions: calulworkshops@gmail.com.

Israel Association of Writers in English (IAWE)

The Spring issue of *aChord*, IAWE's quarterly newszine, is available [here](#).

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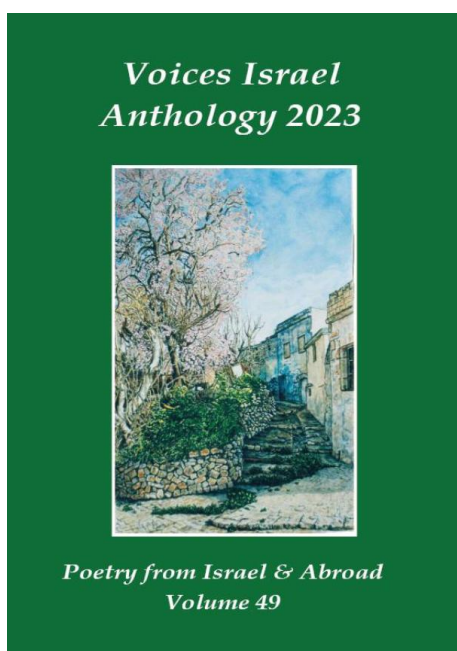
COMPETITION: IMAGE FOR THE 2026 ANTHOLOGY

Here is an opportunity to have one of your images—a painting or a photograph—featured on the front cover of the 2026 Anthology.

Requirements:

- Must be created by a Voices member
- Should portray something Israeli—a scene, a detail from a location, or any flora or fauna found in Israel (but, of course, not a maple tree, a family of raccoons, or autumn/fall colors, beautiful as they may be).
- Please submit a 300 dpi file if possible. Screen resolutions like 72 or 100 can be upgraded but the result may not match the original quality.
- JPG format.

Please send your submission by email to president.voices@gmail.com by 17 May 2026.



Painting by Helen Bar-Lev

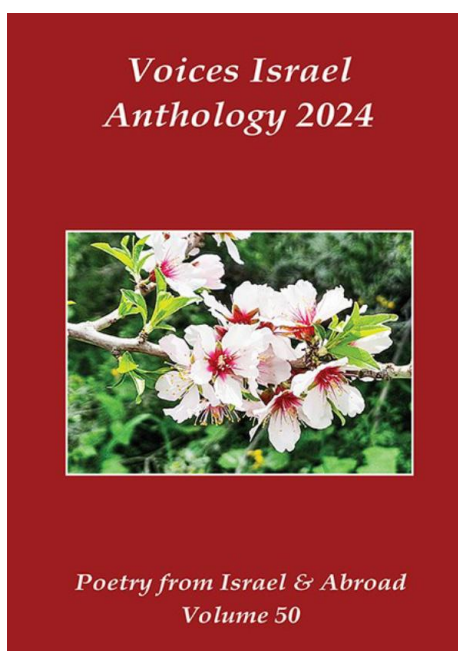
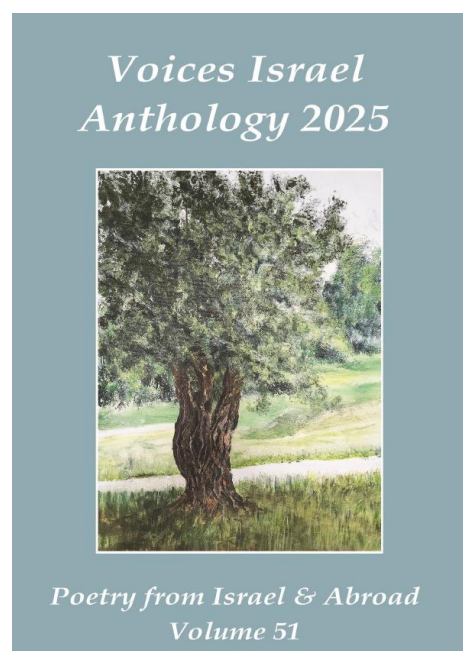


Photo by Julian Alper



Painting by Malka Keleter

**Will your painting or photo
be next?**

VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

HONOURING OUR NONAGENARIANS

We are delighted to announce that we are planning a special Zoom evening this summer to celebrate our nonagenarian poets and their wonderful poetry.

The evening will be hosted by Miriam Green (who, we hasten to add, is certainly not a nonagenarian!).

If you are already ninety or older, will be turning ninety this year, or know of any of our members who are in their nineties, please email president.voices@gmail.com and/or miriamsgreen@gmail.com.

Provisional Date – 7th or 14th July

MR BEAN'S POEM



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNTQbyPqEQE>

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CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Deronda Review seeks submissions of up to five poems, either in ONE Word document or in the body of the email. Reading period is May 15-June 30, 2026. Send to Esther Cameron, [derondareview at g mail](mailto:derondareview@gmail.com), or to Mindy Aber Barad, [maber4kids at yahoo period com](mailto:maber4kids@yahoo.com).

For the 2026 issue, we will continue the theme of Will (see our most recent call for submissions, below) and add the theme of Birth. Poems on other themes, especially nature and the seasons and any of our past themes (see the Archives), will also be considered.

For more information see

<https://www.derondareview.org/submit.htm>.

Judith Magazine, a new online **Journal Of Jewish Letters, Arts & Empowerment** seeks submissions – more information can be found [here](#).

The Jewish Literary Journal (a monthly online journal) seeks submissions of up to 5 poems - further details can be found [here](#).

OfTheBook Literary Journal publishes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry from new and established voices welcomes submissions of up to 10 pages of poetry, with one poem per page. Further details can be found [here](#).

Minyan Magazine (<https://www.minyanmag.com/>) publishes poetry and flash fiction written by Jews and their allies alongside one another. Although we like work with a Jewish theme, we also enjoy work with secular themes. Send us your best, regardless of the theme! Please note that we are a journal of tolerance. It would be a great idea to look at our previous issues to get a sense of what we publish, and all of our issues are free to read! Unsolicited submissions containing three to five previously unpublished poems or up to three flash fiction stories are welcome year-round.

Poetry Submissions

- Please make sure that your poetry submission contains only one Word document or .pdf with your 3-5 previously unpublished poems.
- Please include your short bio in your cover letter.
- Work should be submitted using our [Submittable](#) link.
- We provide a free option and a \$5 option for expedited submissions. Using the \$5 option guarantees that we will respond within 10 days. This small contribution goes towards keeping the magazine going.

Submissions to **New English Review** (the monthly magazine) should be sent to kendra@newenglishreview.org. There is no word limit, but please keep in mind that your work will be read online. Submissions for the coming month are due by the 20th of the previous month. (Example, submissions for January must be in by the 20th of December.) Timely or news-relevant pieces will be accepted at any time. If you wish to submit, please click [here](#) for guidelines on submitting.

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VAST CHASM, publishes “work that explores the human experience, including flash and short fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and other nonconforming work.” They accept submissions “year-round, on a rolling basis, for their quarterly online issues.” No fee to submit.

The *Weekly Poems* Contest - All Poets Invited

Weekly Poems invites all poets from everywhere on Earth to submit a *weeklyphoem*. Poems must be 15 lines or shorter, written during the current week and submitted by Saturday, with the winner published on Sunday. Submissions are open eight months of the year, for three weeks per month, opening on the first Monday of the month.

Submission & Publication Months

Submissions are open eight months of the year, with issues of *Weekly Poems* published on the first three Sundays following the first Monday of the month.

– Period 1: February, March, April

– Period 2: June, July, August

– Period 3: October, November

More details can be found [here](#).

WRITE-HAUS

Write-haus is an Israeli journal that features writers of all genres and artists/interdisciplinary work every week in their Sunday showcase online feature. It’s free to submit examples of your work. <https://write-haus.com/sunday-showcase/>

PALETTE POETRY: “Submissions for our Featured Poetry category are open year-round to poets at any stage of their careers. Featured poems are published online only and will spotlight a number of poems from new authors each month. We highly encourage emerging authors to submit.”

Basket Magazine Online Journal seeks submissions. Please submit up to three poems to editor@basketmagazine.co.uk as a .pdf, .doc or .docx file. Feel free to include a brief cover note/bio, though this will not affect our decision-making — it’s just nice to know about people. We will only consider previously unpublished poems — this includes work that has previously appeared online in any form (social media, etc). We do not consider simultaneous submissions.

Thimble Literary Magazine is open for submissions February, March, **May**, June, August, September, November, and December. In other words, all months except January, April, July, and October. For more information see <https://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/>

Cypress Review seeks submissions – mote details can be found here:

<https://duotrope.com/duosuma/submit/cypress-review-d5WzQ>

New York Quarterly seeks submissions:

<https://www.nyq.org/magazine/submissions.php>

Better Than Starbucks Journal is accepting submissions for the Sep 2026 Autumn Issue.

<https://www.betterthanstarbucks.org/submission-guidelines>

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Persimmon Tree is accepting submissions from women over sixty.

<https://persimmontree.org/submissions/>

All Your Poems is accepting submissions until May 18th.

<https://allyourstoriesandpoems.com/>

Life and Legends is now accepting submissions on Submittable. We welcome submissions in Poetry, Poetry in Translation, Book Reviews, Interviews, and Essays from writers and translators worldwide. Submit your work at:

<https://silentrivier.submittable.com/submit>

Mad Persona Magazine is now open for submissions for Issue 6! Submit your short stories, poetry, and artwork from May 1st - June 1st, 2026 for a chance to be published. There is no theme; just submit something mad :)

Once you have viewed our [guidelines](#), please submit via this [Google Form](#).

Check out Erika Dreifus' Jewish Literary Links

See - <https://www.erikadreifus.com/2026/04/jewish-literary-links-291/>

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ART BY OUR MEMBERS

Cover Picture – Entering New Waters by Ada Aharoni (Acrylic on canvas)

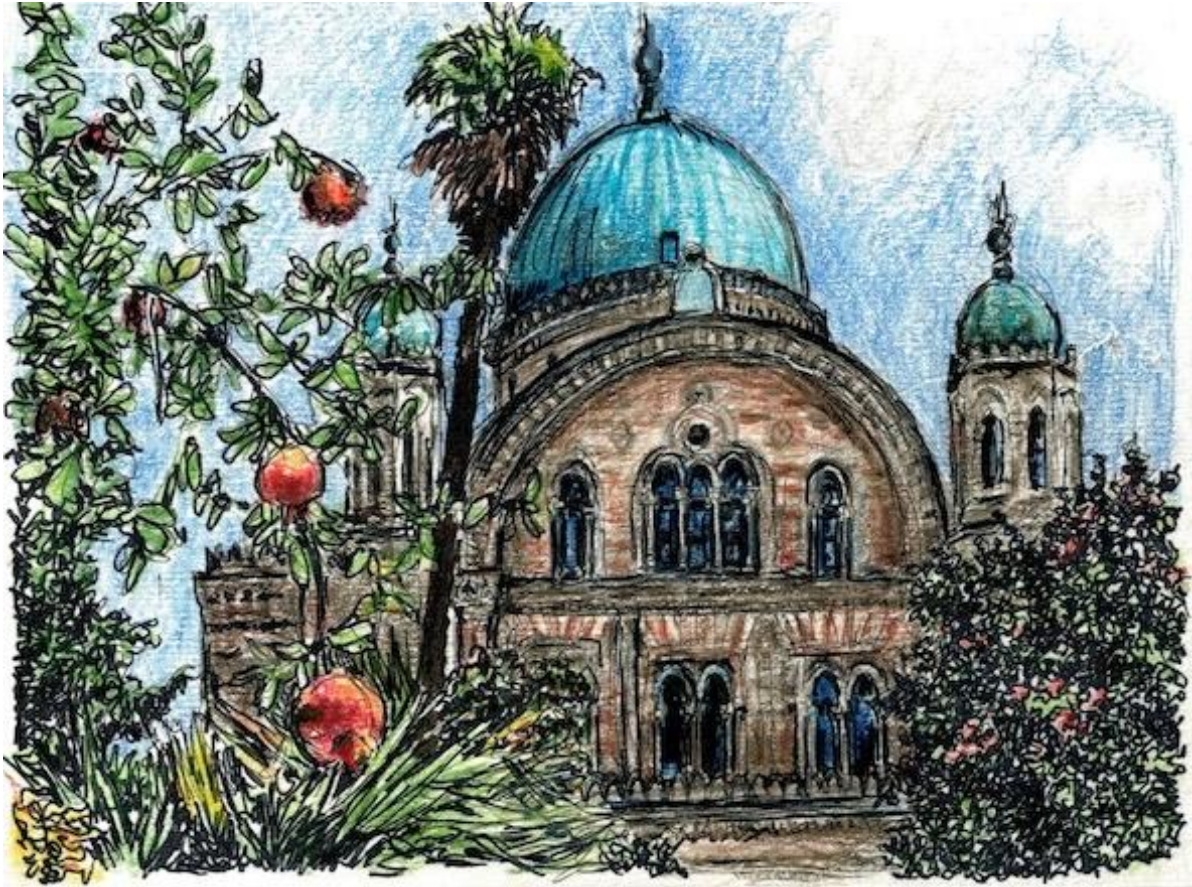
Have courage to start new projects, new thoughts, new poems!



VOICES ISRAEL GROUP OF POETS IN ENGLISH

To a long and happy life

Great Synagogue of Florence - colored pencils and ink by Helen Bar-Lev



I am a tree

Did you think I was a woman?
Oh no, I am a tree
rooted and immovable
impossible to conceive
the scenes
that I have seen

Now gnarled and warped
weathered and aged
wrinkled and withered
bent to the ends of recognition
too rigid to give in
to the whim of man
I stand true to the tune
of the wind echoing
my own inner rhythm
persistent, consistent, constant

Perhaps every tree
was once a woman –
only a woman could stand so strong
fall so proud
when the axe of age claims her
and earth sets a bed for her

Painting and Poem published by
Persimmon Tree, an online magazine

Here:

<https://persimmontree.org/spring-2026/alpha-and-omega/>

Shell Collection by Eli Ben-Joseph

Living near the sea, I have become a collector of shells (and sea-worn bits of glass). In this painting I have gathered six sorts of shells I have found on the Nahariya beach. I felt that showing them in an impressionistic painting would best meld them into a natural setting.



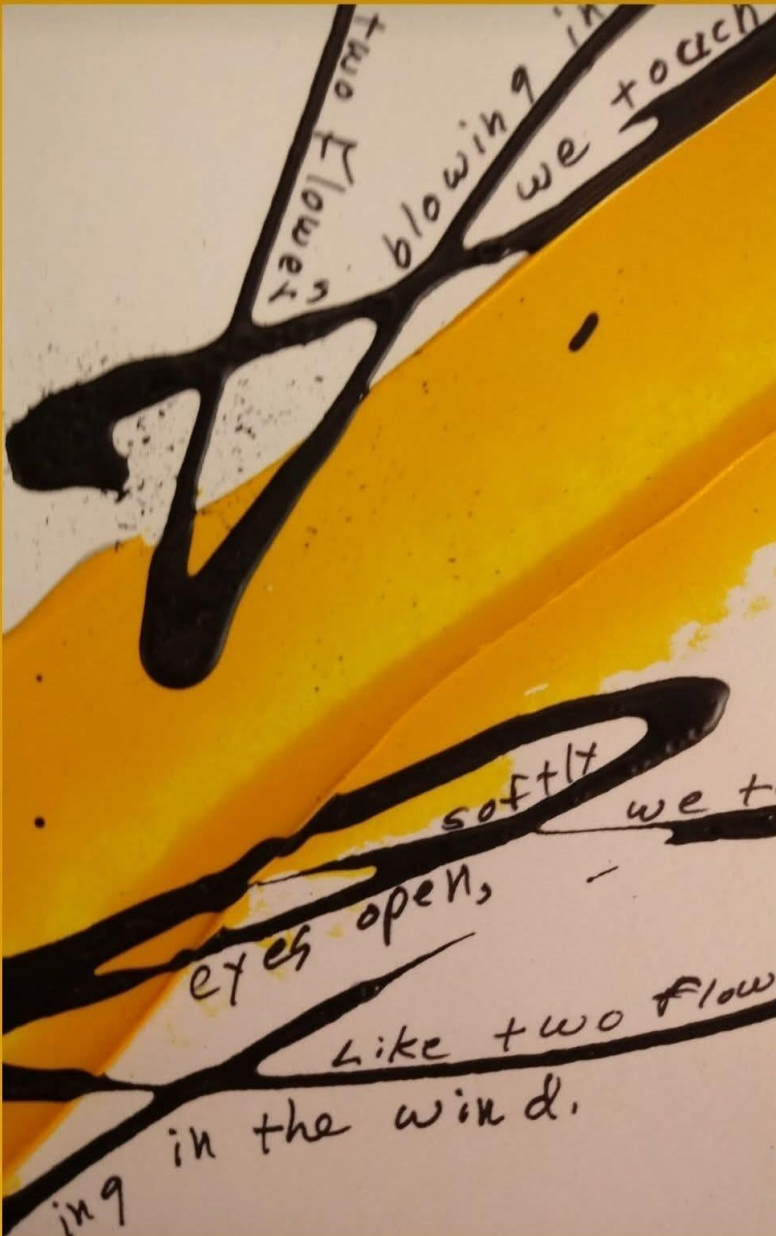
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Like Two Flowers in the Wind by Ira Director

This segment of a painting is from Ex. 2022. The yellow background is done with a pallet knife, the black is thrown paint and the poem is written in ink.

Ex. 2022, Retrospective: 50 years of art and poetry

<https://sites.google.com/view/iradirectorexhibition2022/home>



Like Two Flowers in the Wind

Like two flowers
blowing in the wind

we touch
softly
eyes open

we touch

like two flowers

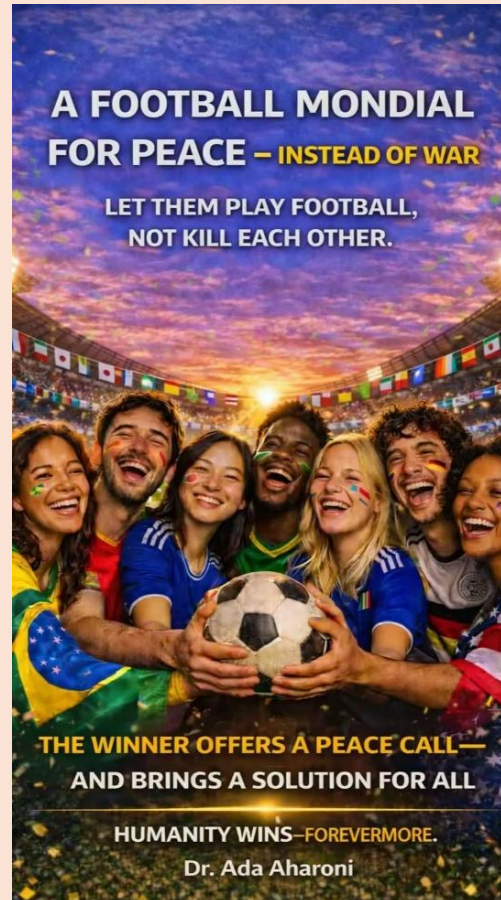
in the wind

Like Two Flowers: Acrylic and pen
on paper, Ex. 2022 a Retrospective

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MONDIAL FOR PEACE

by Ada Aharoni



FOOTBALL PEACE MONDIAL INSTEAD OF WAR

We ended slavery, broke its chain,
We outlawed duelling, one killing one in vain !
Now is the urgent time to outlaw War -
The killing of thousands of youths by thousands of other youths!
This outrageous placing of our children face to face
into death's embrace -
and only after their blood is spilled
a fragile peace is built -
MUST STOPP!
We must urgently choose
A more humane way
to end our conflicts' spray!
For now we hold within
our hands

the power to end all life,
all lands —
for nuclear arms are deadly near,
a final end to all we hold dear.
So let us choose the more humane way:
the green football field instead of the bloody
battlefield.
Let goals, not graves, define our days,
let skill, not war, decide our ways.
One field.
One ball.
One Football race
The winner decides the
Peace Call forevermore -
Humanity wake up -
choose the ball, not the bomb.

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PHOTO AND POEM – LAUGHING DAVE

By Julian Alper



The laughing dove, perched high above,
was having a chuckle, was having a laugh.
And what was so funny that caused such mirth?
He said to himself in his own pidgin English,
if I were to dive from such a great height,
the people below would recount to each other,
of how the dove dived, or should that be dove?
As he thought of these words, 'it dived' or 'it dove',
oh, how did he giggle, oh, how did he titter.

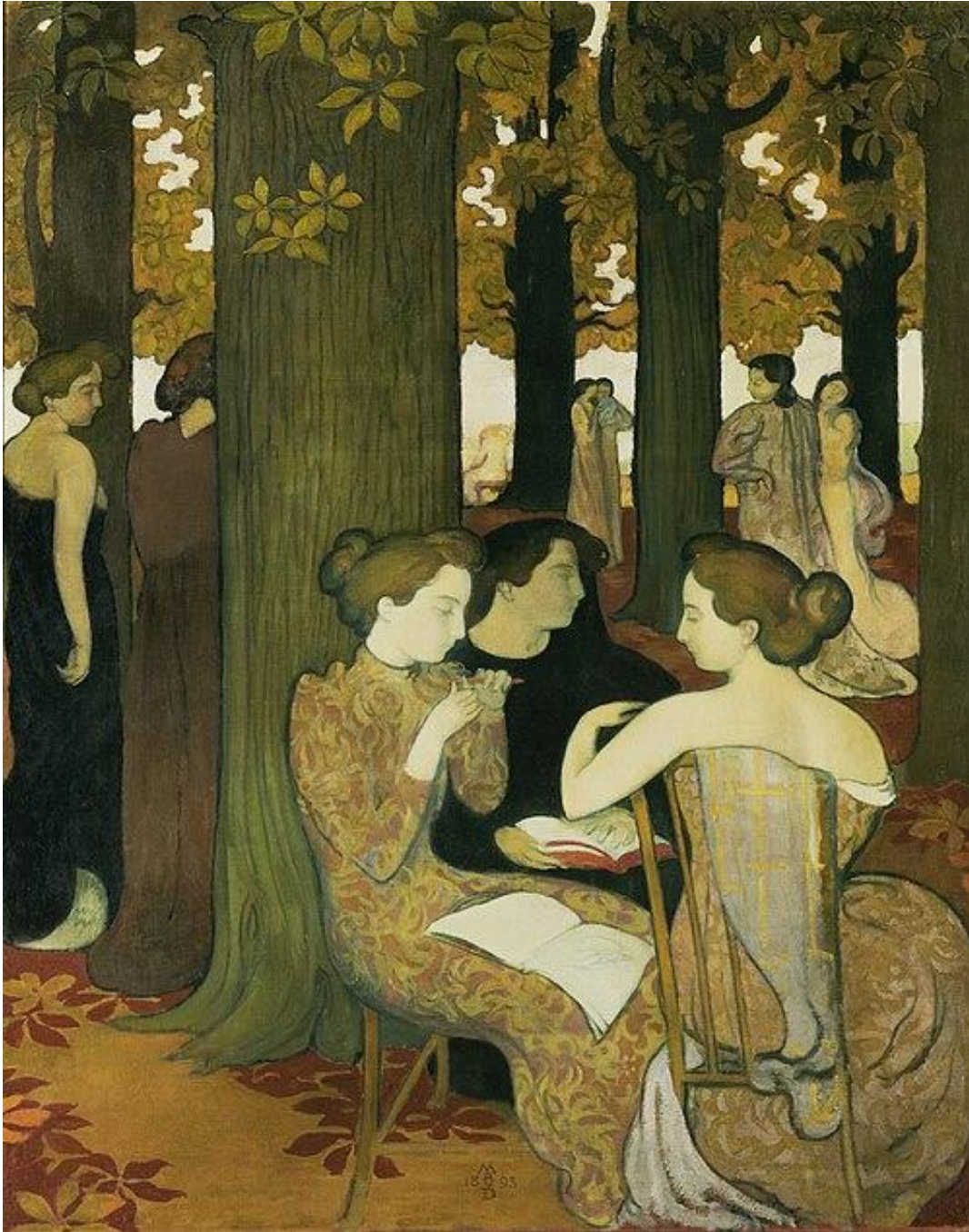
He thought to himself in his own pidgin English,
isn't it apt that my name is Dave,
and isn't it apt that I live in Dover.
Everyone will know me as laughing Dave,
the great diver of Dover
or should that be, the dover of Dover?
As he thought of these words, 'the dover of Dover',
oh, how he did chortle, oh, how he did snicker.

He thought to himself in his own pidgin English,
of his sister, oh how she loved to sing,
she should be known as the diva of Dover,
or should that be the diver of Dover?
As he thought of these words, 'the diva of Dover',
oh, how he did chuckle, oh, how he did laugh.
He thought to himself,
doves do love the English of pigeons,
and with that
he dove down to the dive that he lived in.

[The **laughing dove** (*Spilopelia senegalensis*) is named because its cooing resembles a laugh.]

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THE MUSES BY MAURICE DENIS



Painting from Wikipedia (selected by the editor)

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