

# Rachel Neve-Midbar

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Poet, essayist, translator and Fulbright Scholar, Rachel Neve-Midbar's collection *Salaam of Birds* was chosen by Dorothy Barresi for the Patricia Bibby First Book Prize and was published by Tebot Bach in January 2020. She is also the author of the chapbook, *What the Light Reveals* (Tebot Bach, 2014, winner of The Clockwork Prize). Rachel's work, poems, essays and lyrical essays have appeared in *Blackbird*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Grist* and *Georgia Review* as well as other publications and anthologies. Her awards include the Crab Orchard Review Richard Peterson Prize, The Passager Prize, and nominations for The Pushcart Prize. Rachel is the co-editor of *Stained: an anthology of creative writing about menstruation* (Querencia Press, July 2023). She is also the Poetry Editor at Judith Magazine. Rachel earned her PhD from The University of Southern California, where her research concerned menstruation in contemporary poetry. She is currently a Fulbright Post Doc in Israel translating the poems of Holocaust poet Abba Kovner. and her scholarly work *Thought and New Language in the Menstrual Poem* is due out from Palgrave MacMillan in 2026.

## **Education**

### **PhD English Literature and Creative Writing** **2023**

The University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California USA

Dissertation: *Breaching the Labial Lips: Thought and New Language in the Menstrual Poem*

Field Exams:

- Fathers, Daughters, and Turbulent Wombs in Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* and *Hamlet*
- Learning From the Masters to Break Through Taboos: On Writing the Poetry of Menstruation
- Shame Affect in Tarfia Faizullah's *Seam* and Raven Leilani's *Luster*

Qualification Exam:

- The Bleeding Poem: a History and Critical Analysis of Menstrual Poetry
- Committee: Dr. David St John (Chair), Dr. Dana Johnson, Dr. Rebecca Lemon, Dr. Alexis Wellwood

### **Translation: Certificate** **2023**

The University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California USA

### **Master of Fine Arts in Poetry** **2015**

Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon USA

Thesis: *The Long Thread: Poetic Innovations Within the Tradition of Hebrew Poetry*  
*of Yehuda Amichai and Shmuel Hanagid*

Chair: Marvin Bell

### **Financial Analysis and Accounting** **2005**

New York University, New York, New York, USA

### **Orot College** **1983-1985**

Advanced Jewish Studies, Petach Tikvah, Israel

### **B.A. Studies, Liberal Arts** **1981-1983**

Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York, USA

## **Teaching Experience**

### **The Institute for Contemporary Judaism**

**Hebrew University**

**October 2023-**

*Fulbright Post Doc and Lecturer*

Lecture on the history and poetry of Holocaust poet Abba Kovner and how complex PTSD as a result of trauma is revealed in his poetry.

### **Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies**

**Bar-Ilan University**

**2024**

*Lecturer*

Lecture on the process of translating Abba Kovner's poems from Hebrew to English and the publishing of the poems in literary journals throughout the English speaking world in the United States, the United Kingdom (Europe) and Australia

### **Ritualwell Workshops**

**(2019-present)**

*Workshop Facilitator*

as part of the Kolot Center for Jewish Women's and Gender Studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College facilitated generative workshops in poetry centered around Jewish subjects such as Holocaust Poetry, Contemporary Israeli Poetry, Biblical Women, The Five Megilot, Modern Day Psalms and The Mitzvot of Happiness

### **Aardvark Israel**

**(2016-2018)**

*English Faculty*

taught literature, expository writing and creative writing in two courses: Reading and Writing and Holocaust Literature into the Next Generation to post high school students in a classroom environment. Created syllabuses to discuss various forms of literature, to explore the novel, short stories, essays and poems. All reading and writing is dedicated to helping the student to further understand Jewish history and culture as to encourage and develop their own critical thinking and writing as they experience a year in Israel.

### **Poetry Barn**

**(2016-2017)**

*Workshop Facilitator*

Online poetry classes for adults. Created syllabus including weekly course material, reading and writing prompts, essays on craft, weekly critiques of students' creative work, and creation of concept and language enrichment materials.

### **Tel Aviv University Department of English and American Studies**

**(2015)**

*Lecturer*

By invitation from of Karen Alkalay Gut lectured on *The Deep Image in Poetry*, for her course entitled The Poetry Workshop

### **The Poet's Workshop**

**(2013-2018)**

*Director and Facilitator*

Established and continue to run an online poetry workshop for adults, including weekly classes in poetry craft, weekly critiques of students' creative work, and creation of concept and language enrichment materials.

## **Service:**

**Judith Magazine-multi-genre weekly lit journal**

**(2024-**

*Poetry Editor*

**Guesthouse Literature**

**(2020-2023)**

## *Reader*

reading poetry submissions and assisting the editors to choose work that best fits Guesthouse's style and culture

## **Private Tutor and Coaching Services (2016-**

working one on one with poets privately to improve craft, learn how to submit, how to form a manuscript and all aspects of poetry and being a poet.

## **Editor, Arc-24, Annual literary magazine, Israel Association of Writers in English (2015)**

Management of all submissions, guidance of writers to improve accepted pieces, journal layout and design consultation.

## **Professional Affiliations:**

<b>Member ALTA: American Literary Translators Association-</b>	<b>2018-present</b>
<b>Secretary, IAWE (The Israel Association of Writers in English)</b>	<b>2014-2016</b>
<b>Transatlantic Poetry-Brought Multi Lingual Broadcasts</b>	<b>2014, 2015, 2016</b>
<b>Society of Menstrual Research, Member,</b>	<b>2020- present</b>

## **Prizes**

<b>Fulbright Post Doctoral Scholar</b>	<b>2023-</b>
awarded in order to translate the poetry of Holocaust poet Abba Kovner, who uniquely wrote poetry in Hebrew.	
<b>University of Southern California</b>	
<b>Edward W. Moses Fellowship</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>
<b>Patricia Bibby First Book Award</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Clockwork Prize</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Crab Orchard Review R Richard Peterson Prize</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Passenger Poetry Prize</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Nominated for The Pushcart Prize</b>	<b>2013, 2015, 2021, 2022, 2023</b>
<b>Nominated for Best of Small Fiction</b>	<b>2022</b>

## **Translation:**

The Poetry of Abba Kovner  
*Shloshim*, Avot Yeshurun

## **Publications:**

### **Books**

<i>Thought and New Language in the Menstrual Poem</i> (Palgrave Macmillan)	forthcoming
<i>Stained: an anthology of creative writing about menstruation</i> (Querencia Press)	2023
<i>Salaam of Birds</i> (Tebot Bach)	2020

## **Essays**

“Traveling the Red Road: My Life As a Menstruant”-*The Account, Fall 2021*

“On Anne Carson’s, Decreation”-*Guesthouse Journal Spring 2021*

“‘Still, In Its Longing It Flies To You:’<sup>1</sup> Silence in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson, Ocean Vuong, & Jean Valentine”- *Grist Journal, 2020*

Salaam of Birds, *Georgia Review* Fall 2017

SHARON OLDS. STAG’S LEAP. KNOPF. *Prairie Schooner* Vol. 87, issue 3, Fall 2013

Masters Thesis: “The Long Thread: Poetic Innovations Within the Tradition of Hebrew Poetry of Yehuda Amichai and Shmuel Hanagid”

## **Poetry Journals and Anthologies**

(over 150 published poems in various journals and anthologies. Full list available upon request)