Literature in a Time of Conflict: Evening of Israeli Poetry

SHIMON ADAF is the author of six novels and three books of poems, Adaf has been favorably compared with Margaret Atwood, and has received many awards, including Prime Minister’s Prize. He was a writer in residence at the University of Iowa and is currently the head of Creative Writing Program at Ben Gurion University.

TAL NITZAN is widely known as a poet and also as one of Israel’s most respected translators (she translated Don Quixote into Hebrew in addition to 70 other books, including poetry of Neruda, Lorka, Paz, Borges and prose of Toni Morison and Angela Carter). Tal Nitzan is also the author of children’s books. She has received honorary medal from President of Chili for her translation of Neruda. She has been called “an ardent peace activist” and you can find her anthology “Israeli Poets of Protest” was published in USA.

HAVIVA PEDAYA has received several honors for her poetry, including President’s Prize. She is also an esteemed literary scholar, and is known for her work which draws on her study of mysticism and Iraqi Sephardic cultural heritage. Some literary critics have called her “Israel’s Emily Dickinson.”

ANAT ZECHARYA is an outspoken poet who writes about desire and politics. Zecharya was twice awarded Poetry in the Streets Prize. She is also known as a dance critic. She is the author of two books, most recent published by Bialic Institute.

The event will be moderated by TZIONA SAHMAI, the director of Helicon Society for Advancement of Poetry in Israel (http://www.helicon.org.il). At Helicon, she has created numerous cultural forums, with audiences in places such as Ireland, Turkey, Eastern Europe and elsewhere. Helicon also runs Helicon Hebrew-Arabic Poetry School which supports Hebrew and Arabic poets at the outset of their careers.