

Haviva Pedaya – Cultural Profile

Haviva Pedaya is a philosopher, researcher of Judaism, Mysticism, Kabbalah and Hasidism, and is engaged in writing a mass of criticism and culture. She is also a creator in theater, music and poetry. She regularly conducts academic series and evenings of poetry and culture. She regularly writes essays and articles that gets extensive echoes. Besides her academic work in the **Department of the History of Israel** and her role as the Head of the **J.R. Elaychar Center for Studies in Sephardi Heritage** at Ben Gurion University, she is a lecturer and teaches in many institutes and at various events around the country and receives many invitations to write and teach.



General reviews and appraisals:

Generally regarding her cultural profile: ‘a poet, a scholar ... Brilliant publicist and renews and revitalizes the mizrahi music from Rabbi Israel Najara of the 16th century to the present ... a brilliant Intellectual ... an investigator of mysticism, Kabbalah and Hasidism leading and breaking through’ (Hezi Mehlav [reporter for the first channel], ‘Ha’oketz’) ; ‘Pedaya in her analysis manages to reach depths of the mechanisms of cultural production ... and soar brilliantly with reasoned formulation, formulations that are backed by broad knowledge and deep acquaintance with the objects of her writing ... Prof. Haviva Pedaya is today one of the most important and most fascinating figures in the academic and cultural fields in Israel’ (Shira Ohayon, ‘on poetry and struggles in the intellectual field’, ‘Ha’oketz’). And more: ‘the creation of Haviva Pedaya, a work with mercy, knowledge and science. Intelligent graceful language, multi-layered, is echoing Jewish and Hebrew. Attitude, in its review (“a view”) and science in the sense of information, investigation, and demand balance. All her work is included in the theoretical and literary, well sprinkled and everything, we cover as a map, like her personality. Greatness as a researcher (see her latest book: Ramban, Am Oved), what it continues if the investigation and gathering treasures in Israel ... Haviva Peday’s poetry, besides her being a single song alone is significant, she is redemptive language and worlds’ (Adam Baruch).

Prose Books

Pedaya has published two books of prose: The Eye of the Cat (novel) , Am Oved, 2008 [Be-Eyn He-Chatul]; Imprints (stories), Yedioth Ahronoth, 2014 [Chotamot].

Her book *In the Eye of the Cat* instigated a cultural revolution in Israel in many ways, especially in the periphery but also about ecological issues, urban architecture and planning.

Among the three most important dimensions in the change that the book instigated and among its social impact centers, noted is the obvious increase of the fate of the animals in the media and in the press and the reports on cat Knesset Education Committee. The change in the literary discourse and expansion of the dimensions of the languages included in the best of books published in the last two years that began to accommodate more complex languages to all sections of the Hebrew. The book also affected the attitude towards periphery and the city of Be'er Sheva in particular, Pedaya was invited to the Board of Education of Be'er Sheva's Municipality, and is among 40 of the influential people of the south, and is a consultant for the Biennala Project in Haifa.

Her book *In The eye of the Cat* is taught at the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev, in the Department of Politics and Government and the Department of Literature. The book was recently selected as one of the one hundred mandatory texts to study in Israeli culture classes in schools. This is a significant achievement mediated for a writer that mediates Judaism through messages of tolerance, peace and brotherhood from the east to the west and emphasizes the periphery. 'The eye of the Cat' bridges the gap between the world of Kabbalah and tolerant messages and contains the hardships of the periphery, and ecological issues in an Israeli and global point of view.

Pedaya was involved in the liturgical revolution and has been a pioneer in this field since 2003: cultural activities, music and poetry, and was a pioneer of the liturgical meeting with Israeli space. For example, her cooperation with artists both secular and religious - like Barry Sakharov, Shai Zabari, Dikla, Yael Dekel, Peretz Eliyahu and his son Mark Eliyahu, collected Talmudic era chestnut and Moshe Jankowski.

She established the *dove* music ensemble from the East and produced disk books in the field (such as the book-CD in honor of Rabbi Israel Najara). The ensemble was invited to a Jewish music festival in Krakow.

In 2014-2015 Pedaya carried out a deeply personal project: "Kaddish: Requiem for my Mother", a rock opera and cultural-spiritual event carried out in various forums and artist ensemble in the Israeli National Library and the Israel Festival. She also participates in various festivals and music cultural events representing the Israeli and Jewish culture in its various forms in the center and the periphery - such as the Shoham Festival, the Film Festival in the south by Sapir College, the "Mekudeshet" Festival at Jerusalem, the November 29th annual performance, and more.

Poetry:

As a poet Pedaya has been defined by the editor and translator Halit Yeshurun, in an interview by Dov Elbaum (Trans-Israel Highway), as the writer of 'the great poetry in Israel today'. She has been called by the poet and translator Jeremy Sa'ari as 'the Emily Dickinson' of Israeli (Poetry International Web) and by the poet and literary critic Professor Hamutal Bar Yosef as 'one of the greatest discoveries, and most authentic mystical experience in the Israeli literature' (Haaretz); 'the songs of Haviva Pedaya'. The Novelist and critic Dror Burstein, 'Haviva Pedaya is exponentially greater, because this poet is wrapped in poetry and this world as if poetry were her garments' ('The City'). And more of the songs: 'I read them as if regarding gold and gold closed Purvis and gold veins are waiting for me on the following pages' (Amos Oz); 'a masterpiece of lyric writing ... in a multi-language and stratified voice she is breaking new ground Hebrew poetry' (judges remark, President's Award). Peter Cole, the poet and translator included her in his anthology of poetry from its beginnings Israeli young poetry expressing the seal the book.

As stated above, in the opinion of critics and reviewers, Pedaya deeply affects readers across the cultural spectrum, and inspiring veterans (such as Amos Oz) and young poets alike.

Poetry Prizes:

Awards, Citations, Honors

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| 1989 | Harry Hershon Prize for Poetry and Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. |
| 1991 | Lakritz Foundation Award for the Study of Hasidism, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. |
| 1997 | Israel Publisher's Association's Bernstein Prize for Poetry, for <i>Meteivah Setumah</i> . |
| 2004 | The President's Literary Award for the Book: <i>Motzah Hanefesh</i> |
| 2005 | The Achi Foundation Award for the Book: <i>Motzah Hanefesh</i> |
| 2012 | The Amichai Award for the book: Ink Blood |

Non-fiction Books:

Her books *Expanses: An Essay on the Theological and Political Unconscious* (Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2011) and *Walking Through Trauma: Rituals of Movement in Jewish Myth, Mysticism and History*, (Resling, 2011), suggest an examination of the depth of Jewish consciousness and its impact in the Israeli-Arab conflict; they offer a fascinating debate and issues of trauma history and collective memory secular religion and fundamentalism.

Pedayla is working and integrating the various dimensions of the individual and society, theoretical and relevant-to-pain. Digit return of the exiled voice puts a perspective on Jewish history and culture, adds channel principle discipline of Oriental Research; In her book *Kabbalah and Psychoanalysis* (2015) Pedaya examined the Jewish spiritual path of the *I* and the *Self* and from that tension to the divine.

In a series of articles published in Haaretz throughout 2015 -2016 she analyzes the tensions in the east and as part of a global and digital, in Israel and abroad, while touching the tools developed by the seam and place" and an expanded perspective on culture, society and religion. Educational and social activities;

Activities In NGO's , Educational-Cultural Institutions And Committees

In the Van Leer Institute (2205-2007) she initiated research groups engaged in the blanks of Mizrahi Jewry, Judaism and Israel.

Since 2008 she is the Chairman of the **Vision NGO** (founded by her mother) for the rehabilitation of women through arts, she renewed the definition of this rehabilitation project fulfillment center of disadvantaged women by means of a Midrash theater creates. Today she is building a network of artists and friends to promote the integration of Judaism and therapy with the empowerment of women victims of single gender-based environment open to all sectors.

2008-2012 she proposed the redefinition of the objectives of the NGO's goals in favor of changing relations between center and periphery, East and West, as the basis for renewed, open and tolerant Israeli Judaism. The center will be active in the south of the country, association committee members will be intellectuals and key members of the Israeli economy.

Teaching Activities,

Haviva Pedaya is an active teacher (her academic appointment notwithstanding) around the country in various formats of study and discussion groups, teaching in all denominations, religious and secular, left and right, Jews and Arabs. Her extra-academic teaching venues include:

- **LIBA** a home for creativity, culture and spiritualism
- **Kolot** a Beit Midrash for Educational Leadership
- **The Mandel Center** for Leadership in the Negev
- **Sapir College**, Department of Film
- **Bamidbar** a Beit Midrash in Yeruham
- **Beth Israel** a Beit Midrash and urban commune in Jerusalem
- **Maale Gilboa** Yeshiva
- **Shuva College** Jerusalem Branch
- **East of the Sun** – Community leadership initiative
- **Othniel** Yeshiva
- **Tko'ah** Yeshiva
- **Musrara College** in Jerusalem.
- **Siach** Yeshiva

Cultural, International and Interfaith Activities

Haviva Pedaya is a member in the Hermes international forum (in combination with the School of Religion) to promote peace in the world which meets each year in Marrakech, by processing the theological messages and universal spiritual language of tolerance and containment. Pedaya established the *Spiritual Movement for Peace*.

This year Pedaya joined the council of **LIBA house** for Judaism, culture, society, and spirituality; participates in committees for culture and poetry such as the Levi Eshkol award, chairperson of the **board of libraries** on behalf of the ministry of education.

In recent years, Pedaya participated in the Biton Committee for the Council for Higher Education, to promote the study of history and literature of the Middle scattered in Spain and North Africa to Southeast Asia higher education system in Israel.

Pedaya is head of the **Elyachar Center** for Sephardi Heritage, in which she has initiated Israeli Diaspora forums: To date she has established the Balkan Forum this year, and is now gearing towards starting forums for India and Iran.



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universal spiritual language of tolerance and containment. She is a member of the **LIBA** board – home for spirituality culture and creativity (Israel and India), and collaborates with the **Elijah Interfaith Institute**.

Summary Publication List (prose, poetry, art):

Poetry

2016	Hell is Heaven in Reverse Gear [<i>Gehinom Hu Gan Eden BeReverse</i>]	Tel Aviv: Ha-Kibutz ha-Me'uchadm	
2015	Early and Late [<i>Mukdamim U-Meucharim</i>]	Tel Aviv: Gama	
2009	Blood's Ink [<i>Dyo Adam</i>]	Tel Aviv: ha-Kibutz ha-Me'uchad	
2002	Birthing of the Anima [<i>Motza Ha-Nefesh</i>]	Tel Aviv: Am Oved	
1996	From a Sealed Ark [<i>Mi-Teiva Stuma</i>]	Tel Aviv: Am Oved	

Prose

<i>Island M</i>	Tel Aviv: Yediot Acharonot	2017 forthcoming.	
<i>Seals [Chotamot]</i> <i>Contes des miroirs brises</i>	Tel Aviv: Yediot Acharonot	2014	
<i>In the Eye of the Cat</i>	Tel Aviv: Am Oved (French translation forthcoming with a grant from the Matanel Foundation).	2008	

Art Catalogues and projects

- 2016 "The 'Zigzag' of Tradition on the Freeway Culture", Diver Festival – Trad(e)ition, July 7th, 2016
- 2016 H. Pedaya, "From the Mystical Garment to the Talismanic Garment to the Protective Robe of the Bride and the Birthing Mother," in Drorit Gur Aryeh and Rafael Segal (eds.), *Bibliography the Book as Body*, Museum of Petach Tikvah, 2016.
- 2015- In 2015 began a unique program "South-East" for students and artists in the south combined with community outreach activities and cultural elements, constitute a study program comprised of a Jewish perspective, critical-theory and general intellectual point of view.
- 2015 Guest Lecture: "Jewish Mysticism And Tibetan Buddhism", Kathmandu University Centre For Buddhist Studies At Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Monday, April 11th
- 2015 Fragments of passion for Jerusalem , Of Which Temple Do I Dream, "Mekudeshet" Festival at Jerusalem, August 25th, 2015
- 2014 "Sztuka To Pieśń, Która Wypełnia Lukę W Zniszczonej Przestrzeni", In: Dorota Krakowska (Editor) *Byliśmy - Once We Were*, Exhibition catalog "Once We Were" BWA Tarnów. 11 / 06 - 24 / 08 / 2014, pp. 50-57.
- 2014 H. Pedaya, "Once We Were, Art is the Song that Bridges the Shattered Space", In: Dorota Krakowska (Editor) *Byliśmy - Once We Were*, Exhibition catalog "Once We Were" BWA Tarnów. 11 / 06 - 24 / 08 / 2014, pp. 58-63.
- 2008 H. Pedaya, "Die Kunst als Projekt der Archiv-Veränderung - Art as a Project of Changing the Archive", in: *Overlapping Voices: Israeli and Palestinian Artists Exhibition Catalogue*, Klosterneuburg / Wien, 2008, pp. 124-133.
- 2007 H. Pedaya, "The Language of Silent visions and the Voice of the Darkness: An Investigation of the Metapoeisis of Voice and Picture in the Poetry of Bialik", in: Hana Amit, Aviad Hacohen and Chaim Be'er (eds.). *Jubilee Volume in Honor of R. Menachem Hacohen*, Jerusalem, 2007, pp. 427-442 [Hebrew].

Musical projects (selection)

- 2016 Founding of an organization for musical culture, "South-East."
- 2015 Hilula – Tribute to a Mother / Kaddish and Laying-Down of My Mother – Israeli rock opera, Israel Festival (IFJ 2015)
- 2013-2014 Artist in Residence in the National Library, for the project "Kaddish and Laying-Down of My Mother" (words and musical treatment) with Peretz Eliyahu, Mark Eliyahu, Dikla Shai Tsabari and Asaf Talmudi.
- 2012-2014 Worked on the musical adaptation of the Rabbi Nachman's "Story of the Seven Beggars" for the Theater.
- 2011-2013 Academic advisor to the Andalusian Orchestra, Ashdod.
- 2010-2012 Curator for the musical program for the Cinema Festival of the South, Sapir College.
- 2007-2008 Advisor to the project "The Red-Lipped Ones" [Adumei HaSefatot] – Berry Sakharov and Rea Mochiach in settings of poems by Ibn Gvirol.
- 2003-2009 Founding and musical and artistic direction of the "Yonah Ensemble" - Liturgical and mystical music of the Near East.

Disk-Booklets – Production and Musical Direction

- 2012 Rabbi Israel Najara: Mystical Piyutim in Turkish, Hataklit, Booklet writing



- 2003 Yonat Rechokim, Nana Disk

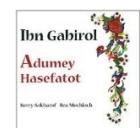


Disk-Booklets of other producers and artists – consulting and writing

- 2015 Shai Zabari, "Dawn" [Shacharit], words in song and article disc booklet



- 2009 "The Red-Lipped Ones" [Adumei HaSefatot] Nana Disc 2009, Jacket notes for the album.



- 1995 "Charcoal drawings" (Rishumey Pecham), tribute to Meir Ariel, various artists, Avoda Ivrit/Helicon; wrote two articles and advised on the Jewish and artistic composition)



Online information sources on Pedaya's artistic and cultural activities:

Poetry International Web	http://israel.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw_cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=6346
Hebrew Literature Portal	http://www.ithl.org.il/page_14538
Wikipedia	https://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%97%D7%91%D7%99%D7%91%D7%94_%D7%A4%D7%93%D7%99%D7%94
IMDB	http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2114599/