

## Winning Poems – 5<sup>th</sup> Bar Sagi Young Poets Prize, 2024

**First Prize: Talia Rabah, aged 16**

### **Harmony of Silence**

In a moment of profound silence  
Words sprout like spring flowers,  
Dancing among the letters of language,  
Swirling like dreamy aspirations.

In the realm of silence, a poem is born  
From interwoven threads of deep emotion,  
Flowing like the meandering rivers,  
Planting hope in the soil of the heart.

Pens dance on the strings of paper,  
Scripting the meanings of love and pain,  
Scattering the fragrance of words  
Like flowers falling from above the sky.

In the maze of life, we find ourselves,  
Lost in the horizons of dreams and consciousness,  
Yet within the folds of words  
The sun of understanding and awareness rises.

Let's dance together in the circle of moments  
And dive into the sea of emotions and sensations  
To write a poem known only to the heart  
That remains immortal in the spirit of time.

**Second Prize: Hadar Yadin, aged 15**

**Even someone you didn't know still thinks about you**

When I was told about you  
I pictured you  
standing at the height of the birds  
and you saw god  
with an open field below you  
and you were confident in your decision  
to leave it all behind

I wonder what you thought,  
taking your last breath  
if you knew pain distorts beauty  
and thought  
deep sleep  
would be better

I think you saved my life  
thanks to you  
I know what grief I'd leave behind  
maybe you're looking at me from above  
and despise me  
you prevented me from putting my head in the noose  
which would have killed me

And when I saw a picture of you and my mother I thought  
what a shame  
you didn't get to see the future  
you wouldn't know what we earned  
and what you chose to lose

### **Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Almog Kobi, aged 16**

#### **Unforsaken Love**

When I kissed you for the first time, I never imagined that your lips, once so tender, would become strangers to mine.

The love we shared, once a beacon of warmth and comfort, now feels like a distant memory, slipping through my fingers like sand.

I adored you with every fiber of my being, holding onto the moments we shared as if they were the very air I breathed. Your eyes, like pools of melted chocolate, used to reflect the love and passion we shared. They were my sanctuary, my place of solace.

But now, they are filled with an unfamiliar emotion – anger.

How could the love that once bloomed between us wither so quickly? I find myself grappling with this question, searching for answers in the depths of my shattered heart.

As I sit here, alone with my thoughts, I can't help but feel abandoned.

The love that once wrapped around me like a warm embrace has slipped away, leaving me cold and alone. I wonder how something so beautiful could turn so bitter, leaving me as the forsaken one, wandering in a haze of confusion and heartache.

But despite the pain, I will hold onto the memories we shared like precious treasure, a reminder of a love that was once so pure.

## **Joint Third Prize: Lotem Shperling**

### **A Winter Friday**

I take a wipe,  
And rub the little stain.  
My heart is beating  
To the rhythm of the drops of rain.  
I sweep and rinse and scrub.  
The more he insists,  
The harder I grab  
The broom, the mop, the rag  
Trying my best to erase any trace  
Reminding me of things  
I don't want to face.  
Not today, not tomorrow.  
Gloomy grey glow  
From the sun behind the clouds  
Shining through the window.  
The stain does not come off  
Ignoring my begs and pleas  
Stays put  
not moving by any means  
another bead of water  
drips along my face  
falls and leaves a mark,  
right next to the stain's place.

## **Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order of poem's title)**

### **"My Safe Place" by Naya Abu-Hmeed**

#### **My Safe Place**

Perhaps "safe" is just a feeling,  
a word we say when we feel loved.  
But to me  
it's like dancing in the rain  
without being judged.

You make me feel like HOME,  
Cozy, warm ,  
Just by holding your hand  
all my feelings  
transform.

I really like it when you smile,  
I wish time can stop for a while

"I love you..."  
is a superficial word  
Because my feelings for you  
are  
so much deeper than just a blurred  
world

**“When the love dies it takes you with it” by Neomi Bechor, aged 15**

**When the love dies it takes you with it**

When I saw her in the picture she had blue eyes  
I remember the way they matched the skies  
I remember the way she never cried  
I remember the way her cheeks turned red  
The way she smiled  
I remember the way she looked at him with love  
As if he was an angel sent from above  
I remember wanting to have what they have  
But she can't remember  
And nor can I  
What happened in this dark cold night  
On her soft pink robe  
There is a big red stain  
She could never recall this pain  
A knife or a gun or one hit too hard  
The red from her cheeks  
Turned into blood  
The blue eyes she had were sacrificed for love  
Truth is I never really met her  
I don't know who she is  
But I remember in my self  
How painful love feels.