

## Rank and File

◆ **HEALING THROUGH POETRY:** In the shadow of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, women of both peoples are creating "thriving societies of mutual growth and living in harmony side by side," according to Athens-born Israeli poet **Yvette Nahmia-Messinas**. This perception, she says, led her to start working on a collection of 14 poems about women who are "healing Israeli-Palestinian relations." Nahmia-Messinas, a former Greek teacher and editor of Yad Vashem periodicals, says she was inspired to write her recently-published poetry book last year, when she attended a two-day women's gathering in Be'er Sheva. "The gathering helped realize that we women are the healers and that it is up to us to do healing work towards peace in our region," says Nahmia-Messinas, a mother of three daughters who lives in Kibbutz Kramim with her husband, architect **Elias Messinas**. "I thought you were enemies," reads one of the poems in Nahmia-Messinas booklet. "Having met you I discovered you can only be my friends." For more details about the booklet and about Nahmia-Messinas's Midwives for Peace Project – which aims to empower women as community healers – write [yvettenahmia.messinas@gmail.com](mailto:yvettenahmia.messinas@gmail.com) (*Cnaan Liphshiz*)