



### Conversation Starters for Jewish Poetry Events

1. What is the relationship between Judaism or Jewish culture and your poetry?
2. Which Jewish writers—poets, fiction writers, nonfiction writers—have influenced you or your poetry? How do you feel their impact?
3. What do you think it means to be a Jewish poet? Is Jewishness a question of subject matter? The rhetoric of your poems? A particular worldview or philosophy articulated by the text? A style? Something else?
4. Do your poems engage with Jewish sacred texts? Do you write poems that function as midrashim? If so, how do you understand this kind of work—is it an argument with tradition? a conversation? a reinterpretation of older narratives? a reinvention?
5. When you write about Jewish themes, do you feel like you're writing from the perspective of an insider or an outsider? How does this affect your experience of such writing? How does it feel when you share it with others?
6. Can writing, studying, or sharing poetry be a form of tikkun olam?
7. How do you understand the relationship between the personal and the political in your poems?
8. What fears or anxieties do you bring to writing about the experience of being a Jew? What joys? What celebrations?

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This event is inspired by Yetzilah, the first national literary organization dedicated to fostering and supporting a community space for Jewish poets, nourishing writers and readers of Jewish poetry now and for generations to come.

Donations to Yetzilah are encouraged and greatly appreciated.

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