

## **Valeria Ryrak**

Valeria Ryrak likes to think of herself as someone who deals in matters of the soul. It has taken her a long time to finally find that yellow brick road, which led her to doing a degree in English Language and Literature at the University of Toronto, practising yoga, and writing both fiction and poetry. Her only real wish in life is to be able to continue her searching, writing, and questioning without too much interference.

What has brought me to Shir Libeynu are the people. My two good friends Shlomo Gleibman and Roman Konoplev-Esgenburg have spoken at length about the warm community of the Shir Libeynu congregation, and after attending a few events during the High Holidays, as well as running a workshop on the Mysticism and Poetry of Leonard Cohen, I confirmed my desire to serve the congregation by offering my services and thus running for a spot on the Board. I believe that I can make an excellent addition to the board perhaps taking on the role of secretary and/or other roles as decided by the board. I think the other board members will find my input helpful and informative.