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How Many Yesterdays are in a Million Years?

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ow Many Yesterdays are in a Million Years? is among the many questions contemplated in a newly published children's book by the same title. The book, illustrated by Naples resident Miri Buchman, takes a light-hearted look at questions that dance in the minds of children all over the world, whether it's wondering how dinosaurs evolved, or how many monsters are hiding under their bed.

How Many Yesterdays are in a Million Years? is a bilingual publication, offering both English and Hebrew translations. "The message transcends throughout the world – crossing barriers of language, culture and religion," explains Buchman. "The book is our honest attempt to see the world through our children's eyes, with the simplicity – and humor – that comes through in their every day conversations." While children will relate to the questions and riddles being presented through poems, they will likely find the illustrations even more compelling. The Seuss-like drawings, which began as doodles, seemingly transformed as the characters took on a life of their own.

Every page is a bountiful display of color and characters, revealing new treasures every time the pages are turned.

Before moving to the United States from Israel, Buchman teamed with fellow Israeli, Nini Atlas, to create the book. Over the course of raising children, Atlas had jotted down all of the funny questions her children had pondered, and transformed them into poems. Those Hebrew poems, together with Buchman's illustrations, became the foundation for the current book that they have jointly published.

Their long-term goal, however, was to translate the poems in English so that more children could share in the joy. "We tried many times to have the poems translated, but just never had success. There was always a certain spirit that was missing from the poems," recalled Buchman. After twelve years, their goal was realized with fellow Naples resident, Kristi Grigsby. "Kristi and I worked together as part of a creative team for a local company. I had seen the way she wrote – the way she brought messages to life. She didn't know a word of Hebrew, but I just knew that she was the one who was going to finally translate our book." The two had lunch one day, which allowed Buchman the opportunity to share

the stories behind the poems. And within weeks, the book that had laid in waiting for twelve years had been given new life. Five percent of all proceeds will be donated to the Israeli hospital, Schneider Children's Medical Center. To purchase the book or to learn more, visit the website www.ninimiri.com, or contact Miri Buchman at 239-293-6695.

Win a copy of this book!
Send an email to FederationStar@comcast.net with "Million Years" in the subject line. On December 5, we will have a random drawing from all emails received and one lucky person will win a copy of this book, just in time for Hanukkah.