

In Memoriam Janice Silverman Rebibo

January 31, 1950 — March 11, 2015



How Many Edens I Have Known

How many Edens I have known
Walking up the stony path
Rejuvenated by a memory
Of dust and potato peels
Our pond is bluer than the sky

— by Janice Rebibo

Janice Silverman Rebibo's poetry was been widely published and reviewed since she was first launched into print by esteemed Israeli poet, Chaim Gouri. Her English language poetry has been called “fresh and compelling”, having “an intriguing sense of humor”, and showing “just how globally oriented the world has become.” About her most recent chapbook, *How Many Edens*, reviewer Amos Lassen wrote, “It does not happen often that I read a book that hits me emotionally like this did....” Editor and poet Amos Levitan called these poems “regal and mysterious, emanating from an authoritative and precisely controlled flow of rhetorical energy.” Rebibo was the author of six books of poetry and a volume of translations into English of the selected work of popular Israeli poet Natan Yonatan. The title poem of *My Beautiful Ballooning Heart*, her collected English poetry, was nominated by Muddy River Poetry Review for a 2012 Pushcart Prize. A Massachusetts native and native English speaker, Rebibo received a 2007 President of Israel award and other prizes for her collected Hebrew poems, *Zara Betzion* [*a stranger-woman in Zion*]. Israeli critics have described her Hebrew poetry as “endearingly sensitive and syncopated”, “a bold blend of two imposing literary traditions”, “cosmopolitan – not mired in any local swamp”, and “a strategic breakthrough that added something new to the war of independence of Israel’s consciousness. She was member of the Bagel Bards and Boston Voices.

Shortly before Janice's death, her close friend poet Deborah Leipziger, wrote the following poem.

Radiation on Valentine's Day

For Janice Silverman Rebibo

I want to radiate you with poetry
To sink stanzas in your marrow
And sonnets into the lesions
I want to place tercets inside the wounded places
The cavities and densities
To let the rays coil into your clavicle
And the sestinas tremble
Tibia and tendon
Until
Bone by bone
You are returned
Let the verse in
vertebrae by vertebrae
Vein by vein
Rose by rose

— by Deborah Leipziger