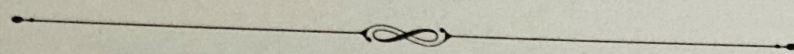


PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ANDERMAN

ON THE SURFACE OF SILENCE



The Last Poems of Lea Goldberg

TRANSLATED AND INTRODUCED

by Rachel Tzvia Back

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE PRESS

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מְשׁוֹרֵר צָעִיר מְשַׁתֵּתֵק פְּתָאם

מִפְּחָד לֹמַר אֶת הָאֵמֶת.

מְשׁוֹרֵר זָקֵן מְשַׁתֵּתֵק מִפְּחָד

מִיֵּטֵב הַשִּׁיר

שֶׁהוּא כָּזָבוּ.

A young poet suddenly falls silent
in fear of telling the truth.
An old poet falls silent fearing
the best in a poem
is its lie.