Rachel Tzvia Back, poet, translator, and professor of literature, lives in the Galilee, where her great-great-great-grandfather settled in the 1830s. She has lectured widely in the U.S. and is the recipient of various awards, including a PEN Translation grant, a Hadassah-Brandeis Research grant, and a Dora Maar Brown Foundation Fellowship. Previous volumes of translation include Lea Goldberg: Selected Poetry and Drama and With an Iron Pen: Twenty Years of Hebrew Protest Poetry. Her own poetry collection A Messenger Comes (Elegies) was voted by Forward Magazine one of the five most notable poetry collections of 2012.

Rachel Tzvia Back will give a talk on the poetry and poetics of pre-eminent Hebrew poet Tuvia Ruebner — poetic peer of Yehuda Amichai and Dan Pagis, literary executor and lifelong friend of Lea Goldberg, award-winning translator of Agnon and others. Back’s lecture will track the central tenets of Ruebner’s poetry, the trajectory of his work from being a voice of the Holocaust generation to offering poetry of protest, and the uniquely life-affirming sensibility of this poetic "Elder of the Tribe."