Yael’s Story

Barbara Hantman

(A pantoum in memory of painter, poet, and Holocaust survivor Yala Korwin)

Father taught tarbut – Hebrew his champion:
“We’re all Levites, with right to temple rites!”
Mother’s joyful pride: cooking, kindling, blessing –
Will no one see snatched lambs restored ere death?

We’re all Levites with right to temple rites.
“You must leave art school!” – though given gift divine.
Will no one see snatched lambs restored ere death?
Parents erased – to live seems a disgrace.

“We must leave art school!” – though given gift divine.
False passport-savior from righteous friend’s sibling;
Parents erased – to live seems a disgrace:
Munitions work in enemy land leaves scars.

False passport-savior from righteous friend’s sibling.
“Stop work!” GI’s cycle to factory gate –
Munitions work in enemy land leaves scars.
DP Camp, Paris, New York City: Hope blooms!