

NY Hebrew Poet and Prof Wins America's Top Hebrew Literary Purse and Laurel



R to L - Dr. Rena Lee Kofman, Miriam Ostow, H.I. President and Dr. Samuel Schneider

New York City-based and Tel Aviv-born, **Dr. Rena Lee Kofman** -- noted Hebrew poet, academician and belle lettrist -- was awarded *Histadruth Ivrit's* prestigious **Abraham Friedman Prize** this past Fall (Nov. 16). She

was cited for "her sensitive contributions to the power of modern Hebrew poetry, its immediacy and subtlety, and for a life's work given to the loom of Hebrew literature".

Highlighted by the prize ceremonies was Dr. Kofman's four decades-long career of creativity and versatility. Writing under the pen name of **Rena Lee**, her *oeuvre* includes considerable volumes of verse, short stories and scholarly studies -- such as those on Agnon and Hazaz -- on literary and philosophic issues. Her most recent book of poetry, "*Far from The Cape of Good Hope*" (a translation of its Hebrew title) was published in 1995. In addition to nine major works, her articles, reviews and commentaries have been a steady feature in both English and Hebrew newspapers, periodicals, literary supplements and anthologies.

Professor emeritus, Queens College (CUNY), Dr. Kofman taught Hebrew literature and language in its department of Classical and Oriental languages.

Recipient of Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary (Hebrew Literature), she also holds a master of Laws degree from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A licensed Israeli lawyer, her years of military service in ZAHAL were spent as an officer in its Judicial division. Wife of an Israeli engineer whose work took him to Africa, she lived in Nigeria and Kenya for five years. Daughter of teachers and educators, Dr. Kofman was a graduate of Israel's celebrated "Herzeliya" Gimnasia in Tel Aviv.