

## *7 AM at the Western Wall* BY YISKAH ROSENFELD

7 AM at the Wall the men eddy and swirl,  
wearing their prayers on their sleeves.  
Angry old men with long beards  
shout against the wall  
as if it were a donkey  
blocking the road.

7 AM at the Wall the women  
rock and sway in heavy black shoes  
moving their lips to silent music.  
Tired old women kiss the wall  
as if it were a long lost child  
setting out again.

*Answer us!* demand the men  
pounding the door to their King.

*Speak to us,* implore the women  
whispering to their Lover  
across a pillow of stone.

YISKAH (JESSICA) ROSENFELD is about to begin rabbinical school. Most recently, she was program coordinator of *Kol Ishah: A Celebration of Jewish Women's Poetry*, held in the San Francisco Bay Area, and her own poems and essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies.

*Historic photo of the Western Wall, taken in 1938 before there was a mehitza dividing women and men. Photo by Sophie and Elihu Oshinsky.*

