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A Father's Secrets

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You ask, curator, am I proud?
Say that, as truth with fact,
my DNA is wound up with the State.
From "The Recoiless Cannon"

a poem by Sharona Ben-Tov
Michigan Quarterly Review

A FATHER'S SECRETS

A reading and presentation by
Sharona Ben-Tov, Fellow,
ICS and Professor of
Creative Writing and English

Friday,
April 20, 2001
Olscamp 117
3:30-4:20 p.m.



Sharona Ben-Tov will read from and present a slideshow commentary on her memoir-in-progress, *A Father's Secrets*.

A Father's Secrets begins with Ben-Tov's discovery, after her father's death, that he built Israel's first rocket, and was part of a secret group of scientists who developed weaponry during Israel's war of independence in 1948. Traveling to Israel, Dr. Ben-Tov interviews the Science Corps, whose story has never been told for security reasons. She returns to the United States with an unexpected inheritance of both national and family histories. She delves into questions of identity, heritage, and memory, involving her own life as well as her father's career as a freelance medical inventor. Her odyssey leads her to a new understanding of the role of creative vision and of our relationship to the natural order.

Dr. Ben-Tov is Associate Professor of Creative Writing and English; she is a recipient of the 2001 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry. For her work on the unique project of *A Father's Secrets*, Dr. Ben-Tov has received the Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Fellowship, and other awards.



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