## My Poison Tree

## By Sharon Portnoff

SHARON PORTNOFF holds the Elie Wiesel Chair in Judaic Studies and is associate professor of religious studies at Connecticut College. Her poems have appeared in *Midstream*, the *Wallace Stevens Journal*, the *Poetry Porch* <a href="http://poetryporch.com">http://poetryporch.com</a>, and in the collection *Rumba under Fire: The Arts of Survival from West Point to Delhi*, ed. Irina Dumitrescu (Punctum, 2016). Poems are forthcoming in *Free Inquiry* and *Moment*.

The sun invited my attention My neighbors shaded me Protected me But I would out

Alas my trunk was hugged By my enemy My sprig thoughtlessly Dropped

Now sprouted to a tree I strove for the light Far out I reached But topped

Unable now to reach The height

