

gives are so amusing, the reader will forget her reasons for seeking advice. The most memorable chapters are “The Comfort Zone,” about “blankies,” “soothies,” and stuffed pets; “Sleepy Time,” about difficulties that can occur when toddlers do not sleep (and Iovine confesses to giving nighttime bottles of water to cranky children); and “Fashion,” which describes the typical toddler’s understanding of colour, style, and wardrobe. Iovine does not make light of any issue. She does, however, see things in the context of the larger life, a perspective that will be appreciated by struggling parents.

Iovine makes every effort to comfort and reassure parents: that their toddler’s behaviour is not abnormal; that other toddlers may behave worse than their own (always a comfort); that their own feelings of insecurity are normal; and that self-doubt is part of parenting a toddler. Her sage advice and her delivery—straightforward, supportive, and funny—will lift the reader’s spirit.

The book is designed as a guide for caregivers of toddlers. Its 11 chapters address specific topics that concern every parent of a toddler, for example, discipline, eating, and toilet training. The book includes a useful index, designed to encourage browsing. This is a worthwhile book to give to your girlfriend!

Jewish Mothers Tell Their Stories: Acts of Love and Courage

Rachel Josefowitz Siegel, Ellen Cole Ellen Cole, Susan Steinberg-Oren
New York: Haworth Press, 2000

Reviewed by Rivka Greenberg

All mothers are challenged daily to address multiple forces in their lives. These forces include their children, partners, families, society, religion, work, and social issues, as well as their own, individual needs. For many Jewish mothers, defining the place of Judaism as a significant value in their lives, responsively and proactively, is an enigmatic and perplexing struggle. For earlier generations, the primary sources of support for mothers were the women in their extended families: mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and cousins. Increased mobility, economic shifts, and work outside of the home have diminished the influence of the extended family and mothers have had to find new ways to meet their need for support, guidance, and community. This is particularly true within the context of Jewish community, where many Jewish

mothers struggle to find a place for Judaism in their lives. Today, many Jewish women—unaffiliated, Reconstructionist, Reform, and Conservative – seek community outside of synagogues and other Jewish institutions. Moreover, Jewish women and their families are no longer living in “Jewish” sections of cities, lessening their opportunities for connecting with other Jewish women. So how can Jewish mothers find the communal support they need? *Jewish Mothers Tell Their Stories* provides that much needed sense of community.

This book promotes connection among Jewish mothers throughout the world. Thirty-five chapters offer thirty-five insights from Jewish mothers worldwide who share their thoughts and experiences and, in the process, serve as role models and provide support. The six section topics – tradition; love; Jewish values; Jewish identity; spirituality and religion; and the real world – address key aspects of women’s lives. The editors have succeeded in moving beyond the stereotypes of Jewish women. The women gathered here represent young and old, secular and orthodox; they speak of life and death experiences, ritual, joy, and sadness.

This book is introductory and suggests future volumes that might continue in the voices of Jewish women from Arabic, Asian, and Balkan countries who could share their experiences and traditions, present dialogues between mothers and children, as well as intergenerational stories of other family members.

Errata

1. Permission for the image that accompanied the article, “Mammy in the Erotic Imaginary of Anais Nin,” which appears on page 149 of Vol. 4. No. 1, was granted by Professors John Thorp and David Pilgrim of Ferris State University. This image appears on the online website for the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University <<http://www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow>>. The article cited by Maria St. John was published in 1999 and not 1991 as the citation appears in the text of the article.
2. The book review of *Special Delivery: Mother-Daughters Letters from Afar*, was co-authored by Ruth Nemzoff and her daughter, Rebecca Berman, and not Rebecca Norman as it appears on page 204 of Vol. 4. No. 1.
3. The book review by Rivka Greenberg, on page 219 of Vol. 4. No. 1, is reprinted in its entirety on pages 249-250 of this issue.