

Der Bay



The Bridge to World-Wide Yiddish



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Undzere Yidishe Mames By Philip Fishl Kutner

This issue of *Der Bay* has several articles about *yidishe mames*. Perhaps someone will dedicate a conference to these women of yore who made their families—especially their children, the focus of their lives.

The interplay between mamas and their sons' wives, their *shmir*, is legendary and the source of jokes, friction and alienation. Somehow the reactions to their daughters' husbands, their *eydims*, and the in-laws, *mekhetonim*, are much more mild and often very positive.

Fishl's true stories of his Mama were published in *Der Bay* and are online on *Der Bay's* website at: <http://www.derbay.org/hrabina/>

During the 13th IAYC Conference in Millbrae, California earlier this year, the hardcopy was released entitled *Hrabina of Hunterdon*, and is available with all proceeds going to IAYC.

Life in Poland before the first World War, during the war, coming to America, working in the sweatshops marrying a non-religious man, moving to an abandoned farm during the depression, working on the farm while caring for four sons, a husband, a hired hand and summer boarders covers the first part of the book.

The transition to a "city lady", working as a salesperson in the family shoe store, coping with the death of her husband and ending in the elderly, infirm years, closes out the life of a most remarkable woman. It is an inspiring book filled with practical applications, witty sayings and coping mechanisms.

Mama Articles in This Issue

Dear Hrabia by Jerry Rawicki of Seminole Florida reminisces about his mother who also was called "Perele." He is the author of *Sins and Sorrow*.

There is a letter from Sharon Love of Winnipeg, Canada. Here is a quote from her article *Mama Stories*. "During the Depression Mama saved our house from foreclosure. She made a deal with the bank. She had a 'Gift for gab,' even with her Russian/Yiddish accent."

My Mama's Translation by Joan Braman tells of her Mama's book, "...had done a sensitive and faithful translation of the Yiddish poetry collection *Inheritance (Yerushe)* by the pre-eminent Russian-Jewish writer Peretz Markish".

Harry Rajczyk writes about his mother's book *Rukhales Zikhroynes*. It is transliterated and in Yiddish. He travels from Germany regularly to lead his mother's Sirkin Yiddish club in Israel.

Harry B. Shapiro, of Cincinnati, says in his article how much his mother was like my Mama.

Mama is mentioned in several of the letters to the editor column, Oystsugn fun briv in der redaktsye.
Kitty Katz, Sunnyside, NY
Prof. Noyekh Miller, Brookline, MA
Rose Jimenez, Syosset, NY
Ruth Murphy, Harker Heights, TX

On the last page is an article, *Hrabina of Hunterdon*. The author shares his reaction to the letters that came in and how they relate to his own feelings.