



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Gift

From Page 20

Dan Trachtenberg: My mother, Leona Zagranichna, emigrated from Warsaw in 1938, just before the war and had left her mother and two sisters there ... they eventually perished. ...

... I grew up in a very small town in Oklahoma, and I am sure it was difficult for them to send me to ... New Orleans for college. ... almost every week I would receive a long, handwritten letter from Mother.

... she not only filled the page, but wrote up the margins and even on the flap of the envelope. She taught me the "gift" of writing. ... Thirty-plus years later ... [we] discovered that she had saved the letters she received from her mother and sisters. ... the pages filled to the brim, up the margins, on the flaps, and [I] finally understood. Paper and postage were precious in the ghetto. The translations [from her Yiddish] showed the expressiveness in describing their ongoing lives and the continuing worsening conditions, and the power of words. ...

Linda Suib: The greatest gift ... was her strength of character and her love of foreign cultures. My mom, Lillian Suib, was the strongest of character, smartest, best hostess and hardest-working person I have ever known. She died way too young, at the age of 47 ...

Ann Baker Ronn: The best gift "not to worry."

mother [Gertie Denn]. ... my mother made the ultimate effort to travel to Israel alone to be with her son at his wedding. ... Even today when I visit Nahal David ... I remember the day in March when the waterfall stood still for me. ...

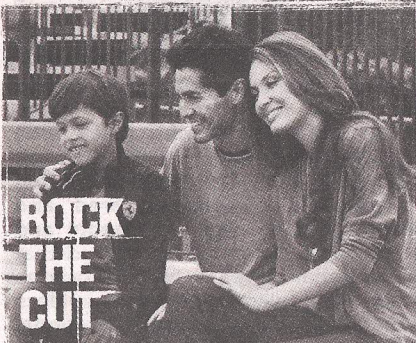
Rabbi Joseph Radinsky: My mother, Lillian Radinsky, taught us, all her children, that when things get tough, when reverses happen, we just don't wallow in self-pity, but we roll up our sleeves and move forward. Right after she graduated from high school in Chicago the Depression hit, in all its full fury, and my grandfather, who had been a wealthy man, lost everything when the banks he had his money in failed. My mother immediately dropped the idea of going to college, even though she had received a scholarship to go the University of Chicago, and she got a job at the Chicago's World Fair to help the family out. This pattern repeated itself throughout her life. She, still at 98, is going strong, although she has and had many health problems throughout her life.

When my father got very sick and was laid up for many months and had to retire from his business, she immediately got a job. Eventually becoming the American Mizrahi Women's (now AMIT) field representative, she set up many chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada. When my brother Moshe,

the baby in the family, died a few days before his 20th birthday, it hurt her terribly, but immediately after shiva, she continued her many charitable activities. When her grandson Joshua Friedland was killed in the Israeli army, she immediately went to Israel to be with her daughter, Sara, and the family. And once again, she did not become bitter but continued always trying to help people, especially by comforting them. When her

daughter Miriam died and when her husband Jack died and when her granddaughter Devora died and when her daughter-in-law Juliette died, she still believed that our job in life was to help others and never give up.

Read the full text and more expressions of gratitude to our mothers, from other readers, at jhvonline.com. □



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