



I'm writing this on a plane en route to Winnipeg to visit my mother, who has Alzheimer's disease.

Each of my many visits 'home' prompts in me a whole range of conflicting feelings: I want to see my mother now, before the disease worsens, and I want to stay away because its ravages are so painful to observe (and must be so much more painful to experience). I want to be with her, to monitor the quality of her treatment in Winnipeg's only Jewish care home, and yet I dread every separation from my own children, especially from Yael, who at seven feels my absence the most.

When my mother's disease was first diagnosed, about 18 months ago, I remembered the words of a friend when I offered condolences after her mother died of Alzheimer's. "I mourned my mother long ago," she told me.

Why do I write about my mother in this column now? In part because of my friend's words and my own "premature" grief at losing my mother — as I'd known her, with all that she'd taught me and with all the complex web of feelings I'd had for her — even while she is still alive. When I first knew that her memory loss and her erratic behavior signaled just the beginnings of deterioration, I yearned for a support group of women, a "premature" mourner's minyan. My husband, our family, my closest friends helped comfort me on an "as needed" basis, and since the structured women's groups I'd been

part of in other times weren't with me still, I let the urgent need pass. Still, I felt the ache to be supported in a formal or ritualized way, somehow.

I tell this now by way of introduction to the experiences of two women you'll meet in this issue: Vicki Hollander and Diane Solomon. Both suffered loss, and each found a way to ritualize the pain and its healing, and to route themselves through to the other side via rituals *they* created. I wish I had been able to do the same; I've learned from them, and I suggest that you will, too.

For now, perhaps what I need in the way of ritual is one that acknowledges ambivalence: when I'm preoccupied with my family's gravitational pulls I worry that I'm neglecting LILITH, with its marvelous progress this year and its increasing need for more financial support. And when I'm spending more and more (unreimbursed) hours in the LILITH office trying to raise the money LILITH needs — from individuals, foundations, corporations, *anybody* — I worry that I'm not giving more attention to the females who are 40 years on each side of me, and who need me too.

Well, I hope you enjoy the contents of this issue, and that the summer's sun warms us all.

*Susan*

- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Susan Weidman Schneider
- FEATURES EDITOR**  
Susan Schnur
- ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
Diana Bletter
- FICTION EDITOR**  
Julia Wolf Mazow
- POETRY EDITOR**  
Alicia Ostriker
- ART DIRECTOR**  
Judy Kaganowich
- PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Marilynne Herbert

- PUBLISHER**  
Paula Gantz
- ADMINISTRATOR**  
Naomi Danis
- ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
Lynda Marshak
- FOUNDING CO-EDITOR**  
Aviva Cantor

- CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
Arlene Agus, Esther Broner, Nina Cardin, Elaine Cohen, Sue Ellwell, Reena Sigman Friedman, Blu Greenberg, Judith Hauptman, Anne Lapidus Lerner, Sharon Lieberman, Audrey Friedman Marcus, Rela Geffen Monson, Judith Plaskow, Nessa Rapoport, Sandy E. Sasso, Mary Cahn Schwartz, Amy Stone

LILITH thanks the following for their generous financial support: Ann Abrams, Joan Alexander, Arco Foundation, Rabbi Melanie Aron, Susan S. Askanase, Stephanie Azrieli, Marsha Bank, Meredith Barber, Marilyn Baron-Strongin, Gail Milgram Beitman, Helene Berger, Carole Berlin, Helene Bernstein, Marilyn Bierman, Marjorie Blankstein, Beverly F Blatt, Diana Bletter, Edith M. Bloch, Sandra J. Block, Rabbi Lenore Bohm, Miriam Breau, Rabbi Deborah Brin, Therese Censor, Aphrodite Clamar, Evelyn Cohan, Elaine Cohen, Joyce Arnoff Cohen, Rabbi Hillel Cohn, Marlene Goren Cushing, Al Daum, Sarah DeRis, Barbara Dobkin, Roberta Dosick, Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus, Mel Dubin, Sylvia Eckman, Trudy Eichen, Hanna Eliashiv, Pearl Elman, Iris Engelson, Kathleen Faust, Beatrice Fay, M. Feinson, Rabbi Helene Ferris, Etha Beatrice Fox, Florence Freedman, Marian Freedman, Sylvia Friedman, Marcia J. Friedman, Janice Gagerman, Florence Gantz, Bonnie Garelick, Shayne Gilbert, Joel E. Glazier, Sherry Glickman, Michelle Gluck, Joan H. Goldberg, Myrna Goldenberg, Jean A. Goldfarb, Rochelle Goldfeder, Phyllis T. Goldman, Ruth Goldsmith, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Barbara R. Gomborg, Janet Gotkin, Yvette Gralla, Ileana Grams, Ida Groberg, A.J. Gross, Susan Gross, Susan H. Haas, Bonnie Cohen Haber, Deborah Fuller Hahn, Osna L. Haller, Phyllis Harte, Evelyn Hecht, Elaine Hoffman, Mrs. Nathan Hyman, Karen Jaffe, Marc D. Joseph, Nat Kameny, Kay Kaufman, Janet Kernis, Clarice Kestenbaum, Dorothy King, Diane J. Klein, Rena Zweben Klotz, Donna A. Korones, Raquel G. Kramer, Corinne A. Krause, Phyllis B. Krieger, Lydia Kukoff, Joette Labinger, Deborah R. Labovitz, Bob Lamm, Alma Lasher, Samantha Lerman, Harriet Goldhor Lerner, Mildred Levin, Janis L. Levine, Norma U. Levitt, Sharon Lieberman, Belda Lindenbaum, Glennie Lindenberger, Lynn Liss, Steph-

anie Low, Julia F. Mack, Charlotte Mandel, Helen Marcum, Carolyn A. Marks, Helen Marr, Jacqueline Marten, Annette Mauer, Julia Wolf Mazow, Mary Meigs, Ronay Menschel, Sheella Mierson, Suzanne Mizrahi, Rabbi Jack Moline, Lori Faith Morris, Sondra Nathan, Peggy Niloff, Ilene Olansky, Daisy M. Osborn, Norma Papish, Harriet Parmet, Joy N. Picus, Judith Plaskow, Letty C. Pogrebin, Esther Pollack, Rabbi Mindy A. Portnoy, Beverly M. Post, Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, Joan Rabin, Nessa Rapoport, Maxine Reingold, Meryl B. Reis, Brigitte Bedos Rezak, Esther Leah Ritz, Mallory Robinson, Harriet Rochlin, Emily Rose, Miriam Stadler Rosenbaum, Cantor Aviva Rosenbloom, Hannah Rosenthal, Patricia Rosof, Lyn M. Ross, Rosalyn Rottman, Lucille Roussin, Norma Rubin, Arlene R. Saidman, Jeanne Barnett Saletan, Frances Salten, Ellen Saltman, Diane Saxe, Edith K. Schapiro, Clara G. Schiffer, Brynah Schneider-Friedman, Edith F. Segal, Ilene Ava Serlin, Caroline Sheinbaum, Ruth K. Sherman, Sandra F. Shifrin, Rabbi Marion Shulevitz, Ann K. Silver, Louise Singer, Virginia Slifka, Rabbi Marjorie Slome, Rabbi Reuben Slonim, Andrea B. Smith, Paula Spielberg, Fran Spilke, Rabbi Julie Spitzer, Anita Steiner, Rabbi Shira Stern, Carol A. Stollar, Marla Subeck, Bahira Sugarman, Emily Surwit, Sarah Swartz, Emily Taitz, Cheryl Tallan, Sandy Tate, Judith Taylor, Shelly Tenenbaum, Savina Teubal, Fern K. Waterman, Bernard Weingarten, Hillary Weisman, Constance C. Welu, Henny Wenkart, Constance L. Williams, Alexandra Wright, Rosanne G. Zaidenweber.

LILITH thanks the following for their advice and assistance: Barbara Dobkin, Ellen Cannon, Sunny Fischer, Chaim Gerlitz, Pearl Hack, Sophie Danis Oberfield.