

# The Schmooze

## Stories with a Yiddish Twist

**MATERNITY, METERNITY AND “THE SUPERMOM SYNDROME”\***

*by*  
**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe**



**Syosset, New York**

\*According to Bruce Lansky (“Mother Murphy’s Law and other perils of parenthood”), The Supermom Syndrome is defined as follows:

“You can always pick out the Supermom at a business lunch. She’s the one who reaches for her American Express card and pulls out a pacifier.” (Note: In Yiddish, a “pacifier” is a “smotshik” or “sharopnikel”-a small object that effectuates a shutting up.)

And comedian, Yakov Smirnoff explains his meaning of Mother’s Day:

A special day to show your mother just how much you love her. A popular American tradition is to give your mother breakfast (“frishtik”) in bed. I tried it once, but it wasn’t easy getting the mattress and box spring into the kitchen.

1992 Mary McBride wrote, “Working while pregnant can be trying. Employers, for instance, often selfishly insist that you work your normal hours. When one mother-to-be asked for time off to see the doctor to find out if she was having twins (“tsviling”), her boss asked, ‘Don’t they have home ultrasound kits?’ Co-workers can also be insensitive. They’ll do things like bring in catalogs with pictures of slender young women in bikinis or check the capacity sign in the elevator (“der lift”) as you enter.

Perhaps you should receive benefits besides maternity leave.

For example, you ought to be able to change desks so you aren't seated next to a Skinny-Minny. And if your ankles swell, you should be allowed to wear your furry bunny slippers to work."

(Source: "Don't Call Mommy at Work Today Unless the Sitter Runs Away")

2016 The following headline appeared in the nationalreview.com, April 28:

### WOMAN CLAIMS SHE DESERVES MATERNITY LEAVE EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS NO KIDS.

"YEDER HOT ZAYN EYGENE MESHUGAAS." (Everyone has his own craziness.)

Who is this woman? Meghann Foye, author of "Meternity." This is a fictional story about a woman who fakes a pregnancy to get a maternity leave. Note: She does believe that childless women should get maternity leave, too. Foye, a 38-year-old single woman, believes in the value of "meternity leave. This is a sabbatical-like break that allows women and, to a lesser degree, men to shift their focus to the part of their lives that doesn't revolve around their jobs.

Foye wrote, "There's something about saying 'I need to pick up my child' as a reason to leave the office on time that has far more gravitas than, say, 'My best friend just got ghosted by her OkCupid date and needs a margarita'--but both sides are valid," she continued.

Katherine Timpf says, "You want what moms get? Then become a mom..."

Shown below are some terms/quotes/anecdotes about moms:

- . anecdote by Joseph Aaron  
Adolescent: "We're living in a fast-traveling world, Mama. Someday I may even go to the moon."  
Mama: "If you do, be sure to take your sweater."
- . "Are we there yet?": Paperback for the inCARcerated Mom.
- . Baleboste Mom: A good homemaker... You can eat off her kitchen floors; she plugs in the vacuum cleaner ("der shtoybzoyger") while we were still having dessert and coffee.  
(Lisa Grunberger, "Yiddish Yoga")

- . Bilingual: Child who discusses the baby-sitter in two languages--English and Latin. “Astroscaphane parentes eam huc portaverunt?” (Did her parents drop her off here in a spacecraft?)
- . Bombeck, Erma fact: “The circle is now complete. I have turned into my mother...I save twist-tie wires from bread wrappers by the pound...I can hear water dripping a half mile from the house and I can’t stand to be near a sweater without picking it up and folding it like they do in department stores (“universal-krom”).
- . Broccoli Mom: George Bush’s Mother--who was correct about the importance of eating broccoli.
- . Call Me Mom, Mom: Marie (“Everybody Loves Raymond”) wants Ray to stop calling Debra’s mother “Mom.” When Ray stops, Debra knows Marie is to blame. Ray then points out that Debra doesn’t call Marie “Mom.”
- . Clean Plate Mom: Mom who knows that “If you keep your child at the table until he eats all his vegetables, he will become sick (“krank”) to his stomach and keep you up all night changing his sheets. (Bruce Lansky)
- . Computer-Savvy Mom: Mom who calls her children “enfants gates”--Microsoft kids. (Alexa Geller); mom who uses JDate and Chai Expectations to find dates for their adult children. (They log on to pretend to be their children.)
- . DAM: Mothers Against Dyslexia
- . Doctor/Mother: Mom who defines “Oreoporosis” as a disorder caused by too many cookies, not enough milk. (Skip Card) and “amnotpicillin” for the treatment of arguing children. (Dr. Robert Stern)
- . Empty Nest Mom: Mother who reminds her young adult children that “Home is a place where you don’t need a reservation (“rezervatsye”).
- . Entrepreneur Mom: Mom who starts a business called “CORRECT-A-TOT.” They’ll dress up as the bogey-man (or whomever) and visit your child. (Tom Frenkel)

- . Es, es, mayn kind Mother: The Jewish mom who states that one must eat FOUR meals: breakfast, lunch, supper, and the nosh.
- . Famous Mother Advice to Generation Xer:  
“Don’t use your credit card (“kredit-kartl”) to scrape off your car’s windshield You’ll ruin the magnetic strip and you’ll have to pay cash.
- . Favoritism: “Alleh kinder zeinen gleich tei-er” (Yiddish, All children are equally dear to parents.)
- . Greeting Cards: Divider cards identify the following message categories: New Mom, First Mom, Mommy from Baby, Single (“neet khasene gehat”) Mom, Humorous (“humoritish”) Mom, Religious (“religyez”) Mom, Like a Mom, First Mother’s Day, Friend’s Mom, Other Mother, and Mother-To-Be.
- . Heimlicorice maneuver Mom: Mom who has the technique for extracting candy from a baby. (Linnet Walker)
- . Intelligent Mom: Mom who answers to the “zits” problem by saying, “It will heal in time for the wedding.”
- . Jewish Mom: First words after giving birth: “Oy Gevalt!”
- . Italian Mom: First words after giving birth: “Mama Mia!”
- . Kvetshn Mom: Mom, who when asked, “How long have you had the cold?” replies, “In 3 weeks it’ll be a month.”  
(Dr. Wayne Dyer)
- . Levenson (Sam) Mom: Mom who sends her husband outside and says, “See what Sammy’s doing and TELL HIM TO STOP.”
- . Mrs. Cleaver: Beaver’s perfect (“perfekt”) Mom
- . Meshuge Mom: Crazy Mom who moves into a South Florida development named “Journey’s End”
- . “Praying them into the driveway” syndrome Mom: Mom who can never fall asleep until she hears the back door slamming, announcing that the kids are safely home.  
(Cokie and Steve Roberts term)

- . P.T.A. Mom: Neighborhood mom who's mad ("broygez") about everything ("altsding"). She says, "Join us, your neighbors, as we discuss open garage doors, Starbucks, Donald Trump, computer passwords, bullying, texting, and pink flamingos. Bring a covered dish."
- . Real Estate Mom ("dos grunteygn"): Mom who knows that homes close to Trader Joe's or Whole Foods gain value more rapidly than houses farther away from the trendy retailers.
- . Recess Mom: Mom who sees the playground as one of the few refuges from a test-driven classroom ("klastsimer")
- . Walmart Mom: Mameh who knows where to buy an Avengers comforter, Captain America Tee shirt, and Garanimals shorts all at Rollback prices
- . Wasserstein, Wendy Rule: "Every day is Mother's Day...A mother prefers a homemade creation, a child's own handicraft, to any store-bought jewel or bauble."
- . Yo-Yo Mom: First-time mother who wakes up a sleeping child just to see it smile.

-----

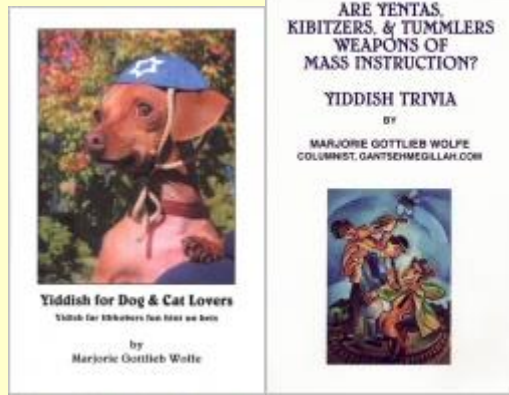
Marjorie Wolfe is the mother of three sons and a grandmother of six. She's expecting her seventh grandchild in October.

### Search for Stories Beginning with the Letter

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>
<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>W</u>		<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>

---

**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:**



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and  
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction?  
Yiddish  
Trivia." To order a copy, go to her  
website: [MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com](http://MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com)**

**NU, what are you waiting for? Order the book!**



[Yiddish Stuff](#)  
[Jewish Humor](#)  
[Schmooze News](#)  
[More Majorie Wolfe](#)

[Principle](#)  
[Jewish Stories](#)  
[All Things Jewish](#)  
[Jewish Communities of the World](#)

Site Designed and Maintained by  
Haruth Communications