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## **Jill Zarin: A real Jewish mother of New York City**



**Jill Zarin can teach you** to be a Jewish mother - and she means that in the best possible way. One of the stars of Bravo TV's "The Real Housewives of New York City" - and a Woodmere native - Zarin has collaborated with her mom, Gloria Kamen, and sister, Lisa Wexler, on "Secrets of a Jewish Mother" (Dutton, \$25.95). Zarin recently spoke with us about family, friendship and the fun-house mirror of reality TV.

**So Bethenny Frankel, the friend you're on the outs with, just got married. Were you invited?**

I was not invited. We'd had this rift starting almost a year ago, and it plays back and forth - I was sad.

**When you're on a reality show, is it hard to know what events or feelings in your life are real or fake?**

I always think it's real, OK? There's a trip that happens in the [Bahamas](#) where a lot of drama goes on. I was very hurt, you'll see it. And then when I speak to Ramona, she says, "Jill, it's a TV show." But I say, "Ramona, you really did this." You don't know where that line is, what's real and what's not.

**Your new book offers heartwarming, no-nonsense advice on relationships, friendships, marriage, career and family. What's Jewish about it?**

It's cultural, it's just a word. I could say "Italian Mother." But being Jewish, we tend to be a little overbearing and opinionated.

**The book urges people to own up to their own shortcomings, apologize, forgive, let go of the unnecessary drama. Can you see the disconnect between the book and show?**

This is a TV show that wants to make money. If I'm sitting there on the show reading a book, that's not going to make money. Nobody's going to watch it.

**Why do you keep doing it?**

The exposure! I wouldn't have had a book, a bedding line coming up this summer, certainly Kodak wouldn't be interested in having me as their brand spokesperson. And my charity, Creaky Joints! I get to be a voice for people who don't have a voice.

**In the book, you say that a good friend will kvell, or thrill, with you over your nachas, good fortune. What's the nachas in your life right now?**

I'm going to [Israel](#) for the first time ever with my daughter, and I'm going to do a book signing there. That's my audience! And just that I wrote a book with my mother and sister and I get to spend time with them promoting it.

**Does your mom get tired from all the book promoting?**

We're gonna be very careful with her. She's got all kinds of medical issues. Do you remember the scene where she couldn't get into the car?

**How old is she?**

I can't tell you that. You should never ask an older woman her age.

