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**A Mother, A Daughter, and Alzheimers - Conversations at the Nursing Home**

(September 2006)-Sometimes, daughtering can be harder than mothering. In the case of Deanna Shapiro, whose chronically dissatisfied mother Ruth spent her twilight days as an Alzheimer's patient, it meant making peace on a regular basis with unhappiness.

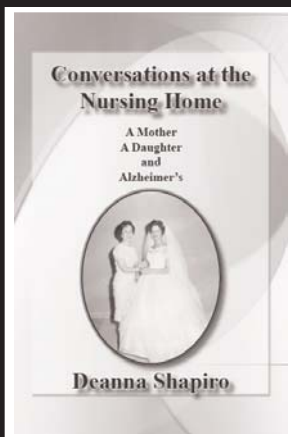
Shapiro's heartfelt debut, *Conversations at the Nursing Home - A Mother, A Daughter, and Alzheimer's*, is at once part poetry, part poetic-memoir. In the first half of the book, Shapiro uses free verse to tell stories about her immigrant Jewish relatives, while touching on a childhood spent appeasing her mother.

The second half of the book focuses on the 14 months Ruth spent at a nursing home where she wrestled with Alzheimer's disease. Deanna's conversations with her mother are illuminating, witty, and poignant. From quietly observing the birds at the feeder to maniacally stabbing another resident with a dinner fork, the story of Ruth's final days is a reminder how cruelly life can end, despite a daughter's love.

**About the Author:**

Deanna Shapiro is both a poet and a painter. She has multiple degrees from Hunter College and City College. She is a member of the Poetry Society of Vermont, The League of Vermont Writers and the Otter Creek Poetry Workshop. She has been published in *The Aurorean*, *The Pen wood Review*, *Poetica*, *The Jewish Women's Literary Annual* and the *League of Vermont Writer's 75th Anniversary Anthology: Vermont Voices Jubilee*. She has also been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Shapiro has taught kindergarten and served as a school psychologist in both the New York and Westchester County school systems. She is also an ordained inter-faith minister. Deanna lives in Ferrisburg, Vermont with her husband, Charlie and Dalmatian, Phoebe. *Conversations at the Nursing Home, a Mother, a Daughter and Alzheimer's* is Deanna Shapiro's first full length published book of poetry.

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*Conversations at the  
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Mother, A Daughter,  
and Alzheimer's*

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