



# Sim'at Makkim

Creative Expression of the Jewish Religious Experience

2009

\$3.00

## Forefathers

*Janet R. Kirchheimer*

I tell my father that I'm working on a new poem.  
I got into the poem, but can't seem to find a way out.  
"Kind of like a fart in your pants," he says.  
And I realize that my poetic forefathers were probably not  
William Shakespeare and Robert Frost, but more likely  
Milton Berle and Henny Youngman.

I ask him if there were any poets in our family, and he tells me  
Tante Channele was a poet but nobody liked her, which doesn't  
make me feel any better.

A hairy woodpecker, with the red mark of a male on its neck,  
comes to our birdfeeder today.  
"Look at how bright, how clean his colors are," my father says.  
"He looks like he's just been painted."  
And I know exactly who my poetic forefather is.