



January 2001

Vol 11 No. 1

## The Way It Was.

This expanded 10th Anniversary issue has been built on the 100 issues published in the 1st decade of *Der Bay*. There has not been a late or missed issue. Included have been articles from feature writers. These read like The Who's Who of the Yiddish world. Some have moved on.

What hasn't changed has been the name of *Der Bay*—an acronym for Bay Area Yiddish. Likewise the original suggested contribution has remained *chai* and will continue. Fortunately some of our wonderful readers have helped by adding to their support.

Below is the first editorial written January 1, 1991.

### Der Gast

As a guest in your home, I shall receive a warm welcome—as is traditional a Yiddish home. Each month I shall bring news of who are the interested people, and what, where, and when are their activities.

Let me now introduce myself. I am *Der Bay* (The Bay Area Yiddishist) I've been wandering around your beautiful Bay Area for a long time and enjoying the sights, but it's time now to get to work.

Actually, I'll be a good guest. I won't eat at your dinner table. I won't need an entire bedroom, for I don't sleep. Most important I won't use much water. I know you have a water shortage.

On the other hand don't think you can ignore me, for I will take a little of your time each month. Please tell me what you and your group are doing and I'll tell it to Fishl so he can have me spread the word.

Maybe you should keep me because this is the #1 issue, and It Is a very limited One. Since I'm very young, I'm not very big and don't know very much, but I hope you'll help me You can make all the copies You want. The blue signature on the bottom shows the original,

Maybe you could even write a little story or a poem for me. If there's enough room, it'll be put in a corner. So why don't you put me down and send Fishl a sharp copy in "eynglish" or transliteration. He'll even take a hand-written copy if it reproduces well.

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**To receive Der Bay make checks for chai (\$18)**  
**payable to Der Bay. If you've been blessed, won't**  
**you send a LITTLE extra—please?**

## Ten Years of Change

Most of the many changes in *Der Bay* evolved by suggestions as well as serendipity. As *Der Bay* grew from a local sheet to an international clearinghouse, it added many valuable features and services. Likewise your editor has reached out to other individuals and organizations to expand his knowledge and learn from long-established ones.

Along the way he joined the Arbeter Ring because it is the only major fraternal group to foster Yiddish. This led to the formation of a Yiddish club cosponsored by the Peninsula JCC and the start of three ongoing Yiddish classes. Lehrhaus Judaica recently added an eight-week introductory Yiddish survey course.

Realizing that co-operation is the basis of success, the four major Yiddish club newsletters joined in efforts to establish a meeting for Yiddish clubs, and the first one was held at the University of Maryland. This was the forerunner of what became the highly successful International Association of Yiddish Clubs.

Meanwhile the newsletter expanded with the co-operation and assistance of the wonderful director and assistant director of the Peninsula JCC. It grew from a two-page sheet to its current eight pages. Feature writers added much to the growth of *Der Bay*. These included Ed Goldman of Bayonne, NJ who wrote 15 transcribed (transliterated) bible scenes that still are very popular.

Gella and Shikl Fishman are the strongest critics and most admired mentors. Gella's insistence on strict adherence to the YIVO standard orthography is now a way of life. Their articles have enriched the newsletter. Zellig Bach z"l, who became a dear friend, brought much expertise and wisdom in his many articles. Another feature writer of some of the best articles was Louis Fridhandler, on the life and writings of Sholom Aleichem. Kay Goodman added her travel articles to the long list of wonderful writers. Mendy Fliegler's homespun poetry has been popular as has been Troim Handler.

Writers of articles and regulars to the letters to the editor column are too many to enumerate. A small list includes Prof Eli Katz, Dr. Mordechai Schaechter, Itche Goldberg, Hilda Rubin, Chava Lapin, Fannie Yokor, Reyzl Kalifowitz Waletsky, and Dorothy Wasserman.

Contacts for The Yiddish Network are truly great reporters and aides for visitors in every state in the U.S. and other countries. Dr. Allan Blair and Frida Cielak, of Mexico City, were the starters and did the major work in the growth of the Briv Fraynd (Pen -Pals) that now number over 300 all over the world.

## Yiddish Online Course

The Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture's *Institute for Yiddish Education* and the Florida International University's *Distance Learning Program* announce the start of pre-registration for the courses, *Introduction to Yiddish Language & Culture I & II* as part of the Institute's Yiddish online program.

These 2 college-level courses will be taught LIVE at FIU's North Campus by Professor Mindelle Wajzman and can be picked up simultaneously or archivially on the web. Students who register for the simultaneous on-line course will be able to participate in classroom discussions through their computer's microphone.

### Course Days/Hours/Location

*Introduction to Yiddish Language & Culture I* – 3 credits

Classes for the Spring Semester begin on Monday, January 8, 2001 and will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. EST either live or on-line.

Registered students unable to access the course real-time (at the time it is being taught live) may pick it up at any time after live class hours via Real-audio.

*Introduction to Yiddish Language & Culture II* – 3 credits

Offered in the Fall, 2001 semester.

Prerequisite: *Introduction to Yiddish Language & Culture I*

**Tuition:** TBA shortly. To allow as many students as possible to participate in the program, the Center for Yiddish Culture will subsidize the program, thereby keeping tuition reasonable and affordable, even for out-of-state or out-of-country students.

**To Pre-register:** Interested students are asked to fill out the following Pre-registration form (without payment) and e-mail or fax it to the Center for Yiddish Culture. Registration information along with tuition and book costs will then follow.

The courses are offered by The Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture and the FIU's Department of Modern Languages and Distance Learning. They are made possible by the support of Florida International University's Department of Modern Languages & Distance Learning, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, Mayor Alex Penelas, and the Miami-Dade Board of Commissioners.

Center for Yiddish Culture website:  
[www.yiddishculture.org](http://www.yiddishculture.org)

**Course Name:** Introduction to Yiddish Language & Culture I – 3 Credits

**Course Date/Times:** MW 5:00 – 6:15 P.M. (Course Begins January 8, 2001 At 5:00 P.M.)

**Professor:** Mindelle Wajzman

**Course Book:** Sheva Zucker's "Yiddish" (Will be available on-line or at FIU campus)

e-mail or fax to Liz Weintraub: [liz@yiddishculture.org](mailto:liz@yiddishculture.org)  
or (305) 774-7322. No payment is necessary at this time.  
For more info: call (305) 774-9244.

## Our New Laramie, WY Contact Sherri Means <[wjmeans@juno.com](mailto:wjmeans@juno.com)>

Sorry it took me so long to respond to your e-mail. We have been digging out from a fairly major winter blizzard. We had 20+ inches of snow and wind to cause drifting.

The Laramie Jewish Community has about 34 members. That includes students, families and single members. We meet monthly for Shabbos services and Torah Study sessions. We also get together for some of the Holidays. We have a Community Seder during Pesach, a Hannukah party and a Purim filled with games and a melodrama type reading of the Megillah. We bring a student rabbi in for High Holidays and we also celebrate Succos together.

Our community is looking for a Torah, if anyone out there knows of one that needs a home! I always read about communities that get them donated, but we don't know how to let people know we need one. The University of Wyoming brings some of our members to us.

The University Theatre and Dance department will be presenting "Fiddler on the Roof" in February. We are all looking forward to that. The "Jews of Wyoming" book that Harry is sending you is wonderful. Enjoy it.  
**Sherri Means, 820 Rogers Canyon Rd, Laramie, WY 82072**

## From Portland, Oregon Katharine Babad [babad@teleport.com](mailto:babad@teleport.com)

I've been teaching a student for about 9 months and we've just finished Zucker's beginner text. Now we're starting to read Peretz stories from the wonderful *Fun peretses oytser.*, and having a great time with *Oyb nisht nokh hekher*. We're trying to decide on which second year text to use. I'm looking over Schechter's *Yidish tsvey*, which my student received from her grandparents. I'd have to order any others to be able to look at them. Any preferences you've heard from experienced Yiddish teachers?

I just started with another student who's learning Yiddish in preparation for doing research on the Yiddish labor press in turn-of-the-century Buenos Aires. She's already fluent in Spanish and has a Watson fellowship to do this research. Being a long-time lefty, I'm thrilled to pieces. We'll be learning some of the basics of the labor vocabulary from labor songs. We can also look at *lebns fragn* (a socialist journal from Israel). Got any other suggestions for relevant and obtainable (!) reading material?

## Forverts on the Internet Fun Velvl Goldman, [velve@aol.com](mailto:velve@aol.com)

A member of our Yiddish Tish has just told me how to reach the Forverts (in mame-loshn) on the Internet. I've just done it, and it works magnificently:  
<http://yiddish.forward.com/>

The site also tells us how to hear the last four programs of the Forward Hour. I have not tried this one yet: <http://www.1050wevd.com>

Then, look for, Stored Programs  
Editor's note) You can also reach the Forverts from Der Bay's web site. Click on Yiddish links.

**Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre Opens 85th Season**  
**Zalmen Mlotek <zmlotek@compuserve.com>**

*An Amerikaner Mishpokhe* opens The Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre 85th season. Under the artistic direction of Eleanor Reissa and Zalmen Mlotek it will be at Theatre Four. *An Amerikaner Mishpokhe* by Miriam Kressyn has performances through January 21st. Set to the sounds of ragtime and old Yiddish favorites, it traces a turn-of-the-century Lower East Side immigrant family struggling to assimilate into American life while holding onto their Jewish identity. From labor uprisings to World War I and the Great Depression, it is a journey of joy and so now, and finally a celebration in the American Jewish experience. It is performed entirely in Yiddish. Headsets available for English & Russian translations.

Sound design is by Henry Sapoznik. Featured in the cast are Deana Barone, Spencer Chandler, I.W. Firestone, Shira Flam, Murray Nesbitt, Sheila Rubell, Raquel Polite, Yelena Shmulenson, Steve Sterner, Cary Woodworth, and Obie Award winner Mina Bern.

*An Amerikaner Mishpokhe* is based on the 1940 play, *Morning Star*, by Sylvia Regan. She based her play's *American family*, the Feldermans, on that of her own. As a child she heard of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Had the fire not broken out on a Saturday, a day her zeyde insisted that his family observe the Sabbath, her mother and aunts would have died in the tragic fire. *Morning Star* opened on Broadway in 1940 with a cast including Molly Picon. It has been seen across the country, and in Scotland, England, Israel, Argentina and Australia.

Founded in 1915 as the official theatre group of The Workmen's Circle, The Folksbiene (People's Stage)

Yiddish Theatre is the country's oldest Yiddish theatre company. The Folksbiene links contemporary audiences with the rich Yiddish theatre tradition of the past.

*An Amerikaner Mishpokhe*, W. & Th. 2 pm & 8 pm, Sat. at 8 pm & Sun at 2 pm and 5 pm at Theatre Four (424 West 55th St). Group 212-889-6800 ext.208. Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre 212-213-2120, website: [www.folksbiene.org](http://www.folksbiene.org)

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**The Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre Also Presents**  
**Kids and Yiddish 2000**

Kids & Yiddish 2000 is a humorous holiday event for children of all ages. It's a musical revue and interactive family experience of Yiddish culture from traditional fables to pop icons. Teeming with exuberance and learning games, it is 90% English and 10% Yiddish. Conceived and written by Zalmen Mlotek, Joanne Borts and Michael Fox, it features Yiddish puppeteer Jenny Romaine, Michael Fox the Yiddish troubadour, Lisa Fishman and Margot Leverett. Rebecca Levy and Avram, Marissa and Elisha Mlotek are the "kids" of Kids & Yiddish 2000. Musical direction is by Zalmen Mlotek.

Kids & Yiddish 2000 plays at Theatre Four (424 West 55th Street) Sun. at 11:00 A.M. Dec 3-Jan 21st, with a performance on Thurs Dec 28th at 11:00 A.M, and on Jan 15th at 1:00 P.M. Call Telecharge at 212-239-6200. Study guides and educational outreach materials are available to schools. It plays in repertory with The Folksbiene's production of *An Amerikaner Mishpokhe*. Call 212-213-2120 or visit the web site at [www.folksbiene.org](http://www.folksbiene.org).