



February 2001

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## No Editorial—Too Much News

### "Yiddish in Alsace"

fun Refoel Goldwaser [rafael.goldwaser@worldonline.fr](mailto:rafael.goldwaser@worldonline.fr)

The Second Yiddish Summer University will be July 16 – 27, 2001 at the ORT School in Strasburg.

#### Yiddish language course in 3 levels:

- 1: Sonia Pinkusowitz (Martin Buber Institute - Brussels)
- 2: Miriam Trinh (Jerusalem University)
- 3: (not decided yet)

#### Workshops:

Yiddish Theatre with Rafaël Goldwaser  
Klezmer Song & Dance with Astrid Ruff  
Yiddish Cuisine

#### Cultural Events:

Conferences and Video-conferences  
Discovery of local rural Jewish heritage

Info: 00333 88 44 18 14 [kruff@cybercable.fr](mailto:kruff@cybercable.fr)  
<http://luftteater.free.fr>

## Yiddish at Monash University, Australia

There will be two sessions weekly of two hours each, and work in the language laboratory. It will be part of a program of Jewish studies at the Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization, in Melbourne. This includes also Hebrew language and literature, Ancient, Medieval and Modern Jewish History, Modern Israel, Australian Jewish History and Society. The Yiddish course is listed as a course in Yiddish language, culture and literature. I'll introduce Australian Yiddish writing. The culture component will be strong. We need to have a class of twelve students. I'm optimistic.

Monash University is named after Sir John Monash, a WW I Jewish general, and a brilliant engineer. His father came to Australia in the 19th century. His grand-father, Monasch, was a printer of bibles and Hebrew books in Kratoszyn, a small town under German rule in the 19th century, now in Western Poland. **Danielle Charak**, [isidan@compuserve.com](mailto:isidan@compuserve.com)

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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?

## Yiddish Radio Program from Australia

Thank you for *Der Bay* Dec 2000 Newsletter, keeping Yiddish alive and on the map! Perhaps you may also be able to include references to Yiddish in Australia. In particular I mean Yiddish Radio program excerpts which can be heard via the Internet site: [http://www.sbs.com.au/radio/radio\\_set.html](http://www.sbs.com.au/radio/radio_set.html) and the "Kadimah" Jewish Cultural Centre and National Library web site that has links to other Jewish/ Yiddish websites in Australia and abroad at: <http://home.primus.com.au/kadimah/>

I have your fine site bookmarked and will add it to the links at the Kadimah. As for the radio site: scroll where it says "Radio News - Mp3" down to Yiddish and click it. You then should have the audio files listed. Below these are the audio buttons, however you need an mp3 or Real player to play them. It sounds complicated, but not so hard once you've done it successfully.

**Alex Dafner**, [alex.dafner@sbs.com.au](mailto:alex.dafner@sbs.com.au)  
Yiddish Prog, SBS Radio, Melbourne, Australia

## Thoughts from Our New Orleans Contact

You feature big doings of big Yiddish groups, and you should. These articles are inspiring, but there must be room for a small struggling group that is going it all alone with no help from academia or the community. It persists because its members have come to love Yiddish.

The Yiddish group of New Orleans is the only one in the entire state of Louisiana (as far as I know). Yes, we've been around for almost 20 years—in bad times (when there were only 5) and in better times (10-15). Who makes up this group? We are men and women of that certain age—60 and up. What is their Yiddish background? They've heard Yiddish, but never spoke it, and come regularly every week to learn to speak Yiddish. They want the opportunity to sing, enjoy and appreciate folksongs and holiday songs, to be exposed to the writings (via cassettes in Yiddish) of our literary masters (Sholem Aleykhem, I. L. Peretz, etc.), and to learn about and use Yiddish proverbs and idioms. We are brazen enough (for the third time in three years) to put on performances, in Yiddish, of some of the dialogues we've learned and to sing a group of khanike songs.

The great renaissance of interest in Yiddish has not yet made its way into this neck of the woods. So, we do the best we can and may I say it, biz a hundert un tsvantsik. **Fannie Yokor**, New Orleans, LA  
[fk yokor@yahoo.com](mailto:fk yokor@yahoo.com) 504-288-0325

## An Interesting Letter from Chicago

From Mrs. Ritza Kosofsky, Chicago, IL

I am writing to let you know that I appreciate all you are doing to promote the Yiddish language. I am Chicago born and have taught Yiddish to classes in the Jewish High Schools here. I give programs on Torah subjects in six buildings under the council for Jewish elderly regularly. Four of these buildings consist of Russian Jewish immigrants. I give my programs in Yiddish in those buildings.

The Agada tells us that G-d asked the Jewish people at Mt. Sinai—who would be the guarantors if the Jews would keep the Torah? They answered, “our sages.” It was not accepted. When they answered, “our children,” it was accepted.

I have the good mazl of helping first-graders as they chant and study “Chumash” in Hebrew and then translate into Yiddish—music to my ears. Really “tam Gan Eydn.” Here is a school of 400 kids learning in Yiddish from 1st to 8th- grade. These are children whose grandparents don’t know Yiddish. There are converts whose family doesn’t have a background of Yiddish—all this at cheder Lubavitch. If we teach it to our kids, then Yiddish has a future. If your readers want to hear Yiddish stories of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, told by Rabbi Yosef Weinberg, they can call 773-262-9770 push #1 for “lessons in Yiddish” then push #7 for the stories by Rabbi Weinberg. (With a speakerphone, it’s even better!)

Keep up the good work—much success!

## From Our Mexico City Contact

Frida Grapa de Cielak <arele@enter.net.mx>

Ikh bin nisht geven in der heym a lange tzayt, zikh kemat nisht farnumen mit der kompyuter. kh'bin arumgeform un geven farnumen mit farshidene andere inyonim, ikh ken ober nisht fargesn az 2001 iz der 10-ter yoibl fun ayer "Der Bay" un ikh vil onteylnemen in di bagrisungen vos ikh bin zikher, az ir derhalt fun iber der gantzer velt un ikh nil aykh ibergebn mayne gefiln).

Tayerer bekovediker fraynd: 10 YOR! Nisht es zogt zikh gring - nisht es tut zikh gring! 10 YOR fun ayer kesehyerdikn aroisgebn ayer buletin! Ayer oyftu, onshtrung un bamiungen hobn zikh farvandt in a umghayerteh(huge) goldene keyt vos hot farbundt di yidishe binringlehkh tzevorfn(scattered) iber der velt!

Ayer oyftu iz a oysergeveynlekhehr un an ongezehener, ir darft zayn shtoltz fun ayere dergreykhungen! Un ayer tetikayt hot zikh nisht bagrenetzt nor mitn buletin, ir hot tzugegebn a cyber-vebzaaytl ful mit yidishe informatzye, ir hot untergeshtelt an orem tzu di yidishe klubn-organizatye, ir hot zikh untergenumen ontzugeyn mit dem hemshekh fun dem yidishn "briv-fraynd club"..... yidish, ir kium un bekhlad-di yidishe interes iz gevorn der leytmotiv in ayer lebn! kol akavod, a yeisher koyakh aykh un mayne hartzike vareme vuntshn az G' zol aykh bentshn mit gezunt un vayterdiker derfolg un hatzlokhe in ayer sheferisher un merverdiker(remarkable) arbet un ayere gerotene dergreykhungen! ikh fil zikh bekovedik zikh tzu kenen rekhenen tzvishn ayere bakante! mit derek-j-eretz, ayer frayndine fun meksike, freydl (grapa) cielak

## A Gutn Chanike

fun Octavian Mocanu

Barcelona, Espanya/12 de Diciembre de 2000

*hamzoess der hanoess*

A mabl fuler lichtess  
Glanzt wegen der lewone  
Un ruft noch hojchem schmuess,

Tilim fun a neschome.  
Nesst sich arojss newuess  
CHotsch klenerer nemone.

A mabl fuler lichtess  
Nesst sich arojss misstome.

In ejglech a kawone  
Kowet scharke hasskome,  
Ejn drejdel izt dermone!

**Editor's note:** Our new contact for The Yiddish Network from Barcelona, Spain sent in this acrostic [a series of lines or verses in which the first, last or other particular letters form a word or phrase.

## Friends of Yiddish - New York, Feb. Meeting by Seymour Graiver, Seymour.Graiver@worldnet.att.net

We are having an unusually good speaker for our meeting on Feb 4, 2001. I would very much like to get *Der Bay* to give it publicity. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Benny Kraut, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College in New York. Dr. Kraut will speak on "The Problems of Judaism and Identity in Modern Times".

The Queens College Jewish Studies Dept. has 1500 students taking classes. In addition there is a program of Jewish events put out to the community, all free, since Dr. Kraut has been involved at the college. There are lectures on topics of interest to Jews just about every other week, a Yiddish film series, and a series of special programs. On Sunday December 10, Dr Kraut invited the Jewish Peoples Philharmonic Chorus to appear at the college in a free program of Yiddish songs which was attended by over 400 people in the colleges Lefrak Music Hall.

The lecture by Dr. Kraut will be at the Marseilles, 230 W. 103rd Street, New York City at 2:00 P.M. Reservations are a must. To reserve call Shirley Weiner at 212-924-5890.

## An Excellent Idea from Hy Meltz

On browsing your website yet again I came upon that great song title list you have there. But, I am making such a list which contains one more element, a CD upon which that song can be heard. That makes it possible for a class to hear the song sung, and to study the words from the books. There are two tapes of some few songs from the first two songbooks which I have, but I have found many others on CDs by Sidor Belarsky, Rosalie Gerut and others. Whenever I can find the three elements, the music on a tape or CD, the printed words in English letters and the name of the CD, I list it. Just a thought. Most useful for classes. **Hy Meltz, Oviedo, FL Hi8067@aol.com**

## What Would You Do? Your editor received this request online.

"I am a news columnist with the Arizona Daily Star newspaper. I am interested in writing about any local efforts to preserve the Yiddish language and culture. I had contacted a small Tucson group but its members declined. (They said they didn't want the publicity.)

Do you know of any groups in Tucson? My interest is that of a journalist who is interested in exploring diverse cultures. Much of what I write about here centers on the Hispanic community. I wish to broaden my subjects."

**Ernesto Portillo Jr., Ariz. Daily Star, Metro Columnist**

**Here are some facts.** Many requests come in for information, assistance or publicity. These can be very time-consuming. Many are cranks or attention seekers. On the other hand, we are looking to get free positive publicity. Is this a crank? He did send a phone number and an e-mail address. On the other hand, he said that one group did not want to have attention drawn to them. There are 2 Yiddish clubs listed in Tucson.

### "shifke shiva shifkes"??

As a Yiddishist and an English-French-Hebrew translator, I wonder if I could get translations from or into Yiddish. A relative in France sent me a few Yiddish poems, hand-written by an unknown poet who was presumably murdered. Someone had discovered the poems in a concentration camp—could I translate them into French! The handwriting was difficult to read and time had blurred many words and phrases. I'm doing it as an homage to the lost Yiddish culture during the Shoah.

I translated one poem. In the second one there is an expression I never heard. It is *shifke shiva shifkes*, most likely an ironic appreciation of a sheyner yid, dressed up like a gvir. It says: "... a sheyner yid, shifke shiva shifkes, dos baykhl zayns...." Can your readers help?

Please add me to your translators' list?

**Itzhak Golan-Goldblum (nicknamed Jacques because of my French education) Kfar Hanassi 12305 M.P. Upper Galilee 1 ISRAEL tel.972-6-6914544 fax. 972-6-6914724 [lexical@kfar-hanassi.org.il](mailto:lexical@kfar-hanassi.org.il)**

## February is Jewish Music Month

Mitzvah Music presents Jewish music programs for Jewish Music Month—performances, lectures, and classes, by Mark Levy, singer and researcher. Topics and classes can be combined with performances, seminars, residencies, or festivals. Jewish music lecture or performance topics:

- 5000 Years in a Blink: An Overview
- Romancero: The Songs of the Sephardic Diaspora
- Zing-zhe Mir a Lidl: Yiddish Folksongs of E. Europe
- Hear My Prayer: Synagogue, Chassidic, Yemenite Chant
- Klezmer 101: Everything you always wanted to know...
- Jews 'n' Jazz: Who Got Rhythm, and How!?
- The Classics: From Rossi to Bernstein

Mark's is a cantorial soloist in Calif. His 4th album, *Bin Ikh Mir A Shnayderl: Yiddish Work Songs*, commemorates the 100th birthday of Workmen's Circle. Mitzvah Music, POB 559, Felton CA, 95018.

[Mitvahmus@aol.com](mailto:Mitvahmus@aol.com) or call 888 505 8953

## The Penina Zylberman Yiddish Cultural Trust Michael Zylberman, [mzylberman@lzf.com.au](mailto:mzylberman@lzf.com.au)

This Trust offers grants for the study of Yiddish culture at academic institutions. Successful applicants will receive a grant towards their studies in any approved course at a recognized university or college of their choice.

Among the institutions currently offering appropriate courses (but not limited to) in Yiddish are: Oxford University in Britain; the Hebrew University and Bar Ilan University in Israel; and Columbia University.

We expect beneficiaries of the grants to work in an Australian educational establishment at the end of their studies. In this way, they will play a leading role in the transmission of Yiddish culture to upcoming generations, and its adaptation to changing times.

The grant provided is not expected to fully fund the course of study but provide top up funds. Applications can be sent to The Penina Zylberman Yiddish Cultural Trust at 267 Hawthorn Road Caulfield 3161 Australia.

As a postscript you may be interested to learn that commencing in 2001 Yiddish will be offered at Monash University in Melbourne. The Trust together with other Yiddish oriented institutions is providing funding for this.

Your readers may also be interested in our school prize scheme. At the start of 1997 the Trust embarked on an exciting scheme to encourage students in the use of Yiddish at Primary and Secondary school levels. The Penina Zylberman Yiddish Prizes are awarded annually for outstanding literary performances, or creative work in Yiddish by school students. All Australian schools where Yiddish is on the curriculum are eligible, including any schools choosing to take up Yiddish in the future.

When the prizes commenced only one school was eligible. Prizes are now given at Sholem Aleichem College, Leibler Yavneh College, Yeshivah College and Mount Scopus Memorial College.

## Yiddish Club at San Francisco JCC

Icek Mozes, [imozes@aol.com](mailto:imozes@aol.com) 415-239-4105

Es kumt aykh a sheynem dank far makhn a shidekh! When the San Francisco JCC called me and said you gave my name as someone who might be able to "facilitate" a Yiddish Conversation Club for the Montefiore Senior Program, hob ikh getrakht: "... vey iz mir. az di JCC muz zikh farlozn (rely) af aza shvakh (weak) yidish redner vi ikh, iz take okh un brokh (a disaster)! s'iz a simen az mameloshn geyt shoy'n a gang (going down the tubes)!" But I agreed to give it a try, and we've now been meeting for several months.

About 15-25 folks come to the JCC (415-292-1262) from 12:30 to 1:45 P.M. on the 3rd Friday of each month—tsu makhn a shmues. We're (e.g. doing conversation, watching Yiddish movies, read/translate stories, sing songs, etc.), ober af eyn zakh zenen ale maskim (agreed)—der tsil (objective) iz tsu hern a vort yidish! es vayst oys (it appears) az s'iz do in San Fransiske a sakh amolike (old-time) yidish redners vos meynen (believe) az zey zenen bikhides (alone). yidish klingt zey bloyz (only) in kop, vayl zey redn nor tsu zikh aleyn. yetst, khotsh eyn mol a khoydesh, hobn zey di gelegnhayt tsu hern a bisl yidish klingen oykh in di oyern (ring also in the ears)!

**Calling All Former Students of  
I.L.Peretz Folk Shul, Winnipeg, Canada  
Oscar "Osher" Antel oantel@escape.ca**

Several classes of the former I.L.Peretz Shul in Winnipeg have now held reunions in this year that celebrated 1000 years of Yiddish. These created an enthusiasm to explore and plan a larger reunion of all Students who attended the school in its eighty years of existence as a major Yiddish institution in Winnipeg and Canada. There are thousands of former students throughout Canada, the North American Continent, Israel and elsewhere who have benefited from the Yiddish education at this school. The idea has already picked up momentum and will create an opportunity to meet old friends and reflect on our days at this Yiddish School.

We are planning this major reunion to be held in Winnipeg, Canada, in the summer of 2003. If you are a former student and wish to attend or to receive further information, please forward:

Name (if married please include maiden name)  
Address  
City Province (State)  
Telephone Number  
Fax No.  
Email Address

To: Maxine Zabenskie  
423 Inkster Blvd.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2W 0K6

Phone: 204-582 2003

E-Mail [peretzschoolreunion@hotmail.com](mailto:peretzschoolreunion@hotmail.com)

**Yiddish in the 21st Century: "Webward Ho!"  
By Barabara Goldstein, IAYC Sec.**

The IAYC has underwritten 10 scholarships for students who want to study Yiddish live and /or on-line. The IAYC donated \$1500 to the Dora Teitelboim Institute for Yiddish Education which is presenting the first Yiddish course available both on-line and live in the world.

Introduction to Yiddish Language and Culture I and II will be taught live at Florida International University's North Campus in North Miami Beach, FL under the auspices of the F.I.U.'s Dept. of Modern Languages and Distance Learning and will be available also on-line. The instructor is Professor Mindelle Wajzman, who has taught Yiddish for 20 years at Case Western Reserve Univ., the College of Jewish Studies, and at I.L. Peretz Schools.

Mr. Daniel Weintraub, Executive Director of the Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture, states that eligibility for scholarships is based on several factors. They include financial need, what a student hopes to gain from participating in the Yiddish educational programs, and how a student plans to use what he/she learns to advance Yiddish culture generally.

Students of all ages are invited to apply for these scholarships. According to Mr. Weintraub, students currently are enrolling from around the USA, from Israel, and Norway. Students may register up to and BEYOND the start of class that begins January 8, 2001 if they wish to take the course on-line and on an archival basis. Ph 305-774-9244, website [www.yiddishculture.org](http://www.yiddishculture.org)  
e-mail [info@yiddishculture.org](mailto:info@yiddishculture.org)