



March 2001

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Recommendations

Last month the editorial was omitted because of the unusually large volume of material received. This was to have been last month's editorial.

One of the most asked questions is; "What can be done to foster Yiddish?" The recommendations fall into two categories—for most of us, and the highly involved ones.

General Public

You aren't very actively involved, but interested.

- Regularly attend a Yiddish club/class. There are over 300 Yiddish groups that meet weekly or monthly. There are almost 500 individuals in the US alone who are teaching or have taught Yiddish.
- Belong/support at least two Yiddish organizations.
- Read at least two journals, bulletins, newspapers, or newsletters in Yiddish or related to Yiddish.
- Learn and use at least one new Yiddish word a week. It will increase your vocabulary by at least 50 words a year.
- Attend/view a major Yiddish conference, institute, convention, seminar, play, concert or film once a year.
- Interest another person in Yiddish. If everyone did it, the number would double in only a year.
- Purchase at least one Yiddish book, CD/cassette or film once a year— for your use.
- Purchase at least one Yiddish book, CD/cassette or film once a year— for a gift.

Highly Involved

You are a YIDDISH teacher, club/group leader, klezmer bandleader, translator, radio announcer, theatrical producer/director, filmmaker, author, editor, publisher, entertainer, librarian, upper level student, or major financial supporter.

- Do all of the eight listed above.
- Make at least one presentation at a formal/public meeting.
- Write at least one article for a journal, bulletin, newspaper, or newsletter.
- Create, open, introduce, encourage, support, or attend a new Yiddish area or group annually.
- Be available to, and answer a question for, those who have less ability/knowledge.

The entire area of Yiddish online has been omitted purposely, for that is being saved for an entire column. It is the fastest growing medium and the rate of change is tremendous.

Special/Unusual in the World of Yiddish

There are Yiddish scholars in all major Yiddish centers. That should not come as a surprise. There are quite a few children of world-renowned parents who are truly following in their parents' footsteps. There are, and recently were, quite a number of husband and wife teams who both have/had international recognition. This editorial, however, wishes to recognize those who are in unusual locations. It is difficult for them to have the close contact with others in Yiddish-oriented academia, speaking and publishing centers like Toronto, Montreal, Paris, London, Tel Aviv, Buenos Aires, Melbourne, New York, Boston, Miami, Los Angeles, etc.

In looking over all of the files of regular contributors and the irregular contributors and the non-contributors, one name is salient. It is not because of his being superior in any one area, for he is not, but that he is active in all of them. Imagine, Dr. Albert G. Goldin, lives in Louisville, Kentucky. He is The Yiddish Network Contact for his area. He is leader of the River City Klezmer Band (formerly the Boychiks). He is the leader of Redt Yidish Tish that meets the last Thursday of the month at noon. He has taught Yiddish and his group is a member of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs. No one else covers all of these bases. What makes it even more remarkable is that he has been a constant supporter of Der Bay for almost nine years. He is a dream come true.

While TYN contacts also are found in Anchorage and Ketchikan in Alaska, Prof. Steven A. Jacobson fits into the remarkable category. There is nothing north of Fairbanks except Nome in Alaska. Despite the rarity of a Jewish face in this stretch of tundra, Prof. Jacobson's love of Yiddish has yielded a world dictionary of Yiddish words derived from the Hebrew.

While there is a TYN contact in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to find a non-Jew interested in Yiddish in Gulfport, MS is quite another matter. Britt L. Albritton has been studying Yiddish for decades, and has quite an extensive vocabulary. Another such new contact is Barbara Quanbeck of Livingston, Montana. She lives on an eight acre spread, operates her publishing business online, and is signed up for the new online Yiddish course.

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you send a LITTLE extra—please?

Yiddish Seminars at Medem Library

There is a series of Sunday seminars in Paris organized jointly by AEDCY and the Medem Library

Location: Bibliotheque Medem (Medem Library) 52 Rend-Boulangier St., 75010 Paris (France)

- January 14 Sun., 9:30 A.M.,
"Yiddish Fables of Yesterday and Today," Given by Simon Neuberger (University of Treves, Germany)
- March 4 Sun., 9:30 A.M.,
"On Leaving Czernowitz: An~C~pdprach,2bf)the Biography of Itsik Manger", Given by Khaye Beer (University College, London)
- April 1 Sun., 9:30 A.M.,
"A Family and Historical Novel: The Brothers Ashkenazi, by Israel-Joshua Singer" - Given by Carole Ksiazenicer-Matheron (University Paris III)
- May 6 Sun., 9:30 A.M.,
"Appointment? Commitment? Engagement? in the Sh. An-Ski Society" - Gilles Rozier (Medem Library)
- June 10 Sun., 9:30 A.M.,
"World Literature Translated into Yiddish," Given by Natalia Krynicka (Medem Library)

Phone: 0142 02 17 08 Fax: 0142 02 17 04

Prof. Yitzhak Niborski medem@yiddishweb.com

Fourth Annual Vilnius Program in Yiddish Language and Literature Egdunas Racius, Project Manager

It will take place August 1-29, 2001 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Program was first launched in the summer of 1998 with distinguished scholars in the field of Yiddish studies from around the world, as instructors of Yiddish language, and renowned artists. For three consecutive years the Program has been a success. The Program presents a rare opportunity to study, and enjoy the Yiddish language and culture as a living entity. This, together with the vibrancy of some seventy participants, creates the experience of the Vilnius Program in Yiddish.

If you do not wish to be in the academic language courses, but wish to take advantage of the Program's presence in Vilna and its rich cultural events, please join us. It is possible to participate in the Cultural Program only for the whole month or selected portions of it.

Please contact me with any questions relating to the Program. I will be glad to answer them. You can reach me by email at info@yiddishvilnius.com, and through our website: www.yiddishvilnius.com. You will find general information on the program and the application form.

A Letter from Sylvia Wagreich

I really enjoy *Der Bay* and look forward to it. I got one of my students, Nat Cember, to get it. I teach a small group of "seniors" at the YMHA in New City, NY. We do transliteration. One of the ladies in the group was in the Holocaust. She is a strong, bright lady. Her husband comes along in a wheelchair. She has many jokes up her sleeve. You never dream in your worst nightmare, what she suffered in the war. I love both of them. My group is sweet as sugar, no one is under 70 years of age. We all have a common bond—we love Yiddish. In your '98 *Der*

Bay, you had a column about where we can get transliterated skits. My group would love them. Would you know where I could get the book? I'd be grateful if you know. I'd love to have it for my class. Please let me know. Also you had a list of good beginners Yiddish books. I have one—it's quite good, Yiddish for Beginners by Prof. Jean B. Jofen, Baruch College, CUNY, NY 1994. The first revised edition costs \$11 with tax. You can get it at Inspiration Gallery at 914-633-8508 or 845-633-8508. After teaching 32 years in elementary school, I now am happy teaching Yiddish. We will be leaving Nanuet, NY to spend Feb-May in Rolling Hills Estates, CA.

Yiddish at the University of Pennsylvania From Jewish Studies at Penn

Recently there has been a dramatic increase in Yiddish activities. First there was the establishment of the Robert & Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive. The Freedman's had the largest private collection of Yiddish music before they established the archive.

Alexander Botwinik came to teach first year Yiddish. This opened up a third year of Yiddish. The Sholom Aleichem Club of Philadelphia has given great financial contributions. Then the Charlotte (NC) Yiddish Institute Committee set up a fund to aid students. Financial support is also received from the Philadelphia Branch of the Workmen's Circle.

Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein, who is the Senior Fellow in Yiddish and Jewish Studies, had been a Guggenheim Fellow at Hebrew University. She is internationally renowned and has published a great deal.

Over the years U of PA has graduated several extremely brilliant Yiddish scholars. Itzik Gottesman had taught at the University of Texas at Austin and then came to be on the editorial staff of the *Forverts*. Another graduate is David Braun who is working on his doctorate at MIT. Currently he is teaching in Europe.

Stars of Our New Orleans Yiddish Theatre By Tsip Levitov

I had the good fortune of attending the performance of our Yiddish Class at the JCC. The group worked hard to make sure they said their words correctly and to follow the tutelage of our Yiddish Teacher, the inimitable Fanny Yokor, in the necessary movements and tone of the delivery. It was a labor of love. The group has been studying Yiddish and in a lot of cases for the first time. You cannot imagine what it took to come up with that magnificent performance. I am proud of every one of them.

When I sat at rehearsal, I wondered how will Fanny pull this off. However, with the love of the language and the wonderful camaraderie that we all have in the class it was not just pulled off, it was an absolute joy. The next time they give a performance, be sure you get there since they also have English translations and it could be the last time you will see them as amateurs cause they will be heading for the big time. The class is always educational but also fun since we enjoy each other and appreciate Fanny's efforts on our behalf and for the wonderful cause of "Yiddish". We run the gamut from very young into octogenarians and all have the same spirit. Do join us in class every Monday at 1 P.M. at Temple Beth Israel.

Tsveyter Internatsionaler Forsh-Seminar Vegn Yidisher Kultur

Es freyt undz tzu anonsirn az der Tsveyter Internatsionaler Forsh-Seminar Vegn Yidisher Kultur vet forkumen in Nyu York, in campus fun yidishn teologishn seminar (JTS), tsvishn dem 18tn un dem 29stn yuni 2,001. Der seminar vert organizirt fun Beyt Sholem Aleykhem (Tel Aviv), dem yidish-opteyl in hebreyshn universitet in Yerusholaym, der yidisher teologisher seminar un der Yivo. Di onfirers veln zayn Avrom Novershtern un Dovid Roskies. Rivke Margolis vet zayn di administrative sekretarshe.

Der seminar vert planirt far graduir-studentn afn gebit fun yidish un mizrekh eyropeisher yidisher kultur un geshikhte, zey zoln fartifern un sistematzirn zeyer visn. Studentn fun farsheydene lender un forsh-perspektivn veln zikh bakenen eyner mitn andern un oykh hobn a gelegnhayt zikh tsu banitsn mit di raykhe forsh-resursn vos gefinen zikh in Nyu York.

Di hatslokhe fun dem ershtn seminar vos iz forgekumen in Yisroel in 1999, der entuzyazm fun zayne bateylikte, vi oykh zeyere forleygn vos shaykh a hemshekh far undzer initsyativ, hobn undz gedint vi a yesod tsutsugreytn dem hayyorikn seminar. Oykh dos mol iz di program oysn graduir- un post-graduir-studentn vos viln zikh bateylikn in intensive limudim gefirt in gantsn af yidish. Der kern fun seminar veln zayn di vayterdike temes un lektorn:

- Yitskhok Niborski, Der veg fun der yidisher shprakh-forshung un ire hoyptgeshtalt
- Dovid Roskies, "Der yidisher impresyonizm";
- Eugene Orenstein, Ideologies fun yidish
- Ruth Wisse, Avrom Sutzkevers shafn
- Avrom Novershtern, Di yidische apokaliptishe poeme
- Shikl Fishman, Temes in yidisher sotsyo-lingvistik
- Mordkhe Schaechter, Klal-shprakh un shprakh-normirung

Oyser dem veln studentn forshteln zeyer forsharbet, un me vet oykh hobn a meglehkeyt zikh tsu trefn mit yidische shraybers un kultur-tuers.

Dos mol vet der seminar kenen onnemen nor akhtsn bateylikte. Di vos veln es darfn veln krign stipendyes tsu dekn a mamoshesdikn teyl fun zeyere for-hoytsoes, vi oykh a voynungort afn kheshbm fun di organizirers.

Di farinteresirte darfn araynshikn a blitsbriv mit a kurtser biografye un a bashraybung fun zeyer forsharbet un interesn. Dem blitsbriv darfn zey shikn tsu di organizatorn fun dem seminar:

Ms. Rebecca Margolis
Box 100, Jewish Theological Seminary
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Avrom Novershtern, Dovid Roskies, Rivke Margolis

New Courses on Yiddish Language & Culture

Lehrhaus Judaica, the umbrella, for adult Jewish education in Northern California, is offering a wide range

of new classes on Yiddish language, literature history, theater, politics, and music in Berkeley, San Francisco, the Peninsula, and Walnut Creek.

- Yiddish & Klezmer Music (Walnut Creek)
- Beginning Yiddish 1A (S.F. & Berkeley)
- Intro. to Yiddish Language & Culture (San Mateo)
- Reading Yiddish Texts (Berkeley)
- Yid. & Hebrew Fiction in Translation (Berkeley)
- Yid. & the Left: History of Yid. & Leftist Politics (S.F.)
- The Adventure of Yiddish Theater (Palo Alto)

For complete course information, visit::

www.lehrhaus.org/courses/yiddish_index

Jewish Studies Seminar 16-20 August 2001: First Call for Papers, Hamilton, N.Z.

This Seminar comes at a time when New Zealand is grappling with increased Holocaust Denial, Anti-Semitism and Neo-Nazi Propaganda. In addition to the themes related to Jewish culture, languages, literature, and sociology, we have a section devoted to Holocaust Denial, Neo-Nazism and Anti-Semitism, and their manifestations in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific smaller nations.

We are calling for proposals of papers and indications of participants from overseas requiring special letters to aid in gaining grants. Please include a title and brief (200 word) resumé of your proposed talk.

Dr. Norman Simms, Waikato Jewish Studies Seminar
Hamilton, NZ Email: nsimms@waikato.ac.nz

Advanced Students Seminar March 26-30 2001

The Program in Yiddish Studies at the Heinrich Heine University (Duesseldorf, Germany) and the Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies are offering a one-week intensive seminar in Yiddish Studies. Topics are:

- 1) The Kiev group of Yiddish writers in general and Dovid Bergelson in particular -- Dr. Gennady Estraikh
- 2) Der Nister's novel "Di mishpokhe Mashber": Text and context -- Dr. Michail Krutikov
- 3) Nokhem Shtif and the "Institut far yidisher kultur" in Kiev -- Holger Nath

The seminars will be held in Yiddish. More information is on the homepage of the Program in Yiddish Studies. Abteilung fuer Jiddische Kultur, Sprache und Literatur Heinrich-Heine-Universitaet Duesseldorf Universitaetsstr. 1 / Geb. 23.03, 40225 Duesseldorf Tel. 0211- 81 13228/14292 Fax 0211 - 81 12027 E-mail: jiddisch@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de <http://www.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/jiddisch/>

Prints Charming

By Michael Handelzalts

Antoine de Saint-Exupery's classic, 'The Little Prince,' has been translated into Yiddish!?

Zayt azoy gut... Tseykhn mir a lemele

These words are uttered by the Little Prince, in Yiddish. That is how he asks the narrator, the pilot, to draw a lamb for him. And, that is how the words are spelled in the Latin transcription of Yiddish, at the end of "Der Kleyner Prints" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, just published by Verlag Michaela Naumann in Germany. The text is printed in Hebrew script, and it incorporates the original drawings.

And therein hangs a tale. It all started with Shloyme Lermann, the deputy chief engineer for public health in the Health Ministry in Jerusalem. He was born about 60 years ago in the Soviet Union, and spent two of his childhood years in refugee camps in post-war Germany before emigrating to Argentina with his parents, who eventually made their way to Israel.

Yiddish is Lermann's mother tongue. He collects various editions of "The Little Prince," and has amassed 90 of them. What he lacked was a Yiddish version. Gevalt! No Yiddish? He checked for Yiddish sites on the Web (which use Latin transcription of Yiddish approved by YIVO) and found that there are none. So he sat down and translated the book for himself, his first - and only, he says - translation, a true labor of love. Then he tried to interest Israeli publishers in his work: No takers.

Chats in Yiddish on the Web got him this bit of information: There is a publisher in Germany, Verlag Michaela Naumann in Nidderau, which specializes in German dialects. They had already published "The Little Prince" in Palzisch, Hessisch, Frankisch, Schwabisch, Bayerisch, Plattdeutsch and Badisch-Alemannisch. And, yes, they were interested. In fact, they were quite successful with a Yiddish version of "Der Struwelpeter auf Jiddisch, Pinye Shtroykop," ("Shock-headed Peter," or "Yehoshua Parua" in Hebrew) published in a Latin transcription of Yiddish, with a foreword by Ignatz Bubis.

Lermann was translating the "Prince" into Yiddish in Hebrew script, and in order to deliver it via e-mail to the publisher, he needed Yiddish fonts, slightly different from the Hebrew ones. That problem was solved thanks to Dr. Tsuguya Sasaki from Kobe, Japan, who studied Hebrew literature in Jerusalem (Lermann met him at an Esperanto lesson - it's all so very polyglot).

The publisher was ready to go to print in May 2000, planning a bi-scriptural edition: The Yiddish in Latin transcription, with the original drawings in their proper places in the text, and an appendix with the text in Hebrew script. That is when the publishing plans were passed on to Gallimard, Saint-Exupery's publisher, who sold the translation rights for 120 languages worldwide. The director in charge of foreign rights, Anne-Solange Noble, insisted that the Yiddish version of "The Little Prince" should be published in Hebrew script, from right to left, with the drawings incorporated in order, with the Latin transcript, if at all, appearing as an appendix.

Noble was ready to withdraw the permission for the Yiddish edition, if it did not get printed in Hebrew script. The publisher, ready to print, pleaded with her.

"It's a Jewish language, write it the Jewish way," she said. "Well, actually, it's a German dialect," he answered, to which she replied, "Maybe, but I don't know many non-Jewish Germans who can speak it."

So he tried a different approach: "But, I won't have a big enough readership in Germany if I do it mainly in Hebrew." She responded: "I wonder why." Noble's prize Yiddish was not the main language of German Jews before World War II. And Anne-Solange Noble does not speak Yiddish. She is not even Jewish, which caused her sometimes to doubt her own instincts in the matter, especially when arguing with Jews who favored the Latin transcript for Yiddish.

When she was told that only children from ultra-Orthodox families read Yiddish in Hebrew script, and that they would anyway not be allowed to peruse "Der Kleyner Prints," she said: "The children of today are the adults of tomorrow. It is a text of universal scope, not religious, but very humanist. Nourish them today if there is any chance of seeing the revival of this language, which very nearly disappeared completely as a result of man-made murder 55 years ago."

Noble, a Frenchwoman of Canadian origin, admits she was influenced in her actions by that "man-made murder," and adds that "we all should be." But her approach to the matter was mainly cultural and humanistic: She says she would have done the same for Breton. She merely thought that "Le Petit Prince" and a (dying?) language and culture called Yiddish both deserve immense respect.

"Shraybt mir geshvind az er iz tsurikgekumen" ("Write me quickly if he does come back") asks the pilot of his readers. And he is back, in Yiddish.

In Germany, the book costs DM 32, and has been purchased by 600 readers. (It can be considered a bestseller for a Yiddish children book in Germany). In Israel, it is sold only by Ludwig Mayer bookstore in Jerusalem, for NIS 86.50. The Tola'at Sfarim store in Tel Aviv is ordering it.

The book is "Mit bilder fun dem mekhaber," with drawings by the author. In the first chapter he tells how he tried to draw a boa constrictor who swallowed an elephant, and when he showed his masterpiece to the adults and asked whether they were frightened by it, they did not understand why should they be frightened by "a hut" - a hat.

His masterpiece in the depiction of the Little Prince's life on his asteroid, 612B, is the drawing of the baobab trees which are strangling the star: "Kinder! Hit zikh far baobabn"

The Stichting Jiddish (Yiddish Foundation)

By Jack Wiegman jack_wiegman@yahoo.com

It was founded in Amsterdam last year. Address: Weesperzijde 300, 1097 EB AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands. Telephone 0031-(0)20-6681634. E-mail: jiddish@hotmail.com. This foundation publishes a quarterly by the name of 'Grine Medine'.

It inaugurated its library, called the Mira Rafalowicz Library. The inauguration took place in the building of the Liberal Jewish Community, Jacob Soetendorpstraat 8 in Amsterdam.

The Guest speaker was Dr. Gennady Estraiikh, professor of Yiddish at Oxford University and a writer and editor for various literary publications. He spoke on 'Yiddishe elitare literatur in 20stn yorhundert' (20th century Yiddish literature in its social and political context). The talk was in Yiddish but with a summary in English. At the meeting Yiddish Poetry was recited by Willy Brill and Ariane Zwiers, and music was performed by Rolinha Kross (vocal) and Theo van Tol (accordion)

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute celebrates its 23rd season, August 16-19, 2001. It is sponsored by The JCC of Charlotte Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Rd, Charlotte, North Carolina 28226 (704) 366-5007 - Fax (704) 365-4307

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute is open to men and women who have knowledge of the Yiddish language and are dedicated to enhancing their understanding of Yiddish in a culturally stimulating, heymish atmosphere.

Yiddishkeit abounds at The Institute with:

- Faculty Lectures in Yiddish and English
- Concerts
- Yiddish Language Classes
- Yiddish Culture Workshops
- Folk Singing and Dancing
- Book and Gift Shop
- Daily and Shabbes Services
- Outstanding Southern Hospitality

Enjoy nature walks and scenic splendor at Wildacres Retreat, a mountaintop conference center of 1400 acres, set in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, elevation 3300 ft. Wildacres is devoted to the betterment of human understanding. Its facilities, operated on a non-profit basis, are administered by the Blumenthal Foundation. The Wildacres Retreat is located 112 miles from Charlotte (approximately a 3-hour drive).

To be on placed on our mailing list, call Baila Pransky, at 704-366-5564 or write to Charlotte Yiddish Institute/JCC 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226

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, Florida under the auspices of the F.I.U.'s Department of Modern Languages and Distance Learning and will be available also on-line. The course instructor is Professor Mindelle Wajzman. She has taught Yiddish for twenty years at Case Western Reserve University, the College of Jewish Studies, and the I.L. Peretz Schools among others.

Mr. Daniel Weintraub, Exec. Director of the Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture, states that eligibility for scholarships is based on: 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.

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, or website www.yiddishculture.org

info@yiddishculture.org

Yiddish in the 21st Century: "Webward Ho!"

By Barbara Goldstein, IAYC Secretary

The IAYC has underwritten 10 scholarships for students to study Yiddish live and/or on-line. The IAYC