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Lucky Strike Extra

Although *Der Bay* is published monthly, ten times a year, what is one to do if there are too many articles in need of publication? That's right, you put out a Lucky Strike Extra.

While several of the long-established groups and publications are in dire need of assistance, new young groups and centers are sprouting. Although the major populated areas remain the major strongholds of Yiddish, new centers are emerging such as at the University of Indiana.

Among the major cities, Los Angeles must be singled out as showing a remarkable resurgence. Even though there is a continuing flight to the suburbs (in this case to the valley), the Los Angeles Yiddish Club maintains its weekly vitality beyond its 70th anniversary and the literary publication *Heshbon* continues.

The most recent issue of *Yiddishkayt LA* is a true gem. Articles this month include:

- Women's Yiddish Voices
- Language Institute
- The Little Prince
- Calendar of events
- Resources Guide
- Summer Programs
- Yiddish Classes
- New Yiddish Culture Books and Music
- Memorials to David Feingold & Marian Herbst

Yiddishkayt Los Angeles can be reached at 3780 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1020, Los Angeles, CA 90010. Phone 323-692-8151 or e-mail Yiddish@carsla.net. Their web site is at www.Yiddishkaytla.org

Once again, your editor must mention the wonderful new group, *Yiddishkayt LA*. It continues to expand in its many Yiddish programs and publication of an excellent newsletter. We must support for the older major organizations for their literary excellence and contributions. However, these new ones require only a dime a day—or less. Each Yiddish club or group ought to have as many members as possible to subscribe to at least one of them. Their publications, just like *Der Bay*, can be a resource of discussions and reports at meetings.

Der Bay Editor: Philip "Fishl" Kutner,
1128 Tanglewood Way, San Mateo, CA 94403

Web site: <http://www.derbay.org>

E-mail FISHL@derbay.org Ph: (650) 349-6946

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

Milwaukee Report #2

In last month's first Milwaukee Report, The Annual Executive Board meeting of the (IAYC) International Association of Yiddish Clubs was covered. Included was the rationale for selecting this great site for the IAYC VIII Conference, April 12-15, 2002.

Coordinator Paul Melrood has a great command of Yiddish. He was a leading figure in PERHIFT, acronym for the Peretz Hirschbein Folks Theatre, the Yiddish theatrical group that performed for over 70 years. Larry Orenstein will co-chair with Paul.

Milt Katz is treasurer and his son Marty will be handling registration. Marty received the Young Leadership Award. He heads the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations.

A strong media team of Sylvia Bernstein and Flo Sussman will be augmented by freelancer Andy Muchin who is a writer for the *Forward*.

Tybie and Max Taglin are experienced in handling touring, for they are owners of Access Milwaukee. The Taglins will handle "Getting around Town".

Sandy Hoffman who very ably chairs the Second and Third Generation Holocaust Survivors Annual Program will be helped by Betty Chrustowski and her sister Jeanette Peckerman. Our conference will attend their exciting Sunday afternoon program.

The Milwaukee JCC is represented on the committee with Jody Hirsh and Dorene Paley.

Dr. Herman & Chai Tuchman have a unique family background. His family was close friends of Goldie Meir. There will be a visit to the Goldie Meir Library, for Milwaukee was her hometown. Chai and Dorothy Weingrod co-chair the Program Committee.

Mae Marks Willenson, who attended the Oxford Yiddish program, is liaison to the Milwaukee Yiddish club and will be in charge of the greeters.

A special person is Irv Saposnik who was Hillel Director in Madison at the Univ. of Wisc. Also playing important roles are Herman and Esther Weingrod.

YIVO of Chicago will be directly involved. The key person here is long time friend Chaiky Greenberg. Danny Greenberg o"n, her late husband, was one of the key committee members at the very start.

Mid-West reps also include Alva Dwokin of Southfield, MI (leader of Fraylache Fraindt); Mike & Roz Baker from Minneapolis, MN; and Dr. Allan Blair of Columbus, OH. Mike is a former treasurer of IAYC and Allan is the current vice-president.

Recommended Presenters

Would you recommend a presenter/s for our program, conference or institute? *Der Bay's* web site has a listing of several hundred Yiddish presenters in various fields. This is in addition to the list of 150 Klezmer groups in the United States. The home page of the web site is the starting point, and the list is alphabetized. Their location and means of contact is also given.

In the future several additional presenters will be discussed. This month one of the stellar presenters on the circuit is featured. Ruth Barlas has starred on programs, institutes and conferences throughout the East and West Coasts. She and her husband David co-chaired the International Association of Yiddish Clubs Conference held in Miami, Florida.

Her background as a Yiddish teacher, actress and assistant theatrical director gives her the wide range of experience that one hears and sees in Ruth's talented presentations. Her workshops at all the IAYC conferences have been filled to capacity. Lectures are in English and the illustrated readings are in Yiddish along with English translations. Below is a partial list of lecture topics that have made Ruth Barlas a favorite on tour.

- Yiddish: The Soul of Our People
- The Power and Beauty of Mendele Moykher Sforim
- Sholem Aleykhem: Tevye's Daughters—Precursors of Our Time
- "So What's New in Kasrilevke?"
- Yitshok Leybush Peretz: Romantic—Realist and Rebel with a Cause
- The Magic and Glory of Yiddish Theater
- Love: Yiddish Style
- Jewish Idealism and Yiddish Poetry

When not on tour, Ruth and David divide their time between Southbury, Connecticut and Boynton Beach, Florida. They can be reached at: doivru@juno.com

New Contact in Israel Israel Bar-On

I am a 53 years-old businessman from Israel, I entered into your organization's website and found it really interesting. You are doing a great job, and as a Jewish man who is interested to know what is going on in the Yiddish aspects and Jews around the world, I found your site a great source for information.

Thanks to my father, Shmuel Bar-On, I got to love Yiddish. He is an 82 years old man who is a writer. Two of his books were translated by me from Yiddish to Hebrew and were published. Actually his latest book *Miriam* is now being printed chapter by chapter on a weekly bases in the Israeli Yiddish newspaper "naye-Zytung". If you are interested in it I will be more then happy to mail to you a copy of that magazine.

I will be most interested to be in touch with you by e-mail, and perhaps see you in person on my next business trip abroad.

Home address: Tel-Ganim 21, Yosef Zvi St. Ramat-Gan, Israel 52312

Tel: 972-3-5718244 Tel: 972-3-7316052
Mobile: 972-57-781006
Fax: 972-3-5718129

Business: Serania Ltd.
Address: Merkaz Hadash Letasia 1274/24
Tel Aviv, Israel 67131
Tel: 972-3-6871749 Tel: 972-3-6877528
Fax: 972-3-5718129
www.aquanet.co.il/vip/serania
<<http://www.aquanet.co.il/vip/serania>>
israel-b@aquanet.co.il

From Houston, Texas

Barbara Goldstein <neuron@ev1.net>

Thanks for printing in the August issue of "der bay" information about the dramatic reading performed by di yidishe literarish-gezelshaft at Holocaust Museum Houston.

For the September issue, is it possible that you could print that Archie Barkan did the English translation of the Yiddish essay "di 'simfonie' fun erev shabes" from the Wolkovisker Yizkor Book?

In my previous announcement, I neglected to mention that Archie Barkan provided the English translation.

At the dramatic reading of "di 'simfonie' fun erev shabes," "The 'Symphony' of Erev Shabes," on July 15, 2001, at Holocaust Museum Houston, members of the the Houston Yiddish Literary Society, di yidishe literarish-gezelshaft, read the essay from the Wolkovisker Yizkor Book in English and in Yiddish. The English translation was provided by Archie Barkan of Los Angeles, California.

The Houston Yiddish Literary Society expected that 30-40 people would attend the presentation. They were surprised and truly pleased when, on a very hot and humid Sunday afternoon, an audience of more than 75 people appeared.

This was the first time that the Houston Yiddish Vinkel and Holocaust Museum Houston worked together to present a Yiddish program on site at Holocaust Museum Houston. Readers and audience alike were gratified to hear the Yiddish language echo through the corridors of that esteemed and special place...Es iz gepast.

A Letter from Ted Century

I just read in *Der Bay* that I had been promoted to official contact for the state of Idaho. It is indeed with sadness that I note that this designation has fallen upon me by the recent passing of Joel Stone. I must be honest with you and confess that my knowledge of Yiddish is rudimentary, and consists of everyday Yiddish of necessity, learned during my childhood, having not literary quality. All noun gender rules have disappeared. For example, everything with a "der, die or dos", ends up as "d'", such as d' tish, d' katz, etc. It saves a lot of effort. However, living out in di andere velt fun Boise, Idaho, no one seems to notice. There may be other Yiddish speakers in Idaho with whom I am not acquainted, but my wife and my friend Ida Rozenblat are the only ones ver ken farshteyen a vort fun Yiddish.

Farewell to the King: Personal Memories of Abraham Khinkis

He was reputed to be a child prodigy. His name was Nakhman, and he was the son of Nathan Feinberg, the most respected man in our small Bessarabian village.

We lived opposite them on the narrow Jewish Street along the edge of the village with over 180 Jewish families. People of all kinds worked shoulder to shoulder to provide the daily necessities for the villagers.

When children reached adulthood, they took up their parents' occupations and became barbers, tinsmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, or hatters. These were the handicrafts inherited by the Jewish residents in the former Romanian kingdom. Alternating with workshops, were the grocery, perfumery, shoe, textile, and clothing shops. The largest was the textile shop owned by Nathan.

I remember Nathan as being good-natured and benevolent. Anyone who was in need of counsel or reconciliation of a controversy or domestic dispute, called on Nathan. He even provided financial assistance. Nathan spent much time in the affairs of the Jewish community. He prayed in the synagogue daily.

His wife, Ethel, spent most of her time at the counter of their shop. She, too, spent time on philanthropic endeavors, especially the collection of money to purchase land for the Jewish farms in Palestine. She was a welcome guest in our home. I listened to her stories about the building of a new life in the newly purchased lands. When I put my meager savings into the blue and white collection box, I imagined myself walking over there.

Nakhman and I became friends in kheyder. Our melamed said Nakhman was the best student in our junior group. At his Bar Mitzvah he gave a speech that delighted the synagogue elders and his proud parents.

In the evenings, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, people walked in pairs along the street. As he matured, Nakhmani walked with the beautiful Miriam while she listened attentively. They made no secret of their close friendship. When her father decided to go to America, he visited Nakhman's parents.

He said "Reb Nathan, it is impossible to remain in this country any longer. The Romanian kingdom was a haven for us in times of pogroms, now times have changed. We should flee. We could escape to America. You must set an example. Others will follow. Also, we won't separate our children, whose relationship we both know."

"I have to weigh the pros and cons" Nathan replied.

Miriam left for America with her parents. Nobody else in the village moved. Nathan did not set an example. This was a misfortune for him, his family, and the others.

Nakhman told me, "Dad decided not to go abroad for he did not want to set an example that would alarm the Jewish villagers. On the eve of Miriam's departure, we sat up all night and made plans for our future.

She said, "You'll come to America. We'll stand under the khupe, and people will walk around us with candles, but what if we never meet again?" Miriam's last words to Nakhman were prophetic. They never met again.

On July 28, 1940, on the banks of the Dniester, covered with vineyards and tobacco plantations, the gnashing and clanking of caterpillar treads sounded, as tanks and artillery appeared. The noise of bombers filled the sky. On the dusty Jewish Street strode Soviet soldiers. In accord

with the secret pact between Ribbentrop and Molotov, the Soviet Union took Bessarabia from Romania.

After a few days, the new Soviet chiefs began to implement their "new order." The landlords' estates were taken away and turned into collective farms. The Jewish stores and workshops were closed and destroyed. The Jewish Street waited, but they didn't have long to wait.

On the following Friday night, the KGB officers took Zionist activists into custody. Everyone, including my parents, went to bed that night with anxiety. No one knew what the future would hold in store for him, whether they would find themselves the next to be arrested.

Our neighbor, Nathan, was taken away that night. In the morning, we saw the weeping Ethel, folded in Nakhman's arms, as he tried to console her. Their shop was sealed. The KGB officers and others from the village and district drove to the shop in coaches they had taken from landlords and businessmen. They left the shop with bundles of high-quality imported textiles and clothing.

"These are for souvenirs," they said. Later we realized that on the other side of the Dniester River, where we were not allowed to go, Soviet citizens would wait in line all night for three meters of cotton cloth.

Nakhman realized that his mother was beginning to decline. In her confusion, she was sure that her husband would be home from the synagogue any minute.

Since he was the son of a deportee, Nakhman could not work as a mathematics teacher and was forced to be a laborer, building roads. My father shared his fate.

On June 22, 1941, the Germans decided to move east, and World War II reached us. In July, all adult men were called up for military service. At the recruiting station, I found myself next to Nakhman. I saw him approach the table where the military official was sitting, and show his diploma.

"Who?" echoed the young man, "That is our king— The king of Romania."

The commander reacted as if a snake had bitten him. He turned purple with rage. He tore the diploma to bits and hurled them onto the floor, dirtying the pieces of paper with the king's image and the bearer's excellent marks with his muddy boots.

"Out of here! You shouldn't be here!" he shouted.

Months later, the Soviet army retreated. The village's fascist thugs, taking advantage of the anarchy resulting from the retreat, rounded up Jews who had not had time to evacuate, and herded them to the ravine near the synagogue where Nakhman and his mother were shot.

In 1954, after Stalin's death, an emaciated Nathan Feinberg returned to his ravaged home in his native village from a Siberian concentration camp.

William Campbell <klezmer@sc.rr.com>

Thanks for running my short piece on our Klezmer group. I guess you took the info off my check but there is incorrect info on pg 6.(up from "Grass Valley, CA"). My address is: 3220 Berkeley Forest Dr., Columbia, SC 29209. Ph. 803-783-3570

My e mail addresses have gone from "prodigy.net" to "sc.rr.com." Got on Roadrunner. It's fast and reliable. I use Klezmer@sc.rr.com and oboe-eh@sc,rr,com. Also in the response above it you somehow have me in Gulford, MS. Anyway, the records are in a new home now and I thank *Der Bay* for helping me get them out of harms way.

Fishl, I asked you to please stick a piece in *Der Bay* about the TV movie "Freedom Train" to see if anyone knows of it or maybe knows where to get it....it isn't in this issue so probably it slipped. Movie is about a Jewish community during WW II who were put on a train to somewhere. They somehow got control of the train, men put on German uniforms and the Rabbi acted as the SS Komandant. The whole movie is a very comical satire on a normally very depressing theme. It was in French, Yiddish and German with subtitles in English and very well done.

I was able only to watch part of it and would like to find it. Would appreciate getting this in the next issue. Sort of gave up on Yiddish here due to lack of someone to help and my schedule keeping me from attending any of the Klezkamps...but the Synagogue has a Hebrew class which I am enrolled in and am presently learning to read the Alefbet. Know anyone out that way that does license plates with Hebrew letters? I have a German plate on my car but would like a plate with klezmer in Hebrew.

Lehrhaus Judaica Yiddish Classes
Jehon Grist Ph.D. JehonG@aol.com

Beginning to Intermediate Yiddish will be offered. Enter the world of Yiddish proverbs, songs, poetry, humor, folklore, storytelling, literature, and history. Come and introduce yourself to the cultural heritage of the Eastern Europeans and their journey to America.

Learn about the Klezmer revival and the role of Yiddish in tracing your genealogy. Your instructor is the editor of the international, Anglo-Yiddish newsletter, *Der Bay*. No background in Yiddish is required for the beginning level class. For more advanced levels, call the instructor to find the right class for you 650-349-6946. Beginning date for all levels listed below is Wed. Oct. 17.

Note: Tuition includes text. Students who fall between the levels listed below may contact the instructor to meet for tutorials at no extra charge a half hour before their class section begins. All classes meet in the instructor's home on Wednesdays.

Beginning Yiddish: 3:30-4:30 PM

Beginning Intermediate: 6:00-7:00 PM

Intermediate: 7:00-8:30 PM

"Lehrhaus Judaica (Beth Midrash or House of Learning) takes its name an inspiration from the school for adult Jewish education founded by Franz Rosenzweig in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1920. Attracting scholars such as Martin Buber, S.Y. Agnon, A.J. Heschel, Gershon Scholem Erich Fromm, Lehrhaus—until its closure by the Nazis—was the focal point of a Jewish revival between the wars."