



January 2002

Vol. 12 No. 1

Did You Know That...?

A new year, a new banner, and a new outlook on the Yiddish World-Outlook. As the number of readers with online capability increases from a third to approaching forty percent, the importance of the web site becomes even more significant. While many readers of *Der Bay* have access to e-mail and browse the Internet, over half do not, but daily more and more are coming online.

What is the significance of this increase in Internet accessibility? First is cost! Despite the wonderful contributions of most of the regular readers, the newsletter is still self-subsidized. This necessitates sending to the others only on a periodic basis. If it were only online, the cost of printing, labeling and postage would be removed.

For those who have not visited the web site, it will come as a surprise at the large amount of material that is stored under the 22 major divisions. Song titles and first lines of 250 songs are in one of the divisions. It also gives the name of the songbook and page number.

Another one of the 22 divisions is the section on definitions. The words are divided into 28 categories. One of these is verbs which has over 400 listed. There is a list of translators and a thorough set of caveats useful for both the translator and the future client.

There is a list of presenters and performers. These lists show how to contact them. They are listed in alphabetical order.

All of these lists and more are available just by going to www.derbay.org and clicking on the desired page. If you wish to make a copy, all that is needed is to hit print and a copy is there—twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week (24/7)

REMINDER: the name of *Der Bay* is an acronym for **B**ay **A**rea **Y**iddish and is pronounced as if it were in English. The date on the label on the front page is when you last helped contribute to *Der Bay*.

May the New Year bring a ray of peace and hope for a better world—here and especially in Israel. May Yiddish continue to add joy and pleasure to your life.

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 #6

By Paul Melrood MAJPAULWW2@aol.com

In last month's fifth Milwaukee Report, we covered the wonderful evening programs/entertainment to be held at the International Association of Yiddish Clubs VII Conference April 12-15, 2002. Inside this issue is the official registration form. Early registrants have the best chance to be at the Park East Hotel where lectures, entertainment, exhibits and plenary sessions will be held.

This month we shall cover some results of the Outreach Activities of The International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC). The organization has the aim of preserving and propagating Yiddish. It is doing this via four objectives. First is to assist member Yiddish clubs and also periodically sending them Yiddish materials in various formats. Following is a list of materials distributed free to the member clubs. The value of these materials is above the dues sent in by the clubs.

- The Mlotek s' Songbook—*Pearls of Yiddish Song*
- Dr Small's—*Treasury of Yiddish Cartoon Humor*
- Collection of Stories, Poems, & Skits in Transliteration
- Peretz Miransky 's —*Selected Poems & Fables*
- Ruth Levitan's—*Lakht in der velt arayn*
- Sid Weinstein's—*Moishe Nadir's Transliterated Stories*
- Itche Goldberg—*Yiddishe Kultur*

Second is to aid Yiddish journals needing assistance. Most recently it was the *Yiddishe Kultur*. Itche Goldberg is the dynamic force behind this publication and it needs all of our assistance.

Third is the IAYC Conference. The next one will be April 12-15 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (see registration form inside). This will be Conference VII, and the first in the Midwest. The theme is Yiddish and the Shoah. Milwaukee was chosen because there is a young, dynamic group of Second and Third Generation Holocaust Survivors who annually have an excellent program and they are actively involved in the planning and preparation of the conference. It is open to everyone interested in Yiddish.

Fourth is the assistance of aspiring students to further their Yiddish studies. Ten scholarships were given for the Florida International University (FIU) online Yiddish course—sponsored by the Dora Teitelboim Foundation. In addition Mitch Smolkin, of Toronto, was assisted with a summer scholarship to the YIVO-Weinreich program at Columbia University.

Yiddishkayt & Israelis

Simon, Hatikvah Music Klezcorner@aol.com

There was a discussion on a Jewish Music list about how Israel "hates" Yiddish. This was my response.

"The Yiddish Are Coming, The Yiddish Are Coming!!!"

I disagree with the opinions of some of the responses. Twelve years ago, when I took over what is now Hatikvah, Music I had many Israeli clients who regarded Yiddish as *ugly*, that is very seldom the case today. All the reasons as to why Yiddish was considered *ugly* in Israel, might have had some validity after W.W.II; however, the distance of time has changed the way many people think of Yiddish.

All the negative things said about Yiddish were also said in the U.S. in an effort to blend in and not to provoke *di antisemiten*. For decades Yiddish was considered the language of 'our grandfathers' and many were ashamed to speak it in public. Now, it's almost impossible to see a TV show or film without some Yiddish words spoken as casually as any dialog in English. Last night's tribute to Whoopy Goldberg at the Kennedy Center is an example when a Black comedian used Yiddish words twice and explained to the audience it was an *in joke*.

In Israel today, there are many schools that teach Yiddish, and not just to Ashkenazi students. In the US that is the case as well. I have met many non-Jews who have taken Yiddish at the University of Judaism. It is now considered very *hip* to be able to speak Yiddish (Even by Jews!!!)—here in Los Angeles (Hollywood).

There are many colleges that now teach Yiddish in California and there are many Yiddish Culture Clubs around the world. Checkout *Der Bay* at www.derbay.org for more on that subject.

At Hatikvah, Yiddish has always been our top selling category of music, and NOT just to Jewish clients...even during the "Klezmer" phenomenon. Interestingly, more of the Klezmer groups are recording more Yiddish vocals--such as the Klezmatics with Chava Alberstein which was a huge seller in Europe where there is such a large non-Jewish audience. The same goes for "Di Naye Kapelye". The Klezmer Conservatory Bands CDs sell especially well here because the alternate instruments with Yiddish on all their CDs—something for everybody. There is a much bigger audience for Yiddish than one might think; be it music, literature, or the language.

It's interesting that in Austria there is a group called *Gojim* (Goyim), and in Holland a group *Di Gojim*, both non-Jewish, who perform Yiddish, yet there is no group that I know of, called *The Jews* doing Christian music!

Yiddish is like an open secret somewhat like this little story;

Two little old men were on the beach in Miami.
(with a Yiddish accent)

Myron: Sam, how many Chinese do you think there are in the world?

Sam: Well, maybe 2 billion.

Myron: Two billion? (pause) Sam, how many Jews do you think there are in the world?

Sam: I don't know, maybe 18 or 20 million.

Myron: So, 2 billion Chinese, and 18 million Jews???......

Sam, look up the beach, now, look down the beach. How many Chinese do you see?

So, if you're looking for Yiddishkayt—look up the beach, look down the beach.....

A briv fun Hindele

hirubin@starpower.net

Vegn kokhn un mayn mamens tish—mayn mame iz geven a zeltener kekhn. Ire gefilte fish hot men gekent dershmeckn az men iz nor arayngekumen tsu undz in hoyf—in di Sholem Aleichem Hayzer. Ikh hob oykh oysgelernt vi azoy me kokht zis-zoyer esnvarg fun ire maykholim. Tsum hayntikn tog, makh ikh a floymen tsimis—az se get a rayekh! Ven mir flegn makhn a "dinner party" in mayne organizatsiyes in di goyishe "school system", flegt men lekn di finger fun mayn mames zis-zoyer patraves. Mayn meydele in Saratoga, Kelifornye hot zeyer lib mayne latkes, patlezha, di frier dermonte geviklte kroyt, knaydlekh, gehakte leber—un mer un mer. Ven ikh bin bay zey, bin ikh zeyer farton in kikh. Un mayn zunele shrayt nor az zey gevinen vog ven ikh kum tsugast.

An ander teme—kh'hob geredt mit Khayelen nekhtn banakht. Zi iz aza tayerer mentsh. Ikh volt gevolt zayn mit ir un redn un lernen. Zi hot aza groyser kentshaft in Yidishn teater un literatur. Me darf zitsn mit ir mit a "tape recorder", un poshet lozn az zi zol redn vegn ir lebn, ir mishpokhe un ir kunst.

Mir hobn gehat Yale Strom nekhtn banakht baym JCC mit zayn film, *Der Letster Klezmer*, dernokh hot er geredt a bisl un dernokh a bisl tsheshpilt zikh mit a grupe hige klezmorim. Dernokh zaynen mir ale arayngegangen tsum "Book Fair" un me hot gekent redn mit im. Er iz a fayner yunger man un mir veln zikh nokh adurkhredn vegn programen far undzer Cafe Kasrilevke. Er iz a posheter mentsh-- "a real human being"-- in andere verter—a mentsh!

Ikh vel efsher forn kayn Baltimore zen Sylvia Schildt's *A Khasene in Shtetl*. Lee Goldberg un zayn meydele velkhe iz "quadra-lingual" veln makhn di rayze tsuzamen.

In ovnt geyen mir leynen *Shmates* fun H. Leivick. Kenst zen az mir zaynen arayngeton in a raykhn, literarisher Yidisher lebn do in Meriland.

A Note from Bess Shockett in Toronto

Have followed things in your newsletter and things seem to be jumping re Yiddish all over the world. We in Toronto are winding down somewhat. We have finished with Holocaust Education Week, Jewish Book Fair that takes place at the same time as HEW, and now Khanuke as well as our usual activities. My plans are to go to the IAYC conference in the spring, possibly make a trip down to see my kids, I shall definately be down to see my children in July, it will be Josh's Bar Mitzva,

Yosl Kurland of the Wholesale Klezmer Band

Franz Kafka wrote that the Messiah will come when he is no longer needed. Yosl Kurland has composed a rousing Yiddish song turning that idea into a joyous invitation to take part in making the world a better place. It is in our new album, *Zingen far sholem, tantsn far freyd* (Sing for Peace, Dance for Joy). You can see the cover art, contents list and a link to download the entire text of the CD booklet including Yiddish lyrics, translations and transliterations at:

<http://www.WholesaleKlezmer.com/calendar.html>

Information on the European Scene.
Jack Wiegman <jack_wiegman@yahoo.com>

A) The Yiddish Foundation in Amsterdam had its annual study conference on November 18 in the Uilenburger Synagoge in Amsterdam. The speaker was **Chava Turniansky**, Professor of Yiddish at the University of Jerusalem. She lectured on *'The Bookcase of a Jewish Woman in the Early-Modern Period (16th till 18th Century)*. The lecture was accompanied by music from the Tuncuj Ensemble, directed by **Nico Brandon**.

B) A Jewish Music Festival was held at the Christofori Music Center in Amsterdam Nov. 29-Dec.1. A Jewish festival was also held in München, Germany Nov. 17-25. Two sessions in particular were interesting: *Jews and Yiddish in Argentina* by **Ane Klene**, Yiddishist. Klezmer in Buenos Aires: **Cesar Lerner**; piano and accordion and **Marcelo Moguelevsky**, clarinet and flute

C) I draw your attention to the Vilnius Yiddish Institute which was formally launched at the end of August 2001. For the first time since the Second World War, a university institute dedicated to the Yiddish language and culture has opened its doors in Eastern Europe. It is in the heart of the area that was the native territory of the thriving pre-war Yiddish civilization in the city known in Yiddish as ' Vilne' and also called ' Yerusholayim d' Lite'. The activities of the Institute include: the annual one-month Vilnius Summer Program in Yiddish language and Culture; retrieving of unknown genuine Yiddish folk music; and credit courses in Yiddish and East European Studies throughout the academic year. In the future the Institute also intends to publish and republish works of Yiddish literature and scholarship, in addition to an annual anthology of new work created in Yiddish. Thanks to gifts from **YIVO** in New York, the **National Yiddish Book Center** in Amherst, Mass. and the **Yung Yiddish Center** in Jerusalem, the Institute has a growing working library. The Institute soon will begin the task of producing a catalogue of substantial Yiddish holdings of Vilnius University. It will make these treasures accessible to Yiddish scholars and students from around the world. The 2002 summer program will be held from the first to the 29th of August, 2002. Courses will be offered for credit, and participants may enroll in one of the four levels (Yiddish I, II, III & IV).

Founding staff of the Institute:

Director: Mr. **Mendy Cahan**

Executive Director: **Dr. Sharunas Liekis**

Director of Research: **Professor Dovid Katz**

Academic Consultant: **Professor Alfredas Bumblauskas**

Restoration Consultant: **Ms. Maya Ptashke**

Accredited faculty:

Professor Dovid Katz (Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture)

Dr. Maria Krupoves (Yiddish Folklore)

Professor Israel Lempert (Lithuanian Jewish History)

Dr. Larisa Lempert (Rabbinic Culture and Hebrew Language and Literature)

Professor Meir Shub (East European Jewish History)

Professor Liudas Truska (Holocaust Studies)

Contact: Vilnius Yiddish Institute
Vilnius University, History Faculty,
Universiteto 7
Vilnius 2734, Lithuania
Tel/ fax: + 3702 612114 + 3702 687293
email: institute@yiddishvilnius.com
web site: www. Yiddishvilnius.com

D) The Medem Library in Paris announced the following program of monthly seminars in Yiddish

16 December: **Yitschok Niborski**, David Pinski, Disciple and Heir of Y. T. Perets
13 January: **Gilles Rozier**, Der Ashmedy of Sh. An-Ski
10 February: **Michael Krutikov**, Traces of Y.L. Perets in Yiddish-Soviet Literature
10 March: **Natalia Krynicka**, Introduction into the Life and Work of Yehoyesh
7 April: **Chaele Beer**, Memory book of Zamosc, Birthplace of Y.L. Perets
5 May: **Simon Neuberger**, *The Seven Good Years*, Traditional Theme in Yiddish Literature
7 June: **Seth Wolitz**, *The Horn of the Ram* by Isaac Bashevis Singer

The Medem Library publishes a bi-monthly publication, Der Yiddisher Tamtam. Subscription rate is 22.87 Euro for countries outside of the European Union. I guess this is US \$20 a year. I don't know if this includes mailing. For information on the seminars and the publication please refer to the web site: www.yiddishweb.com.

From New Orleans
By Fannie Yokor

Yes, there is a bitter war going on. Our president called upon the CIA to undertake "lethal action" against Osama bin Laden. And then there's anthrax... Sept. 11 has left us grief-stricken and mourning the loss of over 5,000 innocent victims of a deadly attack on our shores.

How can we be merry? After the solemn holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur came the holiday of Simkhes Torah when we are bidden to be merry and joyous... Jewish history, even during the past decade, is replete with instances in which Jews had to celebrate during troubled times. There is a basic concept that it is incumbent upon Jews to embrace life. Even mourners, according to Jewish religious law, are required to take part in the celebration of holy days. With these thoughts in mind, perhaps it is not too inappropriate to tell you what our Yiddish group plans for Khanike.

We plan to put on a play in Yiddish—here'll be an English supplement). It is not a play in the usual sense of the word. The presentation consists of short, humorous dialogues, a game of questions and answers, a novel English-Yiddish Conversation peppered with popular Yiddish sayings that you'll readily recognize and enjoy. And there are songs. Where do we get this material? Broadway? No, it's homegrown. It's a reflection of what we do weekly when we meet. We're not polished actors, yet, but we try. An added treat is a scrumptious lunch that follows our performance prepared by chef Terri. It all takes place Sunday, Dec. 16 at 11:30 A.M. at the uptown JCC. Come and enjoy.

A Follow-up on Last Month's List of Tennis Terms by Sherry Farber

We received the December issue, and opened it to Troim Handler's list of tennis terms in Yiddish. I commend her for spending the time and effort to put it together, I differ with her on a number of items, and am sending suggestions for replacement.

<u>English</u>	<u>Handler</u>	<u>My Choice</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Backhand	hinterhant	tsurikhant	Hinte means behind more than back.
Forehand	foroyshant	forhant	
Deuce	glaykh	dus	While deuce means the two players are even, it also means that 2 consecutive points are needed to win. Deuce is from French and should be acceptable in Yiddish.
Let's rally	lomir praktitsirn	lomir zamlen Di koykhes	A rally is not practice or exercise; it is to gather one's strength to fight back.
Make points	makhn kritsn	makhn punkt	Kritsn is to score in the sense of engraving, and Troim uses punkt in the singular; why not also in the plural?
Our (your) Advantage	undzer (dayn) forhant	undzer (dayn) plus	While forhant is an acceptable translation for advantage, so is plus, and plus cannot be confused with forehand.
Volley	(an 8 word definition)	voli	A definition is not a translation, and I would just as soon Yiddishize the English word

Some of it I find very good—like khisom for fault. I would rather use pilke for ball rather than balem, but I have no real objection to the latter.