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## The Minneapolis Yiddish Vinkl

Rosalyn Baker, Coordinator

The Minneapolis Yiddish Vinkl that meets at the Sabes Jewish Community Center is celebrating its 10th successful year! Actually, every one of the ten years has been a winner! We have had programs that have been stimulating, educational, and fun!

Ours is a cooperative group. We have a core of members who are willing to be "forzitzers", each for a single meeting, so that each month one member is responsible for planning a program. And, of course, we have many members who say, "I don't want to be a forzitzer, but I'll be glad to take part" ... and they do!

We have a loose formula at each program—a classic Yiddish story is read. We have an ice-breaker (giving the maximum number of participants an opportunity to speak at least a few words of Yiddish). In addition we have singing. Each meeting has a theme. The forzitzer alerts five or six people in advance to be prepared to speak for about five minutes on the theme. This stimulates others in the audience to speak, adding their own experiences or information.

Some examples of themes we have used, are:

- The Jewish Labor Movement
- Famous People I Have Known
- My First Job
- Jewish Values and Ideals

We also have had hilarious original musicals, and very abridged versions of Shakespeare dramas—ibergetaytshed and gebesert!

We feel that everyone learns something at each meeting, and we laugh (and sometimes we cry!), but we always kvel from our mame-loshn experience.

We make good use of the materials we receive from (IAYC) the International Association of Yiddish Clubs. We would urge every group to join. It is a small investment, and the benefits are great! You become part of a growing group, and receive Yiddish materials that are selected to be of great value in programming. They also have wonderful conferences full of learning, entertainment and the opportunity to share with people who also love Yiddish.

**Michael and I can be reached at: 612-377-5456. If you have a question, or would like to share—call us.**

## 8<sup>th</sup> IAYC Conference in Baltimore: #1

This is the first in a series of columns leading up to the next International Association of Yiddish Clubs Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. They will cover all aspects of what will prove to be the biggest and best of an exciting series of events moving around the United States and Canada. It is hoped that Montreal, Tel Aviv, Houston, Cleveland, New York, Boston and San Francisco will be sites for future conventions.

With the formation of Yiddish of Greater Baltimore the groundwork was laid for Baltimore becoming a significant player on the Yiddish scene. It is 50 miles closer to large centers in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, making them even more accessible.

The IAYC has grown from the idea of a few dreamers to a major player on the Yiddish scene. It is the only group that is constantly moving and spreading the seeds of Yiddish just as the Olympics have done for sports. One wonderful example has been the last conference in Milwaukee. With the inspiration of Paul Melrood and the leadership of Alvin Holzman Milwaukee again has a thriving and growing Yiddish club.

Just as in the past several conferences a single person steps forward and says, "I can lead the way for a conference in my city." This was the case for the upcoming Baltimore conference when Sylvia Schildt rose to the occasion and impressed the IAYC conference search committee. Her knowledge, background and choice of theme all proved to be a winning combination. As an inspired and inspiring Yiddish teacher, she chose the theme: Yidishe lerers: Heldn amol un haynt (Yiddish Teachers: Heroes of the Past and Today). Future columns in Der Bay will be entitled.

- Theme and Keynote Speakers
- Entertainment and Screenings
- Workshops and Presenters
- Hotel and Its Environs: the Food—esp. Shabes Dinner
- World Class Baltimore Attractions—Inner Harbor, etc.
- Organized Tour of Jewish Baltimore
- Program Schedule
- Planning Committee, Overview and Last Call

Registration information also will be on the website. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, you can reach Sylvia at: [creativa@charm.net](mailto:creativa@charm.net)

# The Toronto Ashkenaz Festival

By Paul Melrood MAJPAULWW2@aol.com

The Yiddish report on the festival showed up in the Yiddish Forward. Here's how the three-line headline read:

New member of IAYC Board –  
was Artistic Director of –  
Toronto's Ashkenaz Festival.

The body of the article said: Mitch Smolkin, the 23 year old newly appointed member of the IAYC National Board, achieved outstanding success and praise, as a performer, as well as the artistic director of the recently held, Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto, Ontario. The event took place over the Labor Day weekend in the city's Harbourfront Centre. The happening was a stellar victory for Yiddish culture in today's day and age. The festival attracted approximately 35,000 Jews and non-Jews to the fantastic venue on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Participants enjoyed two solid days of tight programming, filled with musical and dramatic presentations by local and nationally known artists. The unusual festival included:

World Food Tent  
Jewish (Yiddish) films, seldom seen  
Sparkling Late-night Cabaret, and  
Pageant-like Parade of Giant Jewish Characters  
(They were on stilts, accompanied by a  
marching band.

The endless list of world-class talent was immersed in "Yiddishkayt", and made those of us who boast of our heritage, proud of whom we are. Highlights in the program were:

The Cracow Klezmer Band" from Poland,  
The Finjan Klezmer Group" from Winnipeg,  
The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band" from Toronto,  
The Klezmer en Buenos Aires from Argentina  
The "Klezperanto" klezmerim from Boston.

Also appearing was the internationally recognized, New York based, guru of Yiddish art and music, Zalmen Mlotek, who presented: "100 years of Yiddish Theatre", Chicago's famous klezmer clarinetist, Kurt Byorling, brought his talent to several portions of the program. Canadian born, widely traveled, velvet-contralto, Theresa Tova, added a warm, jazzy-spicy song presentation in her native Yiddish, as well as in English. She was a great success at our IAYC Conference that we held in Toronto. Other stars that shone were: "

Dos Naye Lid, a six piece female orchestra  
Khevrissa Klezmer Ensemble", specially featuring  
European Jewish wedding music  
Frank London's All Stars Brass Band, from  
Toronto and New York  
Toronto Yiddish Choir, directed by Zalmen Mlotek,  
David Buchbinder Ensemble, Toronto-based  
Danceworks, choreographed by the gifted team of

Allen and Karen Kaeja. Marlene and I found this group very sensitive and inspiring.

Toronto, with its 250,000 Jewish inhabitants, is indeed fortunate in possessing such talented artists, and dedicated, community sponsors and organizers, capable of mounting such a grandiose festival. If other sections of our Jewish world aren't able to accomplish such a fete, they should, at least, make an effort to attend and support such an ambitious undertaking. That's what several couples from Milwaukee did....

## Two Yiddish Videos

Bonnie Burt MARBON@aol.com

I recently produced two movies that feature Yiddish. One is about the Jewish chicken ranchers of Petaluma and the other is about the singing Jewish cowboy, Scott Gerber. The following is information about the videos that premiered at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.

"A Home On The Range: The Jewish Chicken Ranchers of Petaluma", 52 minutes, by Bonnie Burt and Judith Montell, tells the little-known story of Jews who fled the pogroms and hardships of Eastern Europe and traveled to California to become chicken ranchers. Even in the sweatshops of New York they heard about Petaluma where the Jews were not the shopkeepers and the professionals, they were the farmers.

Meet this idealistic, intrepid group of Eastern European Jews and their descendants as they confront obstacles of language and culture on their journey towards becoming Americans.

Jack London, California vigilantes, McCarthyism, the Cold War and agribusiness all come to life in this quintessentially American story of how a group of immigrants found their new home, a home on the range.

"Song of a Jewish Cowboy" by Bonnie Burt  
18 minutes, English/Yiddish w/English subtitles, 2002  
Not many cowpokes roam the West singing social justice songs - fewer still do it in Yiddish! And he's looking to meet a nice Jewish girl...

Scott Gerber, an unlikely mix of Yiddish and cowboy cultures, learned Yiddish and progressive songs from his mother and grandmother. A descendant of the left wing Petaluma chicken ranchers, Scott carries on the Yiddish and ranching traditions and proudly works in agriculture. He rides the range and sings cowboy and Yiddish songs.

Call us at: 510-548-1745 or [www.Bonnieburt.com](http://www.Bonnieburt.com)  
[www.Jewishchickenranchers.com](http://www.Jewishchickenranchers.com)

## Future Yiddish Theater Series

Inspired by the excellent start of Joel Berkowitz and Leonard Praeger's Yiddish Theater sub-list on The Mendele Review, we shall be including a series from Israel Kugler's lectures on the Yiddish Theater.

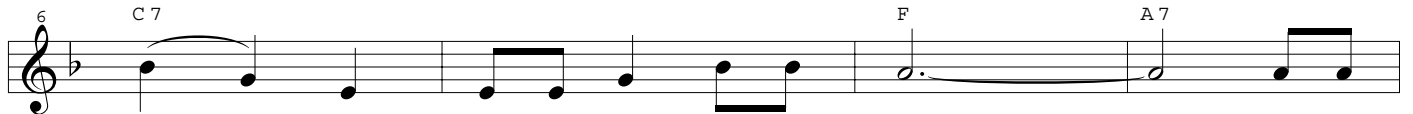
Israel Kugler is Professor Emeritus at CUNY in Social Science. His activities include the presidency of Der Arbeter Ring, fostering the Folksbiene and an avid supporter of *Der Bay*. Professor Kugler resides in Long Island City, NY and can be reached at: 718-274-1163

# Di balade funem 11tn september

Text and music by  
Beyle Schaechter-Gott



1. Toy-zn-ter tsu der ar - bet ge - gan-gen,  
 2. Ge - sheniz es dem e - leftn sep - tem - ber Dos  
 4. Ge - sheniz es dem e - leftn sep - tem - ber a  
 5. Di sh'li khim fu-nem ro - she Bin La - din af a  
 7. Ge - sheniz es dem e - leftn sep - tem - ber ven  
 8. Nyu - york, di velt - me - tro - pol - ye,



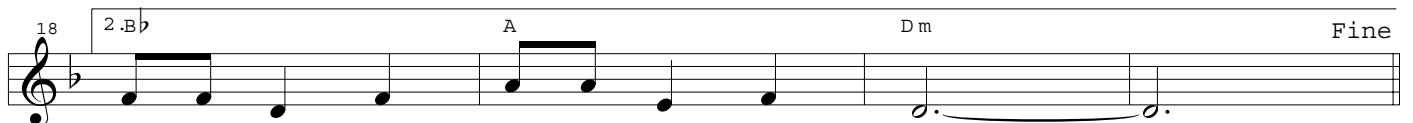
vi ze - yer shteyger iz ge - ven,  
 yor tsvey toy - znt un eyns bam  
 tog vi a - le teg, zikh ge - dakht, ven  
 tayv - li - sher mi - sye ba - shtelt tsutse -  
 s'he - li - she fa - yer zikh tse - brent  
 ver - de ir no - men ba - sheynt, haltge -



toy-zn-ter shoy n mer nishtkrik - ge - ku - men,  
 on - heyb fun a na - yem yor - hun - dert, an  
 tsvey te - ro - ris - tn - e - ro - pla - nen  
 shte - rn di ye - soy - des fu - nem may - rev  
 toy-zn-ter far - shlungen in di fla - men un se  
 boy - gn dem kop in tro - yer, s'um -



ven dos groy - se um - glik iz ge - shen.  
 on - heyb blu - ti - ker vi vens. bam  
 in di han - dl - tu - remsarayn - ge - krakht. ven  
 di oyf - tu - en fun der fra - yer velt. tsutse -  
 tli - et nokh un tli - et on an end.  
 shul - di - ke blut zi ba - veynt. haltge -



ven dos groy - se um - glik iz ge - shen.  
 on - heyb blu - ti - ker vi vens.  
 in di han - dl - tu - remsarayn - ge - krakht.  
 di oyf - tu - en fun der fra - yer velt.  
 tli - et nokh un tli - et on an end.  
 shul - di - ke blut zi ba - veynt.

Di balade funem 11tn september -

22  $B\flat$   $Gm$   $Dm$   $F$   $A7$

3. O, di da-te vet blay-bn af ey-bik far-kritstin zi - ko-rn fun der  
 6. Ven di tu-rems ze - nenge - fa - ln tsum of-shoyder fundergan-tser

28  $Dm$   $Dm$   $Gm$

velt. \_\_\_\_\_ Blutroytfar- karb - te di shte- rn, \_\_\_\_\_ vendi  
 velt \_\_\_\_\_ hot a pa-khed a - rum-ge-nu-men a - ln \_\_\_\_\_ vi af

34  $1.B\flat$   $C7$   $Asus4$   $A7$

zun hot ir po - nem far - shtelt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ey - bik volt nakhtdem tog far - shtelt. \_\_\_\_\_ hot a

38  $2.B\flat$   $A7$   $Dm$  Da Capo

zun hot ir po - nem far - shtelt.  
 ey - bik volt nakht dem tog far - shtelt.