

March 2003 Vol. 13 No. 3

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

Yiddish Teachers: Heroes Then & Now

# Report #5 Welcome To Kheyn-Shtot, Charm City

A great conference awaits you. Just as important as the program is location, location, location. The Hilton Pikesville Inn is located in the heymish Jewish heart of Baltimore. It's only twenty minutes from our fabled Inner Harbor. It has become a tourist Mecca since the city planners turned old warehouses into a dream vacation center by the water. There's the:

- National Aquarium
- Science Center
- Camden Yards
- Harborplace Shopping Center
- Vista of Small Boats
- Food Courts
- Cafes and Restaurants, and much more.

This charming hotel offers:

- Oversize Rooms, Non-smoking and Handicap-Accessible Rooms
- In-Room Movies and Cable TV
- Hairdryers
- Dual Line Telephones with Data Ports and Voice Mail
- Hair Salon, Jewelry Shop, even a Bank
- Indoor Tennis Courts
- Nautilus Fitness Center
- Outdoor Pool
- Saunas and Massage
- Dining Room with Mediterranean Cuisine
- Sports Bar for Light Snacks
- Nearby Restaurants Include Kosher Chinese and Pizza.

The hotel is conveniently located only twenty minutes from BWI airport or the AMTRAK station. For those who will be driving up it's also a breeze. Connect from I-95 to the Beltway, get off exit 20 and slide right in; the hotel is right at the off-ramp.

Following the Conference there will be a wonderful tour of Jewish Baltimore. Remember that Our Milwaukee Tour was a not-to-be forgotten highlight. Now you'll see:

- Park Heights Avenue—a boulevard of shuls, shtibelekh and yeshivas,
- Chanukah House
- Baltimore Hebrew University
- Old-time Jewish Baltimore Along the Harbor
- Jewish Historical Museum
- Corned Beef Row
- Lloyd Street Synagogue
- Di rusushe shul, the oldest continuously functioning Orthodox shul in Maryland.

Four fabulous days, September 4, 5, 6 and 7. Thursday to-Sunday! There is so much to see and so much do in Kheyn Shtot. Register now and avoid the disappointment. Registration form is inside or download one at the website: www.derbay.org

For any additional questions that you may have contact the Yiddish teacher and Conference Coordinator, Sylvia Schildt, by e-mail at: creativa@charm.net or by phone at: 410-298-4765

## Cantor Beth Cohen Writes from Albuquerque, New Mexico

I recently found your website. It is excellent —lots of great info. I direct a thirty-piece intergenerational community klezmer band. I send them information on interesting Klezmer/Yiddish/ Jewish sites. I also play and sing in a professional klezmer and Judaic band. Please add us to your klezmer list. We are: The Nahalat Shalom Community Klezband. The e-mail address is: cohenedmunds@netzero.net and the web site: is: www.nahalatshalom.org The Rebbe's Orkestra can be reached at: cohenedmunds@netzero.net Both of these bands are in their seventh year here in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

I'm coordinating a great event February 28th through March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003. We have entitled it **Klezmerque 2003**. It's a weekend of world-class klezmer music and dance: classes, concerts and dance parties. We hope that this will become an annual event.

### KLEZMERQUERQUE 2003 February 28th, March 1st and 2nd, 2003

A southwestern celebration of Klezmer music and dance into the 21st century.

Learn the traditional music and dances of the Jewish people of Eastern Europe.

Presented by Congregation Nahalat Shalom (Inheritance of Peace congregation)

Dance parties, workshops, master classes with Klezmer music and dance specialists:

**Josh Horowitz:** "Dr. Klez" of Budowitz klezmer ensemble: nineteenth century accordion, tsimbl (hammered dulcimer). He is a klezmer-historian and scholar

Cookie Segelstein: Klezmer fiddler of The Klezical Tradition as featured on the ABC documentary "A Sacred Noise", principal violist in Orchestra New England, Masters degree in viola from the Yale School of Music

**Stuart Brotman:** Double-Bassist of Brave Old World and Khevrisa as featured on the PBS Great performances special "Itzhak Perlman/In the Fiddler's House" and past member of Grammy award nominated The Klezmorim

**Erik Bendix:** Known throughout Europe and the United States as a Klezmer dance master, educator, researcher and choreographer. We welcome Erik back to his fourth Klezmer dance workshop at Nahalat Shalom.

#### **Schedule Of Events:**

**Fri., Feb. 28, 6:30pm-10pm** Freylekhe Shabbes: **6:30-7:00** - Dancing kabbalat Shabbat with Erik Bendix, Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb and cantorial soloist Beth Cohen

7:00-7:30 - Klezmer concert by our featured musicians Josh, Cookie and Stuart 7:30-10:00 - Dance party to live music by Josh, Cookie and Stuart and The Nahalat Shalom Community Klezband with a short dance presentation by Nahalat Shalom's dance company: Rikud.

Walk-through dance instruction by Erik Bendix: Hora, onga, khosidl, frelekhes, bulgar, kolomeike, Terkishe, shiffers tanz and sirba.

### Saturday, March 1st Classes:

**8:30am-10:30am** - Klezmer dance with Erik Bendix: review and refining of Friday's dances and variations. Also: the Russian Sher, couple's bulgar, Polka Koketka, Alexandrovska, and a Romanian Passover dance Das Tsigele.

**10:30am-12:30pm** -Klezmer music with Josh, Cookie and Stuart. Meet in sectionals first and come together later: strings, rhythm, woodwinds and brass. All levels welcome.

**1:30-3:30** - Dance class with Erik OR music class with Josh, Cookie and Stuart.

**Saturday, March 1st, 7:30pm** 'til whenever we poop out - Dance party and performances: Featuring dance music by New Mexico's favorite simcha band: The Rebbe's Orkestra Dancing and music with: Erik Bendix, Josh Horowitz, Cookie Segelstein & Stuart Brotman

Sun. March 2, 1:30-3:00pm - Advanced classes: Dance with Erik Bendix Fidl Kapelye with Cookie Segelstein Accordions/Keyboard with Josh Horowitz Rhythm and Bass lines with Stuart Brotman Reeds and lead brass with Stewart Mennin

Pre-registration and info: Congregation Nahalat Shalom "Klezmerquerque", 3606 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM USA 87196-0723, www.nahalatshalom.org 505-343-8227,

#### Other questions:

klezmerquerque coordinator, Beth Cohen cohenedmunds@netzero.net 505-243-6276,

## Joys of Yiddish in Bergen County, NJ

The Senior Citizens Center in Teaneck will offer Spring courses in Yiddish - (1) for beginners and those who have an elementary knowledge of the Yiddish language; and (2) a continuation class.

Class (1), with Yiddish teacher Feygl Infeld Glaser, will be on Tuesdays, at The Richard Rodda Community Center, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck, starting on March 4th. The aim of this course is to familiarize students with vocabulary, pronunciation, comprehension, and reading and writing skills.

Yiddish students (2) are urged to participate in discussions on current and past events and learn of great Jewish personalities, the works of Yiddish poets and writers and by expanding their knowledge of Jewish historical events, holidays and songs. For more info call 201-837-0171. For private lessons, call: 201-385-8315, or e-mail: Yiddish1@Juno.com.

## An Evening of Irish & Yiddish Poetry Jennifer Kronovet

I am a Yiddish speaker who works at the Poetry Society of America. The first event of our new translation series will present Yiddish & Irish poetry in the original and in translation. I hope that you might list the event on your site. I can be reached at: 212-254-9628 or e-mail: Jennifer@poetrysociety.org

The program will be on Thursday, March 6th at 7:30 P.M. Readings and translations are by Michael Davitt, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Irena Klepfisz, Paul Muldoon, C. K. Williams, & Leonard Wolf. It is cosponsored by the: NY Institute for the Humanities, The Irish Consulate, Columbia University Yiddish Studies Program and NY Council for the Humanities.

## KlezCalifornia Julie Egger < jegger@marin.k12.ca.us>

KlezCalifornia celebrating Yiddish culture & klezmer music is an immersion in klezmer music, Yiddish language, and folk arts—in association with the Jewish Music Festival at the Jewish Community H.S. of the Bay at 1835 Ellis St. San Francisco—Sun.–Fri. June 22-27, 9 am -6 pm & evening events

The program includes classes in Klezmer music, (all levels), chorus, Yiddish language, dance, visual arts such as paper cutting & Jewish culture. A full children's program and special evening events & concerts will be held.

Teachers are members of klezmer groups such as Brave Old World, The Klezmatics, Klezmer Conservatory band and Mikva.

Registration/info: info@klezcalifornia.org www.klezCalifornia.org or 415-789-7679. Cost i\$160: children to \$390: adults. \$50 discount for adults registering before April 1st.

## YIVO Summer Program: June 23-Aug. 1

The Uriel Weinreich program is an intensive course (9am-12:30pm, M-F). Students are attend conversation classes and choose from among several workshops and lecture series (1:30-6pm, M-Th.). There are excursions & socials.

#### ELEMENTARY YIDDISH

An introduction to modern Standard Yiddish with attention to speaking, reading and writing. A study of the grammar in chapters 1-20 of College Yiddish.

### • INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH I

Prerequisite: chapters 1-20 of College Yiddish. Continuation of grammar, readings in Yiddish texts, emphasis on composition, conversation and idiomatic expression. Conducted in Yiddish.

#### • INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II

Continuation of grammar, readings in Yiddish texts of the life and culture of East European & American Jewry. Introductory survey of modern Yiddish literature, emphasis on conversation composition, and idiomatic expression. Conducted in Yiddish.

## ADVANCED YIDDISH

A study grammatical of issues. A comprehensive survey of modern Yiddish literature covering major works of fiction and poetry. Emphasis on composition, conversation and idiomatic expression. Conducted in Yiddish.

#### CONVERSATION

Students participate twice weekly in conversation classes to experience the living culture and polish verbal skills through exercises and discussions.

### WORKSHOPS

Students choose from several workshops including translation, drama, folksong and traditional dance. The Yiddish teacher-training workshop is for those who wish to improve their Yiddish language-teaching skills.

#### • LECTURE SERIES

A lecture series, conducted in English and Yiddish. Speakers include researchers, poets, artists and journalists.

### • REFRESHER COURSE

Tues.-Fri., June 10-20

### • READING SKILLS WORKSHOP

Sunday, June 22

Required of students who have no prior reading or writing knowledge of the Yiddish alphabet.

#### HOUSING

Students may live in Yidish-Hoyz, a dormitorystyle with single rooms on the Columbia campus.

- Partial tuition assistance is available from YIVO. Applications must be in by March 21, 2003, and you will be notified by April 25, 2003.
- For more details contact: Yankl Salant YIVO, 15 West 16th Street

New York, NY 10011-6301,

Phone: (212) 294-6138, E-mail: ysalant@yivo.cjh.org

## Judaic Language Center for Children Proposal for: Judaic Language Center for Children (JLCC)

Larry and I are practically Yankees. Our parents and grandparents spoke to us in English. The only Yiddish our children heard was from the car radio. Unfortunately, all we remember from the WEVD lessons is the phrase, "Ikh bin farblondzhet."

In spite of this dearth of Yiddish our daughter wanted to learn the language. The head of her day school gave a resounding negative response to this request. Nina never learned Yiddish.

Fast forward to our granddaughter, a second grader in a day school. The same request was made for Yiddish—could it at least be as a club option (along with karate, gymnastics, art etc.). We were told that there were no teachers available. Ari did not learn Yiddish.

Driving and sustaining us in this quest for Yiddish was the 1979 experience in the then Soviet Union. We met with Refusniks who valiantly tried to communicate with us in English. They also introduced us to their 90+ year-old grandmother. Russian was not an option for us, and English was not an option for her. We tried Yiddish (sparse though it was) and Maya and Yuri were astounded that we had bridged the language gap with Grandma!

All these years later we finally decided to help "bridge the gap" by offering grants to teach young children the mother tongue(s) of their forebears. Elementary school children learn languages quickly. They can be imbued with the joys of Yiddishkayt and with the love of language, literature, stories, music and the history of the Jewish people.

**Yiddish** in America needs to be encouraged. So does **Ladino**, the language of Sephardic Jewry. Thus, we offer similar grants to those schools/institutions that want to teach Ladino.

We know the great constraints on everyone's time, energy and commitments. It is an uphill endeavor, but let's start this JOURNEY TO THE PAST AND TO THE FUTURE.

Thank you and let us hear from you. Please mail your responses to the following address. It is our attempt to help you foster Yiddish.

Larry & Dr. J. Florence Bickell 654 East 17th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11230 Ph. 718-859-2061; Bikelljlcc@aol.com PURPOSE: To teach languages of the Jewish Diaspora. (grants are available)

RATIONALE: Yiddish, the language of the Ashkenazim, and Ladino, the language of the Sephardim, served as forces of continuity, bonding and creativity among European Jews who were dispersed, expelled, threatened with conversion, massacred, or merely migrated seeking economic, political and religious freedom.

Today, outside of the Hasidic communities, there are fewer and fewer Jews who are able to speak or understand Yiddish and still fewer who can speak or understand Ladino. It is time that we reverse these sad facts and revive these languages to the status of living and relevant.

Some efforts have been made on the high school and on the college level(s) to teach Yiddish. Perhaps even some Ladino courses are available for adults.

If these important languages are to survive meaningfully as more than archaic, scholarly pursuits. They must be taught to the young and in age appropriate ways that will make them functional in these languages. A young cadre must be built who will learn to speak, read and write in Yiddish and/or Ladino. These students will be the core users of the Jewish books that arc so diligently being collected and preserved. They can then pass this flowering of our past to future generations and reclaim an important part of our history and identities.

Thus. the Judaic Language Center for Children proposes an alliance with Day Schools (where Hebrew is already taught) to develop programs in Yiddish and/or Ladino in the elementary grades when languages are learned quickly.

University and volunteer affiliations will help provide teachers and curriculum guidance where needed. Jewish historical, religious, cultural and arts organizations and individuals will be resources and. hopefully participants in this Program.

PILOT PROGRAM: A pilot program will offer grants to day schools and Jewish Centers to develop age-appropriate programs for their students. Send in proposals for after-school or in-school time sessions. Commitment should be for at least two years.

Seed money of \$3,000-\$5,000 for each of the first 2 years and then matching grants for the next 3 years is available. SEE ATTACHED APPLICATION.

## Our Delaware TYN Contact Ruth Goodman ruthfg@aol.com

I am teaching: Yiddish for Beginners at the Univ. of Delaware's Division of Professional and Continuing Education. This semester there seems to be a greater interest in learning Yiddish. The text I use is Goldin's *Der Yiddishe Lerer*.

Last semester, I taught the Hebrew Aleph Bet using a text/workbook I wrote at the request of my students. It is the only book I know of that allows an individual to learn the aleph bet on his/her own. It is entitled: *Easy Steps to the Hebrew Aleph Bet (Teach Yourself Hebrew)*. It has its own flashcards and sells for \$15.95; ISBN 0-9700238-0-4. Along with being used in this country, it is being used in Poland where a generation of children who were raised Catholic found out that they were the children of Jews who were murdered in concentration camps.

I am the author of a children's book that won the 1996 best, juvenile, fiction award. I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the Yiddish conference in Baltimore in September since it coincides with the National Press Conference of which I am a member and serve on the planning committee. Delaware is serving as host to the convention. I enjoy reading Der Bay and wish you continued success.

# A Letter from Leonard Praeger <a href="mailto:room"><a href="leonard Praeger"><a href="mailto:room"><a href="m

I continue to build my site located at: http://yiddish.haifa.ac.il, a main project being to put all of Yehoyesh's tanakh on the web. Bob Berkovitz has been doing beautiful work on this front. Take a look at Shirhashirim in the Yehoyesh section. We also want a reliable text. Most of the books still await proofreading, but we are making headway. Robert Goldenberg is heading the proofreading job.

I continue to edit The Mendele Review, putting out at least one issue per month.

http://shakti.trincoll.edu/~mendele/tmrarc.htm
The Yiddish Theater Forum, which TMR Carried
piggyback fashion for three joint issues has become
an independent organ, a part of Mendele, separately
archived. It is devoted to exploring the history of
Yiddish theater, a subject that has not had the
attention it deserves. Joel Berkowitz and a few other
younger scholars will, hopefully, make it a lively
addition to the Yiddish offerings on the web.

I congratulate you for your efforts on behalf of the Yiddish clubs. Members should learn to use the audio feature of The World of Yiddish the way Morrie Feller has—hearing Sara Reter read stories and to see the Yiddish text simultaneously. Nowhere else on the web can one experience it.

## Vi zogt men af yidish? "Ben" Schaechter <bschaechter@nyc.rr.com>

Mir hobn ongehoybn, durkh blitspost, in 2002, a rubrik, Vi Zogt Men Af Yidish? (do vayter: VZMAY).

Der seykhl fun VZMAY iz, az se zenen do a sakh mentshn vos hobn nisht ken yidish-meyvn af tsu fregn vi me zogt gevise yidish verter oder frazes vos me vil nitsn un vos me ken nisht gefinen ba Uriel Weinreichn in verterbukh. Ikh shrayb zikh bazunder adurkh mit a 6 yidish-mevinim vegn di meglekhe entfers tsu di kashes fun di bateylikte, un dernokh tseshikt men di tshuves tsu der gantser reshime.

Dervayle zenen do kemat 200 bateylikte in der reshime fun arum der velt.

Ikh hob ober in der letster vokh aleyn geredt mit 3 mentshn vos hobn blitspost nor vos hobn nisht gevust fun VZMAY, un viln zayn af der reshime.

Shik ikh itst vider aroys dos brivl, af tsu gebn andere vos hobn al-pi-toes farkukt oder aroysgemekt dos ershte brivl, di gelegnhayt zikh tsu bateylikn in dem. Oyb ir vilt, darft ir entfern, az yo. Di vos bateylikn zikh shoyn in VZMAY zoln zikh \*nisht\* oprufn af dem brivl.

## K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Weekend of Entertainment & Education

Henry Sapoznik, producer of NPR's Yiddish Radio Project, will offer a weekend of entertainment and education at K.A.M. Isaiah Israel, 1100 East Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago—Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 14-16.

Friday night, Sapoznik will speak on Yiddish art, culture, and language in "Yiddish: The Next 1,000 Years," during Shabbat services at the temple.

Saturday night, Sapoznik and his Klezmer band, "Deva Jew," will present a concert of traditional Yiddish dance music, folk songs, and songs from the Yiddish theater.

Sunday morning, he will present The Yiddish Radio Project, featuring forgotten radio geniuses of the golden age of Yiddish-American broadcasting who offer a snapshot of American Jewish life in the 1930s and '40s. The recordings run the gamut from man-on-the-street interviews and news programs to dramas and swing music. They offer a window into an extraordinary time. According to Sapoznik, "You see the collision of Yiddish and American cultures, the day-to-day lives of immigrants struggling to make it in a new land, and the reality of the genocide occurring across the ocean."

For further information: call Sandy Lieberman, 773-924-1234. K.A.M. Isaiah Israel is a Reform Jewish Congregation in its 155<sup>th</sup> year, is the oldest Reform Congregation west of the Alleghenies.