

# *Der Bay*

## *The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter*

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June-August 2005

Vol. XV No. 6

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### **Thoughts on the Upcoming Ninth IAYC Conference in Minneapolis and Next Year's Tenth Conference**

Lovers of Yiddish are in for a real treat at the upcoming Minneapolis conference of the IAYC in June 2 - 5, 2005. This should be the best conference.

There are many excellent reasons for going which include the great presentations and the wonderful entertainment. However, for your editor, the best reason is to meet so many other people who are excited about Yiddish.

It is a chance to meet dear friends we made at previous conferences and to make new ones whom we hope to see and hear from. There are always attendees who live in the same city of our children or other family members.

Your editor and Sally have made close friends in Arizona, southern California, Florida, the DC area New York, Louisiana, Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin—and especially the Canadian cities of Toronto and Winnipeg—whom we first met at an IAYC Conference.

Be sure you set aside time to introduce yourself to your editor, and let's share stories and become friends. To get even more out of these conferences be sure to increase the networking. If you are a performer, lecturer, translator, teacher, author or have a klezmer group, be sure to bring along at least 50 cards to distribute.

Mealtime is the best time to network. Most will sit with their group for dinner, but during the day mingle, mingle, mingle. Even time for a cup of tea is a time for networking.

Announcement will be made of the location of the next International Association of Yiddish Club Conference. Be sure to meet the next coordinator. It will be IAYC's 10th conference, and very special plans are being made to celebrate it in an innovative and novel way.

It marks a sign that IAYC is a major actor on the World Yiddish Scene. There are several ways to evaluate the degree of success or failure of any event. Besides the number of attendees, is the quality of the presenters/ workshops and the evening entertainment. The ability to not lose money is essential—even a non-profit must pay its bills. Each of the previous conferences has had a positive cash flow, albeit a small one.

If your club or city is interested in hosting a future conference, please contact the IAYC President, Paul Melrood, or the editor of *Der Bay*. Your questions will be answered, and you will be in a position to know if it is viable. It is a very gratifying experience.

After having gone through the selection of site and committee ten times, two facts have become very obvious. These two items are the most crucial decisions to be made.

- The right venue—location, location, location. It can be a college, hotel or a center, but it must have the facilities, and be easily accessible.
- The right date—avoiding Jewish holidays and conflicting with other major events is crucial.

## Your IAYC in Action

A group of men and women, interested in furthering interest in Yiddish, banded together to multiply their effectiveness. After the Yiddish of Greater Washington had the first ever Yiddish Club Conference at the University of Maryland at College Park the International Association of Yiddish Clubs was formalized. Minneapolis is number eight since then.

All the other wonderful institutes, conferences, conventions and sof-vokhn are held in the same region. Only the IAYC has a far ranging reach. The conferences have spanned from Connecticut to California and Toronto to Miami. This year (June 2-5) it is in Minneapolis. Because of the changing venues many local people can be reached, and become interested—thus furthering their interest in Yiddish. There is an increasing number who have become followers and return conference after conference.

To foster this wide-ranging grasp geographically, the Board members all come from different areas. They are currently from Arizona, California, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio Texas, Toronto, Winnipeg and Wisconsin. Most Board members are Yiddish Club leaders whose clubs are among the many members of the IAYC.

However, the conferences and IAYC is much more than a group of Yiddish clubs. Many conference attendees are there to socialize among Yiddish interested speakers, to hear erudite lectures on a variety of topics by some of the world's foremost presenters.

Another important feature of the conferences are the evening Yiddish entertainment entirely different and unique each evening. The cabaret, consisting mainly of our own talent, is a regular highpoint.

On a regular basis each club receives interesting material that is useful in club programming. The IAYC and *Der Bay* urge everyone interested in Yiddish to join a group. This may be a klezmer group, a leynkrazz, shmoozkrazz, shraybkrazz or formal Yiddish classes.

If your group is not affiliated with the IAYC, please seriously consider joining so that all of our efforts, to further interest in Yiddish, can be multiplied.

Call IAYC treasurer:  
Seymour Graiver: 718-224-5497 or e-mail him:  
seymour.graiver@worldnet.att.net  
Or write: 212-08 15th Ave.,  
Bayside, NY 11360-1106

## *Leksikon fun Yidishen Teater: Kedoshim Band*

By Steven Weiss

This is a translation from *Leksikon fun Yidishen Teater: Kedoshim Band* (Lexicon of the Yiddish Theatre), compiled and edited by Zylbercweig, Zalmen. Volume 5. Mexico City, under the auspices of The Hebrew Actors Union of America, Farlag "Elisheve," 1967. Folio, xvi, 3706-4855, 27 pp., b/w photos: necrology only

### Introduction

Zalmen Zylbercweig (Zilbertsvayg), 1894-1972, was a historian of the Yiddish Theater. Zylbercweig's best known work was his *Leksikon fun yidishn teater* (Lexicon of the Yiddish Theatre, Vols. 1-6, Warsaw, Mexico City, New York, 1931-1969.), a six volume reference work in Yiddish on the lives of those who were involved in professional Yiddish Theater anywhere in the world.

Included in the *Leksikon* were Yiddish actors, writers, directors, producers, designers, singers, composers and musicians.

Volume five of the *Leksikon fun yidishn teater*, published in 1967 in Mexico City, was a memorial book for all of the persons involved in Yiddish Theater who lost their lives in the Holocaust. The majority of the entries include a photo, place of birth, father's profession, list of accomplishments in the Yiddish Theater, place and manner of death. A bibliography for each entry is included, mostly of references to earlier volumes of the *Leksikon*.

What follows is a translation of the names as found in the table of contents which is in alphabetical order according to the Yiddish alphabet\*. Included is a corresponding column number where the entry can be found in volume 5 of the *Leksikon*. The entries themselves are not in alphabetical order. Note: The names in the table of contents were the stage names used by the person. Other names, including married and maiden names, when available in the entry, are included in parenthesis.

\*The index has been arranged in alphabetical order

**Editor's note:** This is part of the JewishGen Project. Yiddish Theatre and Vaudeville, (YTandV) YTandV RG Founder and Coordinator: Jonina Duker; Jonina.Duker@juno.com YTandV RG Mailing List Moderator: David W. Harris; dorsharris@verizon.net For more information go to: <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/ytheatre.txt>

## The JCC Chicago Yiddish Institute

The JCC Chicago Yiddish Institute will celebrate year XVI at Perlstein Resort & Conference Center in Lake Delton, Wisconsin, from September 8-11, 2005, where we shall present our guests with another exciting weekend.

**Saul Reichlin**, a British Yiddish actor and lecturer will do three inspiring and unique lectures/dramatizations of *Sholom Aleichem—Now You're Talking*. He is the recipient of numerous UK acting awards, and he will capture your imagination!

**Hale Porter**, well known on the west coast, soon to be better known throughout the country, will, with his rich baritone voice, charm you with Yiddish, Hebrew and a variety of other musical numbers in many languages. Mr. Porter is a cantor, an opera singer and also interpreter of musical comedy theater melodies.

**Dr. Nathaniel Stampfer** will top off this incredible presentation. As our Rabbi in Residence, he conducts Shabbat Services with our guests, as well as being the featured lecturer at our Conversational Yiddish workshops.

Dr. Stampfer is well known as Dean/Vice President for Academic Affairs Emeritus, and Professor of Jewish Education at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago, IL.

All this is included in the tuition, books and housing on the Perlstein site, which is nestled in the 600 acres of wooded land. The fall of the year, where you will look out of the Dining Room that juts out on Lake Blass and see the foliage as they change their colors to reds and greens and browns and are reflected in the waters. It is a remarkable sight to behold!

The complete fee is \$330.00 per person, with double occupancy only.

We offer bus transportation from a local site as well as O'Hare Airport, Chicago for guests arriving from all over the country. The cost is an additional \$65.00 per person, for the round trip.

There is limited seating, and therefore advise that you make your reservations as soon as possible.

If you do need additional information, please call **Helen Schechtman, Coordinator, at: 847-674-0001, fax #847-674-0001 or Email [helenschechtman@aol.com](mailto:helenschechtman@aol.com).**

Helen will be at the IAYC Conference and hopes to meet you and answer questions.

## 6th Annual KlezFest, Ukraine!

August 21-25, 2005, Kiev, Ukraine

Musicians and non-musicians alike are invited to join several dozen talented musicians from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Estonia as they explore the folk music of their ancestors.

### The program includes:

- \* Music classes in Yiddish song, klezmer instrumental style, and new Jewish composition.
- \* Yiddish classes at levels Beginner thru Advanced.
- \* Nightly klezmer jam sessions with singing and dancing, as well as mini concerts during the day.
- \* The Gala Concert featuring KlezFest participants.
- \* Discussions with KlezFest participants on music and life, particularly Jewish life, in the former USSR.
- \* An excursion to explore the Jewish sites of Kiev.
- \* Optional excursions to other sites of Jewish interest in the Ukraine.
- \* Translators for non-Russian speakers.

### Teachers include:

- \* Budowitz Founder, Joshua Horowitz USA
- \* Klezmatics founding singer Lorin Sklamberg, USA
- \* Pianist and composer Marilyn Le rner (Canada)
- \* Klezmer clarinetist Merlin Shepherd (UK)
- \* Yiddish singer, composer and choral leader Polina Achkinazi-Shepherd (UK-Russia)

Westerners interested in attending KlezFest should e-mail Yana Yanover ([center@cjeu.carrier.kiev.ua](mailto:center@cjeu.carrier.kiev.ua))  
The deadline for applications is June 15, 2004.

Musicians send an audio or video tape, photos and information. Non-musicians should send an email letter stating which aspects most appeal to them. The \$500 fee for accepted applicants covers housing, meals and training. For Russian- and/or Yiddish speakers, the fee is \$400. For student rates or any additional information at:

### General information:

The Center of Jewish Education in Ukraine  
Kurska St., 6, room 37,  
03049, Kiev, Ukraine

Tel: (380-44) 248-3670; fax: (380-44) 248-3670  
E-mail: [center@cjeu.carrier.kiev.ua](mailto:center@cjeu.carrier.kiev.ua)

### Travel and visas information:

Jewish Community Development Fund in Russia and Ukraine, c/o AJWS

45 W.36th Street, 10th floor NY, NY 10018  
tel. 212-273-1642

E-mail: [jcdf@ajws.org](mailto:jcdf@ajws.org)

<http://www.romashka.net/klezfest>

# How Can We Best Further the Cause of Yiddish?

From: Morris Feller <mfeller@cox.net>

After reading Dovid Katz's book *Words of Fire— The Unfinished Story of Yiddish*, I wrote to him to explain why it was a timely and important book. It may help us decide how best to further the cause of Yiddish.

Sholem aleykhem, Prof. Katz!

As one who is interested in the future of Yiddish, and of ways to ensure a long future for Yiddish, I have saved pertinent articles about this subject by some of the prominent observers of the language.

Prof. Ruth Wisse in the *New Republic*, May 27, 1996, wrote an article "Shule Daze." She states: "Language is the expressive instrument of a community that is sufficiently separate to sustain a separate language. Jews could only effect a Yiddish revival today if they were prepared to 'deassimilate' enough to regenerate their own language. Having reaped the benefits of English, they are not likely to conduct this experiment in reverse...The imagined Yiddish revival only seems so benign because it ignores both the requirements and the consequences of linguistic separation."

In its Spring 1998 issue, the *Pakn Treger* published your letter with the banner *Fear of a Yiddish Planet*. This letter was the nucleus from which *Words on Fire* evolved. It made the argument that Yiddish is safe in the hands of many Hasidic communities scattered across the globe. You said: "What a calamity it would be if we gave up on living Yiddish language and literature, because of trumped-up fears of being called 'Yiddishists' or because we have convinced ourselves that it cannot be done. It can."

In May 1999, in *Mendele* Vol. 08.153, there was a long article by Prof. Janet Hadda (UCLA) that had been published in the *Jewish Quarterly*. Prof. Hadda, is a professor of Yiddish, and a psychoanalyst. She uses her expertise to explain the how and why of mourning over the death of Yiddish. She wrote "...finally admitted to myself that I could no longer hope for the continuity of Yiddish."

In that same issue of *Mendele*, Iosif Vaisman wrote a letter (originally published in the *Jewish Quarterly*) with the subject: "The Life and Death of Yiddish". This was a refutation of Prof. Hadda's argument. The key sentence is: "Unfortunately, Professor Hadda is not the only one who does not see the Yiddish-speaking Hasidic communities." Vaisman's final comments are: "Most modern scientists consider language and culture as integral parts of a unified semiotic space, which needs all its components for proper functioning. What I do know is that as of

today, Yiddish has not exhausted its vital energy and its potential for the future. We have nothing to gain and a lot to lose by prematurely proclaiming it dead."

Prof. Hadda's response to Vaisman proclaims that she is anguished as she contemplates the death of Eastern European Yiddishkeit and its international offshoots. She recognizes that the Hasidim will somehow contribute to the future of Yiddish in America, but she questions the quality and efficacy of their Yiddish. Her final words are: "My colleagues and I agree that the thriving pre-World War II Yiddish world has permanently disappeared. And we do not see authentic regeneration. Although we believe we are facing what seems to be inevitable, we would like nothing better than to be wrong."

Zachary Sholom Berger's review of *Words on Fire* appeared in the *Jewish Journal*. This review was so favorable that I read the book. I enjoyed reading it because it filled in numerous lacunae in my knowledge of Jewish history.

Yiddish seems to be valid, and it is very reassuring. It counters the argument of Prof. Weiss in that the Hasidim are prepared to deassimilate enough to regenerate their own language. The Hasidim are merely continuing their daily use of the language. So there is nothing to regenerate.

All the current efforts made to foster the growth of Yiddish, may be inadequate to accomplish this task. However, we should not overlook the possibilities which modern technology can create. Someone I know said: "A loshn muz hobn a gas." I contend that computer technology and the Internet can be the "gas" for Yiddish. Even Hasidim can benefit from the ability to correspond with fellow Hasidim in real Yiddish via the Internet.

The teaching of Yiddish can be expanded by offering online courses. The National Yiddish Book Center has done nothing to create such a course. The NYBC is planning to put all of Yiddish literature on the Internet, but is doing nothing to create the readers who will read this material.

The efforts to preserve Yiddish will result in a long-lived Yiddish different from that of the Hasidim. We need to utilize the strengths of each group to create a merger that will benefit all. Thank you for bringing the question of the survival of Yiddish to the fore, and for your optimistic views. You have done Yiddish a great service with this excellent book.

# *Menke: The Complete Yiddish Poems of Menke Katz*

Translated by Benjamin & Barbara Harshav

Review by Philip *Fishl* Kutner

This 914-page book is a literary and historical gem. Menke Katz (1906-1991) was unique, for he published nine books of poetry in Yiddish and also nine others in English. Thus he was the foremost American Poet who published both in English and in Yiddish.

This book is divided into distinct sections:

- It starts with a remembrance of Menke by his long-time collaborator, Harry Smith. Smith notes that Menke's "English poetry was equally important to world literature."

- There are three maps; one is of the area in which Northeastern Yiddish was spoken, also known as Lite or Jewish Lithuania. A second map is of important places in which Menke lived. They include; Vilne area; Safas, Israel; Brooklyn and the lower East side of Manhattan; and finally Spring Glen in upstate, New York. The final map is the geography around Vilne.

- Menke's son, Professr Dovid Katz, includes a 135-page biography and times of his father's life and period that includes three-dozen photos. This is of great historical significance. Menke was a very unusual character. His marriages, dress and vegetarian lifestyle all combined to accent his Bohemian-like behavior. Likewise his interest in Kabbalah and folklore was a reflection of his character.

- The last section of this book, and the major portion, is the Harshavs' translations of the Yiddish poems in the nine Yiddish books.

Extending his arms up and out in the form of a broad letter V was a characteristic gesture shown in color on the back and at a younger age on page cxxvi. Even his signature on the book's jacket showed his artistic bent.

Menke used several unusual poetic styles. Over time poetic styles have varied. Shakespeare's use of the sonnet (although not invented by him) is an early example. Later examples are the limerick, quatrains, cinquains and the Japanese nature-cantered haiku.

Perhaps Menke's style was influenced by others, for in the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was the popularity of the free form, open form or free verse (absence of a definite pattern or rhyme). Menke later utilized an unusual poetic style. His use of triangular shapes in some of his later poetry is another example of creative genius. The Harshav's did an excellent job of translating these Yiddish poems into English and maintaining their trueness.

## **Menke's Yiddish poetry books were:**

*Dray shvéster*

*Der Mentsh in togn*

*Brénendik shtetl, bukh I*

*Brénendik shtetl, bukh II*

*Brénendik shtetl, bukh III*

*S'hot dos vort mayn bóbe Móyne*

*Tsu dertséyln in freydn*

*Der pósheter khólem*

*Inmítn tog*

Nachman Mayzel in his tome, *Amerike inyidishn vort: antologye* included Menke's poem "Der tate in zeyd fabrik" on page 842.

In the Yizkor Book, *Sefer zikaron le-esrim veshalosh kehilot she-nehrevu be-ezor Svintsian*, the editor, Shimon Kanc includes Katz's poem "Svintsyan: Heersha-Leyb Tarshish." Menke wrote of Svintsyan—his birthplace.

On the next page is the poem, "Fishele," selected because it has sentimental value for the reviewer and the traslitertor. It is on Page 147 of the book.

Because of its size, and scope, it is a must for all Judaica libraries, and serious collectors of Yiddish related writings.

The reference for the book is:

*Menke: The Complete Yiddish Poems*

Translated by Benjamin and Barbara Harshav,  
The Smith: NY 2005, 914 pp.

ISBN: 1-882986-21-0, \$35.00

e-mail: Thesmith1@aol.com

# Mendele in Cyberspace

By Philip *Fishl* Kutner

David Sherman of Toronto and Ari Davidow were early pioneers of Yiddish online lists. Mendele soon became the premiere list for Yiddish libhobers—scholars as well as laypersons. Today this list is augmented by additional lists: The Mendele Review (TMR) and The Yiddish Forum (YTF).

## The Mendele Review (TMR)

TMR recently sent out Volume 09.006—Sequential Number 158. Its contents included:

- 1) In this issue of *TMR* (ed.)
- 2) Some Comments on David Mazower's article on Henryk Berlewi (Seth L. Wolitz)
- 3) A Small Berlewi Gallery (Seth L. Wolitz)
- 4) Quotations from *Mechano-faktura* (Henryk Berlewi)
- 5) Coming issue: *Menke*
- 6) Coming book reviews

Leonard Prager, the editor of TMR, resides in Haifa, Israel and can be reached at: [lparger@research.haifa.ac.il](mailto:lparger@research.haifa.ac.il)

Subscribers to Mendele automatically receive The Mendele Review and Yiddish Theater Forum.

To subscribe or change your status, send a message to: [listproc@lists.yale.edu](mailto:listproc@lists.yale.edu)

1. For a temporary stop: set mendele mail postpone
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4. To unsubscribe: unsub mendele

To get back issues of TMR go to the archives *The Mendele Review* archives can be reached at: <http://www2.trincoll.edu/~mendele/tmrarc.htm> (Note that the "~" above is not a dash, but a tilde.)

The Archives consist of all past issues of The Mendele Review. They have a wide assortment of texts in transcribed (Romanized) form as well as a Yiddish version of many of the texts in PDF format.

## Yiddish Theatre Forum (YTF)

In 1999, at Oxford, Leonard Praeger suggested that a theater forum be established, but it wasn't until 2002 that actually the current editor of YTF helped start the Mendel based forum. Joel Berkowitz, at CUNY Albany, became the editor, and he can be reached at: [yankl@albany.edu](mailto:yankl@albany.edu)

Last issue was Vol. 4 Number 1, Feb. 24

Date: 24 February 2005

From: Jerold C. Frakes

Book Review: Isaak Euchel, "Reb Henoch, oder:

Woá tut me damit. Eine jidische

Kom"die der Aufkl,,rungszeit". Ed. Marion

Aptroot and Roland Gruschka, with

Delphine Bechtel and Shmuel Feiner. jidische

schtudies, 11. Hamburg: Buske,

2004. ISBN: 3-87548-379-0. 282 pp.

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**Editor's note:** Mendele and *Der Bay* started about the same time. Mendele now has **over 2000** subscribers. Below is a very early message.

From [nmiller@dot.trincoll.edu](mailto:nmiller@dot.trincoll.edu) **Fri Apr 9 14:10:34 1993** Date: En, 9 Apr 93 17:11:50 EDT From: norman miller <[nmiller@dot.trincoll.edu](mailto:nmiller@dot.trincoll.edu)>  
To: [fishl@well.sf.ca.us](mailto:fishl@well.sf.ca.us)

If you have a computer and a modem, you should be subscribing to MENDELE. This is an invitation to you to do just that.

MENDELE is a list dedicated to Yiddish literature and language. It is two years old and has about 250 subscribers from around the world.

We live at a time when few people have achieved mastery of the language/literature. The list will not be limited to those few. I can imagine useful contributions from those whose knowledge of the language is nil. It's arguable that sharp heads without Yiddish may be more useful than linguistic skill without ideas. As the vertl goes: beser a Yid on a bord vi a bord on a Yid.

For these reasons most list members will choose to write in English. It almost has to be so for most of us because I have in mind a level of discourse for which some (like myself) may not be sufficiently prepared in Yiddish. None of this should be construed as blocking the use of Yiddish (or French or German) where appropriate or necessary.

I'm ready to assume the job of compiler, i.e. I can receive and retransmit the material that's submitted. For those accustomed to lists with a seamless look, the heymish appearance of this one stems from the fact that it is cut and stitched by hand. I shall ask you to keep in mind these few procedures.

To subscribe to the list, please send this message: sub mendele yourfirstname yourlastname  
to: [listserv@yalevm.ycc.yale.edu](mailto:listserv@yalevm.ycc.yale.edu)

## The Charlotte Yiddish Institute

The love and interest in Yiddish will create a joyous experience at the XXVII Charlotte Yiddish Institute, Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 18-21 at **Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC** on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The program is designed for a multi-generational audience that includes children/grandchildren age 10 and over who will fully participate.

We focus on *Living Yiddish* via workshops—Jewish cooking, nature walks, in the beautiful mountains of Wildacres, a tour of the studios of famous artisans, and Yiddish classes for beginners and the more knowledgeable and Yiddish humor.

Lectures are in Yiddish/English. The Saturday evening Talent Show features Institute participants. Bring your voice, a musical instrument or a reading. Friday & Saturday evenings end with informal dancing and singing.

The outstanding faculty for this year are:

**Cantor Robert Abelson** has been a cantor for 40 years. He is the cantor of Temple Israel of the City of New York, and is an International Yiddish Singer who has appeared in film, television and theatre. He starred in Broadway in the hit *Those Were the Days*.

**Dr. Sheva Zucker** has taught & lectured Yiddish language, literature, & culture on 5 continents. She is author of Yiddish textbooks and has taught Yiddish at *Duke University* and at the Uriel Weinreich summer Programs under the auspices of Columbia University and the YIVO Institute. She is the newly appointed Executive Director of the League for Yiddish and the editor of its magazine *Afn Shvel*.

Baila Pransky is the institute coordinator and will be presenting at the Minneapolis IAYC Conference. You can meet her there, and ask your questions. She also can be reached at: 704-366-5564. The website is at: [www.wildacres.org](http://www.wildacres.org)

Charlotte Yiddish Institute  
5007 Providence Road #111  
Charlotte, NC 28226

The Wildacres retreat is a 1400 acres mountaintop conference center in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina at an elevation of 3300 feet. It is 112 miles from Charlotte (about a 2.5 hour ride) Accommodations are in 2 mountaintop lodges. \$295 covers tuition, kosher meals, and gratuities. It is \$185 for 13-19 and \$110 for ages 10-12. Bus transportation is available from the Charlotte Airport for \$65 round trip. It is about a 2.5 hour ride.

## Low Prices for Used Yiddish Books National Yiddish Book Center

We didn't rescue them just so they could sit on the shelves! Yiddish books have just become even more accessible: All used Yiddish titles are now priced year-round at \$8 per volume for members of the Book Center and \$12 for nonmembers.

Are you looking for used Yiddish books? You can browse an online catalog, Email our Yiddish Book Department with your inquiries at: [orders@bikher.org](mailto:orders@bikher.org) Note: Availability of books is subject to variations in stock. It may differ from our online catalog. The URL is: <http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/>

To find a specific book, type the name of the author, title or keyword in the top box at left.

Use the bottom box to browse through our catalog, starting with the author, title or subject of your choice.

When you find a title you want, click the "Save to Cart" button (you can always remove it later). When you finish shopping, proceed to checkout. Our secure server will safely process your credit card and complete your order. We will custom print a brand new copy of every title you order. You can expect delivery in 15-20 business days. For international shipments please allow 4-8 weeks.

Whether you are interested in great Yiddish authors, children's books, Klezmer, our guide for book groups, New York programs, or all of the above, there is something here for everyone. The May 2005 edition of the National Yiddish Book Center's email newsletter contains:

In this issue:

- \* Festival Tickets On Sale Now
- \* May 29th: Isle of Klezbos
- \* Yiddish in New York
- \* *A Treasure* for children in our store,

& on our stage

- \* Celebrating: Alter Kacyzne
- \* New Low Prices on Yiddish Books
- \* Jewish Reader: The Seventh Beggar

National Yiddish Book Center  
1021 West Street  
Amherst, MA 01002-3375

**Editor's note:** This is the perfect time to remind readers that a club should try to get publications from as many **different** organizations as possible. Members can report on an article from the journal.

## Vos Denkstu? Leon H. Gildin Writes

I know that you are aware that a number of years ago I wrote a book called *You Can't Do Business or Most Anything Else Without Yiddish*. The point of the book is to show how Yiddish has become integrated into certain business, to such an extent, that Yiddish words and expressions are used by both Jews and non-Jews alike. The book was published and the first successful book signing was at the Workmen's Circle Book store in New York.

Within a couple of weeks after publication an old friend of mine, an ardent Yiddishist and scholar of the language wrote a critique of the book in the Yiddish edition of the Forward in which he criticized me for treating the language as a joke. Although the book is humorous in its content it is honest, it is respectful and at no time was the language ever treated as a joke.

As a result, I wrote a response to the criticism and ended up by saying, in essence, that over the coming years he will speak to audiences about the scholarly Yiddish that he represents, and I will speak to audiences about my book about where Yiddish came from, and how, it has worked its way into English. Let us see who speaks to more people.

I have saved every issue of *Der Bay* since I started to subscribe a number of years ago. The earlier issues were shorter, more relevant and far more interesting, I do not know who influenced you in deciding that writing parodies of classical Yiddish humor was funny or was the way of keeping people interested in Yiddish, With all due respect you are making a joke out of the language.

Since there is no question that the majority of people who read *Der Bay*; at best, understand Yiddish, probably speak it haltingly and can neither read nor write it, what would be wrong with publishing the Chelm stories in translation or in transliteration. A story about a "Chelmrolet" does not do *Der Bay* justice. The publication, by virtue of these parodies has become much too "cutesy".

And last but not least a primer on Polish? Can we expect Chinese next? I cannot believe that your readers wanted it.

Fishl, I love and respect you for the work that you have done over the years. I don't really understand what, in my estimation has led you astray.

## Rokhl Winer Shraybt fun Dorem Afrike

Ven ikh hob gelayent vegn dem IAYC konferents in Minneapolis hob ikh getrakht: Ikh vil gayn. Ikh bin zikher es vet zayn vunderbar! Ober s'iz nit meglekh ikh zol kenen gayn. Ikh vintsh aykh a sakh derfolg un altz zol nor gayn oyf a gute veg.

Ikh dank aykh far *Der Bay*. Ven ikh layen Oystsgun fun briv in der redaktsye, ze ikh vifil mentshn hobn lib *Der Bay*, un bikhlal Fishl, der vunderbare man "who keeps us informed about what is happening in the Yiddish-speaking world! Mir hobn gelakht ven mir hobn gelaynt: Chelm Computer Club. Mayn khaverte kumt fun Chelm un ikh hob ir dertsaylt vos ir hot geshribn. Zi fort in September tsu Belarus un Kovno un andere shtetlakh in Lite.

Mayn mame kumt fun Krimenchuk, ober zi hot gelebt in Lodz, un iz gekumen kayn Dorem Afrike ven zi iz alt geven l2 yor. Ir nomen iz geven Lemberger, un zi hot khasene gehat mit mayn tate, Adolf Rothschild, fun Frankfort am Main. A bisele geshikhete fun mayne elteren. Zay hobn gelebt tsuzamen 62 yor un er iz gshtorbn in 200l, 90 yor alt. Do yorn flien avek azoy gikh.

Zi hot shtark hanoah gehat fun An Exclusive interview with Tevye - zi redt a gutn Poylish ober do in Durban iz nito mit vemen zikh oystsuredn un zi zogt az zi fargest shoyn alts!!!

Ir vet mikh anshuldiken mayn Yinglish - es falt mir shver, ober ikh probir. Efsher veln mir zikh trefn un dan kenen mir rayden beser face to face!

Zayt gezunt un ikh vintsh aykh un undzer gantse *Der Bay* Mishpokhe a fraylekhe, a gezunte un koshere Peysakh.

## The Simcha Orchestra

Their repertoire includes Klezmer tunes from Eastern Europe and NY, Chasidic nigunim from the past and recent compositions by Shlomo Carlebach, Yiddish folk and music: hall songs, songs from Spain and the Middle East, and Israeli songs,

Eliot Kenin, the leader, vocalist, guitar and banjo player, was involved in the revival in traditional Jewish music that began in the seventies with the original Klezmorim and Simcha orchestras.

the Simcha Orchestra has clarinet and fiddle, guitar or banjo, bass or tuba, durnbek (Middle Eastern hand drum), and vocals **P.O. Box 8750, Emeryville, CA 94608 (800) 886-8749**

## Mitzvah Music Programs

By Mark Levy

Song of Repentance: The Music of the High Holidays. A time for reflection and forgiveness, Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are observed with special musical settings infused with emotion. Liturgy, both old and new, will be sampled and discussed. (Sept.-Oct. only)

Zing-zhe mir a lidele... Yiddish folk songs from Eastern Europe were described by Albert Einstein as "the most heartfelt" he had ever heard. We'll hear why in live and recorded performances of love, work, children's, and other songs from a bygone era of Jewish culture.

Klezmer 101: Everything you wanted to know.... Beginning with the turn of the 20th century, we'll listen to vintage recordings of the most famous klezmer bands and learn about the players, the rhythms, and the wedding dances they accompanied. Both audio and video-clips of rare recordings will be presented.

The Classics from Rossi to Bernstein. This class features the work of well known and lesser known Jewish classical composers beginning with the 16th century. We will learn of their Jewish background and listen to recordings of their stirring music.

To Make the World Whole: Songs of Peace Protest and Change Jews have ever been at the forefront of social and political movements. We will hear songs by labor, feminist, peace and environmental activists of the past 125 years, songs by Jewish songwriters which inspired others to action.

Jews 'n' Jazz: Al Jolson, Fanny Brice, Irving Berlin, Sophie Tucker, George Gershwin, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Dinah Shore—a few of the jazz giants of Jewish background. The course traces the history of America's Jewish jazz singers, composers, and instrumentalists through Dixieland, ragtime, swing, bebop, modern and post-modern periods. Hear rare recordings of these innovators and see footage from early talking pictures.

Golden Age of Yiddish Theater: From beginnings in Romania to New York's Second Avenue, Yiddish theater had 2 *golden ages*. Avrom Goldfaden, Boris & Bessie Thomashevsky, Jacob Adler, Molly Picon, Aaron Lebedef, Jenny Goldstein, Moishe Oysher—a fraction of great actors and singers of the Yiddish stage are seen and heard on records and film.

Mark Levy:  
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## IAYC Leadership

In *Der Bay's* May issue nominations for the IAYC Board for 2005-6 were listed with phone numbers & e-mail addresses. Recently many of their biographies also were printed. At each conference a slate of nominees is presented. After the election the new Board meets and picks officers for the new term.

**Seymour Graiver** has been treasurer succeeding Morrie Feller of Phoenix. Helen and he live in Bayside, NY. Below is his biography.

His father came from Slonim (now Belarus) and mother from Vinitza, in the Ukraine. Seymour spent his youth in the Bronx Workers Cooperative Colony—one of the original Jewish workers' labor cooperatives.

After Graduating Stuyvesant H.S. he served in the U.S. Navy, and received an honorable discharge in 1946. This led to college at CCNY and graduation in 1951 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a major in Statistics.

Entering the workforce, as a statistical clerk, for a life insurance company, he rose to Data Processing Manager. As a member of the Data Processing Management Association., he was elected President of the union's local chapter in Westchester County, NY. Later, at the company, Seymour rose to the position of Vice Pres.—responsible for all administrative functions.

In 1976 he left to become General Manager of the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, a federal employee health benefits program administered under the Health Benefits Act. This plan covered 330,000 federal employees and their families for health benefits—the largest program after Blue Cross. Then from 1984-1998 Seymour was at a Health Benefits consulting firm, specializing in benefit programs for labor unions.

He is a graduate of the IWO elementary & mittleshul where he met Helen, and they were married in 1949. He also was a counselor in Camp Kinderland in 1943, 1944, 1946 and 1947.

Both are active in the Yiddish community and are in a Yiddish leyenkrayz as well as the Friends of Yiddish. Seymour says, "I speak Yiddish fairly well, and can read and write enough to get by."

They attended the first conference at the U. of MD, also Miami, UCLA, Chevy Chase, Milwaukee & Baltimore.