

Der Bay

The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter

June-August 2006

Vol. XVI No. 6

The International Association of Yiddish Clubs 10th Conference: *Last Issue Before the Conference*

Chana Mlotek to be Honored

The first IAYC Yiddish Lifetime Service Award will be presented to Chana Gordon Mlotek at the Saturday Evening Workmen's Circle Gala Banquet. It is in recognition of her achievements as a music archivist, researcher and writer.

With her late husband Yosl o''s she started a dynasty dedicated to Yiddish. It is carried on in her children and grandchildren. Her son Zalmen is Executive Director of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, and he will perform at the conference.

Chana is still dedicated to researching Yiddish music as a music archivist at YIVO. Along with Yosl, she started the column *Perl fun der Yiddisher Poezie* ("Pearls of Yiddish Poetry"). This column still appears in the *Forverts*.

Perhaps she is best known for the trilogy of Yiddish songbooks: *Mir Trogn a Gezang*, *Pearls of Yiddish Song* and *Songs of Generations*. The last one includes a combined index of titles and first lines in all three songbooks.

The entire family has been active in Workmen's Circle/Arbeter-Ring—Mark as President, and Yosl who held the position of Director of Education. The family still is active in the running of the only fraternal organization in the U.S. that actively fosters Yiddish language and culture

It is fitting that Chana Gordon Mlotek be the recipient of the First IAYC Yiddish Lifetime Achievement Award.

The excitement has been building as the day of the conference comes nearer and nearer. In each issue of *Der Bay* there were reports on various aspects of the IAYC conference. In the last issue the lectures/workshops were covered. Many of them will be entertainers, exhibitors or vendors. Your editor hopes that you honored your group/special person in the Conference Journal.

In addition to the 5 concurrent presentations going on in workshops and lectures we have added another one for each session. There will be the Hebrew/Yiddish calligraphy workshop which is the only session that requires pre-registration and also great new Yiddish films.

In the centerfold of this issue is the preliminary schedule of speakers and their topics with the time slots. It also includes the evening entertainment programs.

The International Association of Yiddish Clubs Tenth Conference will be held on July 6-9, 2006 at the Glenpointe Marriott Hotel in Teaneck, NJ.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Conference Chairman: Sam Kutner
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Hosts: Gregg & Stephanie Hudis: 201-833-4748
or 201-601-7016 e-mail: grhudis@optonline.net

See the registration form on the inside cover.
Visit *Der Bay's* website to learn more.
<http://www.derbay.org/teaneck.html>

Mayn Sheyne Meydl—A Play

This is a remarkable example of what a Yiddish club and its members can produce. This is the creation of the Lawrence Family JCC Yiddish Club in La Jolla, California—especially members Abe Friedman, Evelyn Lakoff and Raquel Leisorek (club leader).

Mayn Sheyn Meydl is a Yiddish adaptation of the Broadway play of My Fair Lady. The actual music used is that by Frederick Loewe in the original Broadway production. Additional help with the script came in the form of corrections by Troim Katz-Handler, one of our IAYC board members.

After the Yiddish club's first showing, which was a hit, copies of the script and video were sent out to other clubs. Since that first performance, the group has performed Mayn Sheyne Meydl in shuls, senior centers, and adult retirement homes.

Other key people in the performances have been; Sylvia Kirsh, Edith Party, Sydell Templin, Mile Chasin, Ben Gurfinger, Sandy Lakoff on the piano and Debbie Davis singer and leader of the Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble.

The inspiration and leadership of this wonderful Yiddish club is due to the dedication of Racquel Leisorek and her husband Eli.

The club has special activities for the Jewish holidays. The group's average attendance is 25-30 members and guests—and the programs are mostly in Yiddish.

If you are in the area, you are welcome to attend and participate in their meetings. The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center is located in La Jolla, a beautiful suburb of San Diego. Meetings are held monthly on the first Monday at 1:30 P.M.

This Yiddish club is a member of the IAYC and has been a contributor to IAYC's success.

Racquel and Eli came to the United States from Mexico City where there is a vibrant Yiddish community. You may contact Racquel by phone at: 858-458-1015 or e-mail: eleisorek@san.rr.com

Friends of SYSNA: Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship for 2006-2007

The Friends of the Secular Yiddish Schools in North America Collection at Stanford University Libraries, Department of Special Collections, is pleased to announce its Annual Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship for 2006-2007.

The sum of \$4,000.00 is to be awarded to an applicant who will commit to at least 2 consecutive months (of applicant's choice) to work in the impressive multi-lingual (mainly in Yiddish, but also in English and Hebrew) extensive SYSNA Archival Collection.

Fluency in reading Yiddish is required. A substantive publishable paper in Yiddish or in English is one of the goals of this fellowship. Scholars in Jewish/Yiddish Studies, Bilingual Education, American/Canadian Bilingual Studies and other related fields may apply.

The deadline for submission of applications (in triplicate) is June 20, 2006. Notification of award will be no later than July 17, 2006.

For the application, contact:
Gella Schweid Fishman at:
FofSYSNA@aol.com

Eseyen-Tsvey

In celebration of Itche Goldberg's 102nd birthday, The Yidisher Kultur Farband is proud and honored to announce the publication of Itche's new hard cover book, *Eseyen-Tsvey (Essays-Two)*. This is a supplement to his previous *Eseyen*. Written in Yiddish, the book has over 460 pages and is a compilation of more recent speeches and writings.

Prof. Goldberg is a renowned Yiddish scholar, author, and editor of many books including the widely circulated Yiddish literary magazine, *Yiddishe Kultur*. He is a respected educator and has been responsible for elevating knowledge and love of Yiddish culture. His hundredth birthday was celebrated in April 2004 to an overflow audience. Public sale of this book will be available during the IAYC conference in Teaneck, NJ on July 6-9 2006. The cost of the book is \$36.00.

Also available will be other books distributed by The Yidisher Kultur Farband:
Eseyen (Essays) cloth \$10.00
Yiddish Stories For Young People - Paperback \$12.00
Our People Through The Middle Ages #2 Pb. \$12.00
Lomir Kinder Zingen/Let's Sing A Yiddish Song \$15.00
To order the new *Eseyen - Tsvey* send a check for \$36.00 payable to

Yidisher Kultur Farband
c/o Goldberg
141 East 3rd Street Apt. 6F
New York, NY 10009

Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

YIDDISH MUSIC BOOKS

Private Collection of Leo Summergrad's Songbooks

1. A Treasury Of Jewish Folk Songs
Ruth Rubin 1976
2. Jewish Folk Songs
Ruth Rubin 1965
3. Mir Trogn A Gezang
Eleanor Gordon Mlotek 1977
4. Pearls Of Yiddish Song
Eleanor G Mlotek/ Joseph Mlotek 1988
5. Lomir Kinder Zingen
Itche Goldberg -
Kinderbukh 1970
6. Sidor Belarsky Song Book, 1970
7. The Yiddish Song Book
Jerry Silverman 1983
8. Lomir Alle Zingen
Yiddisher Muzik Farband 1956
9. We Are Here
Eleanor Mlotek/ Malke Gottlieb 1983
10. 25 Ghetto Songs
Malke Gottlieb/ Chana Mlotek Workmens
Circle 1968
11. 30 Songs Of The Ghetto
Congress Of Jewish Culture 1960
12. Songs Of The Ghettos
Congress Of Jewish Culture 1972
13. Jewish Song Hits
Joseph Estella Kammen Music Co. 1956
14. My Favorite Songs
Sidor Belarsky 1951
15. Lider Tzum Zingen
Avrom Raisin 1947
16. Zing A Lid (60 Songs)
Albert Bitter 1940
17. Zing A Lid (50 Songs)
Albert Bitter 1941
18. Lomir Zirigen
Mikhl Gelbart Workmens Circle 1938
19. Zing Mit Mir
Mikhl Gelbart Workmens Circle 1945
20. Mir Zingen
Mikhl Gelbart Workmens Circle 1951
21. Ikh Her A Kol
Jacob Schaefer
Jewish Music Alliance 1952
22. Zing Mayn Folk
Ben Yomen 1946
23. Zingen Mir
Sam Liptzin 1975
24. Tumbalalayka
Teddi Schwartz 1956
25. Yiddish Poets In Song
Mordechai Yardeini Jewish Music Alliance
1966
26. Yiddishe Folks Lider Mit Melodyes
L. Kahan YIVO 1957
27. Lomir Zingen
Maxim Brodyn
Jewish Music Alliance 1973
28. Old Jewish Folk Music
Mark Slobin, Collections/ Writings of Moshe
Beregovski
American Folklore Society 1982
29. Gezang Un Kamf #3
Jacob Schaefer
Jewish Music Alliance 1935
30. Gezang Un Kamf #4
Jacob Schaefer
Jewish Music Alliance 1936
31. 60 Folks Lider
M. Kipnis Warsaw 1918
32. Sheet Music - 145 Songs
33. Black Leather Notebook - Handwritten
34. Yiddish Iz Mayn Lid
Maurice Rauch
Jewish Music Alliance 1986
35. Yiddisher Folk Lore
YIVO (Vilna) 1938
36. Zumerteg
Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman
Congress for Jewish Culture and League for
Yiddish 1990
37. Di Yiddishe Folks Lider
Max Goldin/ Izaly Zemtsovsky
Kompisitor Publishers St. Petersburg, Russia
1994
38. Yiddishe Folks Lider
Moishe Beregovsky/ Itzik Feffer
Melukhe Farlag far Di Natzionale
Minderhaytn in USSR, Kiev - 1938
39. Voices of a People
Ruth Rubin
Jewish Publication Soc. of America 1979
40. 140 Folks Lider
Menakhem Kipnis and Z. Zeligsfeld
Farlag A. Gitlin, Warsaw 192?
41. Textheft
Moses Vogeihtut
42. Songs of the Lodz Ghetto 1940-45
Gila Ram
University of Illinois Press
43. Songs of Generations
Eleanor and Joseph Mlotek
Workmen's Circle 1997
44. Anthology of Yiddish Folk Songs, Vol 1
Aharon Vinkovetzky

- Mount Scopus Publications 1983
45. Anthology of Yiddish Folk Songs, Vol 2
Aharon Vinkovetzky
Mount Scopus Publications 1984
 46. Anthology of Yiddish Folk Songs, Vol 3
Aharon Vinkovetzky
Mount Scopus Publications 1985
 47. Anthology of Yiddish Folk Songs, Vol 4
Aharon Vinkovetzky
Mount Scopus Publications 1987
 48. Peoples Sing
Peoples Sing Publishers 1950
 49. Book With Missing Cover
 50. Studies In Jewish Musical Traditions
Edited By Kay Kaufman Shelemay
Harvard College Library 2001
 51. Yiddish Folk Songs VOI 1
I. L. Cahan
Yiddish Literary Publishing Co. 1920
 52. Mordechaj Gebirtig - Jiddische Lieder
Manfred Lemm
Edition Kunstlertreff 1992
 53. From Jewish Folk Poetry
D. Shostakovitch
Musical Fund Publishers
Moscow, USSR 1955
 54. Jewish Folk Songs
Arr. Leyb Kogan
Musica Publishers
Moscow, USSR 1970
 55. Jewish Folk Songs
Arr. M. Goldin
Musica Publishers
Moscow, USSR 1972
 56. Jewish Folk Songs
Arr. M. Goldin
Musica Publishers
Moscow, USSR 1977
 57. Jacob Schaefer
Essays on his 25th Yohrtzayt
Yiddisher Muzik Farband 1962
 58. Words And Music
Mordecai Yardeini
Yiddisher Kultur Farband 1986
 59. The Essential Klezmer
Seth Rogovoy
Algonquin Books Of Chapel Hill 2000
 60. Tenement Songs
Mark Slobin
University of Illinois Press
 61. Klezkamp Songbook

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The Leo Summergrad Story

I always was passionate about Yiddish songs. Perhaps this came about because Yiddish was my first language. Perhaps it was because my parents sang a great deal at home. People did that before we had radios and televisions. Perhaps it was because I had an uncle who was the lead tenor with the Oscar Julius Quartet and had his own radio program. Probably, all of the above.

When I was eight, I registered myself in an IWO Yiddish shule, without my parents knowledge. I also went to Camp Kinderland. In both places Yiddish song was important—with choruses and theatrical performances.

I started collecting when I was a young teenager, and put together a book of Yiddish songs. It started with those that I learned from my parents and in the shule. I added many that I found by spending hours in the Jewish room of the 42nd Street Library. That book is number 33 on my list. Many of the pages are yellowed and brittle.

Almost fifty years ago, I bought a high quality reel to reel tape recorder and recorded many Yiddish songs, with some brief commentary.

I sang the songs a cappella. That recording is Numbers S-13 and S-13(a) in my collection.

Bob Freedman has that recording in his collection. There are at least ten songs on those recordings, that I have never found on any other recordings that I own.

Almost 30 years ago, I had a conversation with a tennis partner about Yiddish music. He was a former music teacher and headed the program committee at the Greenburgh Hebrew Center in Dobbs Ferry, NY. We put on Yiddish music programs there. He accompanied my singing. We put on and recorded programs. They are in the collection as items S-13(b-h).

At first I collected LPs and later tapes and CDs. I kept the information on index cards. Later I set up data bases on the computer. The information can be retrieved by title, artist, producer and country of origin. More than twenty countries are represented. The song information can be retrieved by title, lyricist, composer, first line, recording artist and books in which they can be found. The collection has almost 700 recordings and over 2100 discreet songs. I still collect recordings.

At our "Leyen Krayz" we end with singing of Yiddish songs. One of our members, Madeline Simon, is a choral director and plays the piano. We taped. "Zikhroynes" and "Vi a Blitz".

Nemen fun Lider fun Archie Barkan

Whether it's programming for clubs or a change of pace in Yiddish class, here is a different way that my classes have found interesting. It is not meant to replace your regular routine, but rather to instill a bit of interest when things get a little boring. This list is a Yiddish translation of songs—oldies, but goodies. See how many bring back memories!

Shlekht tsu mir

Di levone iz geven gel

Zol kumen der regn oder dos shaynen

Glik iz nor a zakh vos m'ruft yosl

Ikh hob a rekht tsu zingen di bloye

Es iz bloyz a papirene levone

Dos alts shvartse kishef

Dem groysn shmatetsayt kapelye

Lomir onkukn di muzik un tantsn

Ikh hob Hershlen zeyer lib

Foyle beyner

Alter puter milkh himl

Tsvey farshlofene mentshn

Ales pasirt tsu mir

Bloyz mayn Velvl

Roykh geyt arayn in dayne oygn

Vos tustu dem iberikn teyl fun dayn lebn

Yedes mol mir zogn shalom

Ikh hob gefunen a milyon-rubldike tsatske

Du verst bislekhvayz a teyve mit mir

Ikh hob tsugevoynt tsu dayn ponim

Shalom, shalom shvartser foygl

Libe briv in dem zamd

Royte zeglen in dem zun fargang

Ikh hob nit gevust vifl halt der zeyger

Der Yidisher Briv-Fraynd Klub

Periodically we have published the information of the pen-pal activities of pen pals all over the world. This is a wonderful activity for a person or a group. It can be used as a Yiddish club activity where writers share their letters or it can be done where the group or subgroups writes to another group.

It also can be used as a Yiddish class lesson. Many years ago the Bintl Briv was a popular column in the Forverts. Likewise letter-writing was the norm from mishpokhes in Europe to correspond with their American family members or friends.

If you are interested in becoming a briv fraynd, register at *Der Bay's* website at:
<http://www.derbay.org/penpal.html>

#417

Name: Lina Brotherton

Age: 60

Email: linanormal@yahoo.com

Hobbies: reading, traveling, discussions, learning

level: beginner

write: all

method:

Skokie, IL

#427

Name: Susan Hiep

Age: 26 (- 40 or older)

Email s.hiep@gmx.de

Hobbies: reading, film, Yiddish literature, theatre, music:

level: intermediate

write to: intermediate or advanced

email: written Yiddish by regular mail mit yidish oyses

Moenchengladbach, Germany

#421

Name: Armand Rafalovitch

Age: 69

Email: balou-en-mer@worldonline.fr

Hobbies: sailing

level: advanced

write: all

method: blitzpost

France

Der yidisher briv-fraynd klub is world-wide with over 400 in: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay and 35 states in the US.

YIVO Summer Seminar

by Prof. Robert M. Shapiro

I am chairman of the YIVO EPYC Educators Seminar on East European Jewish Culture that will meet June 27 to 29 at the Center for Jewish History in NYC. The purpose of the seminar is to train and motivate educators from a variety of frameworks, including museums, colleges, secondary schools and supplementary schools, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to include more about the culture of East European Jewry in their teaching. Participants receive transportation, hotel, meals, materials and stipends of \$550, through funding by the Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Research and Education of the Jewish Claims Conference, the United States Department of Education, and friends of the YIVO.

Sessions alternate between lectures and practical curriculum workshops. Speakers include Profs. Michael Stanislavsky of Columbia Univ., Allan Nadler of Drew Univ., Samuel D. Kassow of Trinity College, Zelda K. Newman of Lehman College, Cecile Kuznitz of Bard College, Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett of NYU, Zalmen Mlotek of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, and Sheva Zucker of the League for Yiddish.

Participants will have an opportunity to become familiar with the holdings of the YIVO Archives and Library, as well as the rich EPYC website <http://epyc.yivo.org/home.php>

The curriculum workshops will be led by Cynthia Peterman, chair of the Jewish history department at the Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, MD; and by Leah Strigler, a Wexner Fellow and doctoral candidate at NYU. We hope to create the basis for an on-going community of educators sharing! Ideas and techniques for introducing and guiding students on voyages of exploration into the world of the East European Jewish heritage.

To get more information, please contact me. Applicants must be nominated by a principal, department head or dean and submit a current CV or resume. Applications can be submitted via e-mail or FAX (along with hardcopies sent by postal mail).

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Yiddish Theater: A Love Story

I produced a full-length documentary on one of the last divas of Yiddish theater in New York. It is a new movie and the big American premiere will be at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival in July.

Hale Porter and his wife attended a sneak preview screening and loved it. Are you able to schedule it at the IAYC conference in July. The film is 80-minutes long and can be shown as a DVD or VHS.

About "Yiddish Theater: A Love Story":

Enter the funny, larger-than-life world of Yiddish Theater through this new documentary film about the battle of Yiddish Theater to find an audience in contemporary NYC.

Shot in real time in one of the coldest winters in NYC, one Yiddish Theater has a week to raise funds to keep their show going, or it will close. Many miracles occur, but will it be enough to save a critically acclaimed Yiddish show?

The film includes unique scenes with many of the last remaining stars of the Yiddish stage as well as leading experts from the Yiddish world, including Seymour Rexite, Shifra Lerer, Zypora Spaisman, Zalmen Mlotek, Nahma Sandrow and many more.

Directed by Dan Katzir, this powerful and extremely moving film sheds new light on the importance of keeping Yiddish culture alive and the hurdles of bringing it to new audiences.

About the Creative Artists:

Dan Katzir's films won 22 International awards in the U.S., Europe and Asia and a nomination for the Israeli Academy Award. His film *Out for Love...Be Back Shortly* is a classic expressing the voice of his generation and is the most important film about the Rabin era in Israel. It was screened in the US on HBO. He holds an MFA from the American Film Institute (AFI) in Hollywood. Dan was a Lieutenant with the Israeli paratroopers.

Ms. Ravit Markus (Producer) is a graduate of the Film and TV Department at Tel Aviv University. Since moving to Los Angeles she has produced *Yiddish Theater: A Love Story* and a documentary for Channel 4 (UK).

My contact info is:
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E-mail: galaga1989@yahoo.com

THEM “JEW CRACKERS”:

Fishi on the Farm

Growing up on a chicken farm outside of Flemington, New Jersey left many memories. In fact, enough for a lifetime of storytelling. Actually it was a mile east of Baptistown on old route 12. The town was called that because there was an old Baptist Church there. The rest of town consisted of a general store, a post office, a tavern, an auto repair shop, the volunteer firehouse and a two-room schoolhouse.

We did not go to school there—it was for the “city kids”. We went to a one-roomer that had no electricity or running water, and an old pot-bellied coal stove.

High school was in Frenchtown, four miles away, and on the Delaware River. When you consider that our family of four boys were the only Jewish boys in school, it meant that we had only each other as good friends. It was easy to say “no” when offered food, for it was usually *treyf*.

Things were very different then. I remember that we ate suppers, and dinner was eaten noontime—when dinner was supposed to be eaten. Many years later mom said, “if G-d wanted you to eat dinner at night he wouldn't have called it supper”. Mom continued her wise philosophical oration by saying, “Even the goyim know what to eat at night—they eat supper.”

No holiday beat Pesakh. The first seder was always at zeyde's house. He was my mother's father. We called my father's father “grandpa”. Mom said that was so because her family were “greenhorns” and dad's family were “yenkees”.

Mom felt that way because one side spoke Yiddish while the other used “heynglish”. The distinction seemed to be more of the fact that one came before the war and the other after the war. Oh, I mean World War 1.

Let's get back to Pesakh and the seders. Zeyde and bobbe lived on Boerum Street in Brooklyn, and we lived on the farm in Jersey. It meant a two-hour ride into The City. Our transportation was the family car—a half-ton, International pick-up truck that was a deep maroon.

Naturally mom, dad, and little Semele rode up front. Seat belts, is that what you asked? Who cared about seat belts? Blankets, blankets, and bales of straw or hay to block the wind, that's what counted.

Especially it was on the way home, that the cold hit us. Sure Pesakh is in the middle of the month of Nisan, but at night in the back of an open truck, it gets mighty windy and cold. The worst part was the cold steel of the truck bed. We learned it was more important to have the blankets below us as having them above.

We called a blanket a “koldre” and a quilt filled with goose feathers a “perine” (pronounced *pehrineh*). Mom wouldn't let us take our “perines”—they were too valuable.

It was fun at the start, but the 60 mile trip seemed to last forever. We fell asleep on the way back. I guess the required four glasses of wine at the seder made us drowsy.

Food, food and more food was the most important thing to mom. Of course even more important was our health. Money wasn't a problem, for we didn't have much so we didn't use much. My folks never had a financial advisor. They never had any money to be advised about.

Food, food and more food not only occupied mom's mind, but was what hurried the boys along at their chores. A Pesakh breakfast meant matzo bray or matzo latkes. Actually, it was usually bray for breakfast and lathes at night.

Having a chicken farm meant that you had eggs. If you had a chicken farm, you had cracked eggs. If you had cracked eggs, you ate eggs—lots of eggs. The three-egg bray was the norm. The wood stove in the huge kitchen was always full of frying pans and the pans were always full of butter.

I hated taking peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to school when they were on matzo. The matzo always made crumbs and were messy. The other kids wanted them “Jew crackers” so we always brought extras along. Mom never new why we ate so much matzo in school until after we graduated. It was always us and them.

Every Pesakh Zolnerchik, our Polish neighbor on the other side of the creek, dropped by to get matzos—them “Jew crackers”. He said that the Jews really knew how to cook. His wife seldom came over, and always alone.

One time I remember Zolnerchik coming over and saying that them “Jew crackers” were like crispy Uneda Biscuits.

Ellen Grinshpan and the (CFRB) Chelm Federal Reserve Board

By Philip Fishl Kutner

With the admission of the, Rzeczpospolita Polska, Republic of Poland, to the EU, European Union—the European Common Market, it was obvious in Warsaw that there was the necessity for a national financial policy. There was an intensive search undertaken throughout the Republic to find the most astute financial planner with impeccable fiduciary credentials.

There was a special joint meeting of the Senate (upper house) and Sejm (lower house). It was called by the President with the full backing of the prime minister. The unanimous decision was made to poll the members of the Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE) to determine the person with the highest degree of honesty, integrity, intelligence, diplomacy, tact and knowledge of the international monetary systems.

The WSE had been reestablished in 1991 when the new political and financial system took place in Poland. In its early days it floundered because of the lack of a sound national financial policy. Advisors were called in from abroad and they concurred with the idea of needing strong leadership in the financial sector of the economy.

When the governments of the 49 provinces (Wojewodztwa) were contacted, and their approvals also were received, it was decided to go ahead with the vote. It was published first in *Cedula* the daily official bulletin providing information from the WSE (Warsaw Stock Exchange.) There are 26 members of the WSE and when they were polled, all selected Madam Ellen Grinshpan. What, you have never heard of Ellen Grinshpan? Who is this Ellen Grinshpan?

In the Chelm Wojewodztwo, in the municipality of Chelm, there was a matriarch who was head of the most successful Polish investment company—Ellen Grinshpan and Company. She was a mild-mannered, elderly, Jewish bobe who made her decisions based on the twirling lokshn as the strands swirled in the boiling chicken soup. *Yes* if it went clockwise, and *no* if it went counter-clockwise.

Even as a young child Ellen had shown great promise of her future potential. Her mathematical ability was far superior to any of the other children even at the gymnasia. She was able to count on her fingers faster than any boy in her class. Likewise her cooking ability was such that even the older women would come to Ellen for her unique recipes.

It was interesting to note that when Ellen tried this method of decision-making on a kroyt zup, a kartofl zup or even on a borsht, it was unsuccessful. To make the matter even more mysterious it was correct only when she used this method on her own stove, in her own kitchen in Chelm.

This created a problem for the national government. How could the Polish Federal Reserve Board not meet in the national capitol? It was decided that if the commission was given the title of Chelm Federal Reserve Board, it could meet in Chelm. It was also decided that the chairperson of the Board be known as the Chairlady.

However, there was an error in the printing of the announcement, and it went out as the Charlady of the CFRB. A *charwoman* is a woman who is hired to do heavy household cleaning, especially hired by the day.

When Ellen found out about the error in printing, instead of being angry, she was very pleased. After all it showed her humility and earthy background.

Everyone in the entire Republic of Poland was pleased with the wise choice of Ellen Grinshpan as the Charlady of the CFRB. Under her leadership the Republic of Poland flourished, and Chelm became renowned internationally as a center for financial advice. In fact the Dean of the Harvard Business School visited Ellen and offered her a professorship. Ellen graciously thanked the Dean, but declined the honor, for it would have taken her away from her beloved kitchen in Chelm.

To this very day if you visit Chelm, you can stop by Ellen's home. On the first Friday morning of every month Ellen's Kitchen Cabinet, known as the Chelm Federal Reserve Board meets to decide the Polish Federal Rate. The meetings are always over before noon so that Ellen can finish the traditional preparations for the shabes and then visit the Chelm Mikve.

Several reliable reports recently have been received by Fishl from members of Our Yiddish Club from Yenemsville who had returned to Chelm and had visited Ellen. The reports stated that if you tell her that you love to speak Yiddish, and that you are a reader of *Der Bay*, she will invite you for shabes dinner—and you can taste her famous chicken soup with lokshn un beblekh. If any other readers visit Chelm, please write Fishl of your experience there.

