

# Der Bay

## The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter

---

September 2006

Vol. XVI No. 7

---

### The International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC)

Accolades to hosts Gregg & Stephanie Hudis, and the conference chairman Sam Kutner.

For Teaneck Conference photos go to: *Der Bay's* website and click on Teaneck Conference. Click on Photos. The URL is: [www.derbay.org/teaneck.html](http://www.derbay.org/teaneck.html)

When the first conference was held at the University of Maryland in College Park, there were only four clubs involved. The first Board was only half its current size, and IAYC was not incorporated.

After ten conferences including ones in Maryland, Toronto, California, Florida, Wisconsin, Minnesota and New Jersey, IAYC is on solid ground. Each conference has been a success in every evaluation and was financially in the black. It is in the process of final selection for the next conference.

Since there is no executive director or paid office staff, the work is done by the board members. In addition to developing expertise in an advisory capacity for running a conference, board members are involved as presenters and entertainers.

Most important is its role as a resource for Yiddish groups—operating in the various formats. Board members visit prospective as well as member clubs in an advisory and presenter capacities.

An important element of IAYC support to its members is the regular periodic mailings sent in the form of books, CDs and program materials.

### A Look to the Future

Having said all of the wonderful ways in which the IAYC has grown from a fledgling organization to a true grassroots movement, where do we go from here?

Innovations at the Teaneck conference have set the direction by:

- Working with other Yiddish organizations as sponsors, vendors and exhibitors—Workmen's Circle, Folksbiene, Forverts, KlezKamp, the NYBC, JBI International, the Vilnius Institute, Chicago JCC Summer Institute, etc.
- Having an early orientation session.
- Awarding scholarships to young presenters.
- Greatly expanding the exhibitor/vendor displays.
- Showing recent Yiddish films.
- Offering shabes service in Hebrew/Yiddish.
- Recording key presentations.
- Introducing new areas like calligraphy.

### Areas where IAYC will be improving include:

- Greater utilization of our Advisory Board.
- Greater outreach to non-member groups.
- Regular IAYC page on club news in *Der Bay*.
- New Board members in uncovered areas.
- Contact with groups overseas.

To see photos of the Teaneck Confernce go to:  
*Der Bay's* website and click on Teaneck  
Conference. Then click on Photos. The URL is:  
[www.derbay.org/teaneck.html](http://www.derbay.org/teaneck.html)

## Marking Yiddish—Not Grading It

We have enough people who rate and grade Yiddish, often with low marks. That is a waste of time and often destructive. This article is an upbeat and constructive reminder of how to mark Yiddish that dog lovers can easily understand.

Marking is leaving a mark that you were there. Indian braves did it on the trail by either marking trees or leaving a pile of stones to show the path. Dogs leave a scent to mark their presence.

When you leave here, will you have left a mark for Yiddish? Did you make a difference? Sure it would be great to be able to leave a worthy piece of Yiddish literature or poetry, but most of us neither have the talent nor the knowledge of Yiddish to create a lasting piece of poetry or literature.

How can most of us leave a mark for Yiddish? How can we make a difference even if we are not Yiddish scholars, Yiddish performers or even know a great deal of Yiddish?

We can start with our own family. Some of us already are leaving a mark by telling our grandchildren to call us bobe or zeyde instead of grandma or grandpa. They can call the other grandparents— grandma or grandpa.

To this basic Yiddish marking we slowly can add words like zise meydele or vayse kats—short phrases that are easy to remember. Perhaps singing a lullaby is age appropriate. Whether it is for a grandchild or our own child the idea is the same.

If the above seems too basic and not significant enough, remember that Yiddish is not only a language of East European Jews, but also the culture. Here is where stories of your childhood or those of your parents or grandparents bring the life of the shtetl or city and the people into focus.

Still another area of marking Yiddish is to tell about our heritage, our genealogy. There are many areas to pursue in searching the story of our elders. Perhaps there are Yiddish letters, photographs with markings on the back or old silver candlesticks. Each item has a story, a history.

Whichever direction one goes, the important thing is that we leave a marking, an imprint that says Yiddish is/was important to me and I hope my offspring will not forget this important portion of my and their Jewish heritage. So think about it and share with us your markings. Let us know the path that you are taking.

## Pen Pal Column

This is a new column in *Der Bay*. It is for and by our over 430 briv fraynd all around the world who write to each other in Yiddish—mainly in Transliteration online.

To be added to the list, and receive a matching list of ten people with whom you can correspond, fill out the form on *Der Bay's* website at:  
<http://www.derbay.org/penpal.html>  
Your briv fraynd are matched to your ability level.

### You will be asked:

**The format in which you wish to correspond.**  
**Your level of Yiddish knowledge.**  
**Level of those with whom you wish to write.**  
**Your address.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Khushever fraynd,

Mayn yidisher nomen iz Khaye, ober do ruft men mir Raye. Ich bin geboyrn in Poylen, Rovno, (yetzlike Ukraine) un hob ibergelebt di Tzvayte Krig in Rusland. Bis di letste tsvey yor bin ikh geven a Yidishe ertsiyern un Director fun a Religyese Shule in Miami, Fl. Di letzte 10 yor hob ikh zikh oykh farnumen mit lernen Yiddish tzu dervaksene.

Yiddishe/ hebreishe musik is ale mol geven mayn grester fargnigen. Yetzt gefun ikh zikh in a gezelschaft fun yidn vos hobn oykh ibergelebt di tzvayte krig un hobn lib tzu zingen Yiddishe lider.

Mayn repertuar fun Yiddishe lider is gantz groys. Dokh fayln mir di verter fun a lid vos fangt zikh on mit di dozike verter (:Efsher kent ir mir helfn gefinen emittzn vos gedenkt dos lid. Dos lid iz geshribn gevorn in tzayt fun Krig.)

**In a Litvish derfl vayt,  
in a shtibl in a zayt  
Durkh a fenster nit kayn groys,  
kukn kinderlakh aroys.  
Yingelakh mit flaksn kep,  
maydelakh mit blonde tzep  
Un tsuzamen dort mit zay,  
kukn oygn shvartze tzvay.**

Ikh gedenk nisht di andere verzen. zay bashraybn vi di Mame hot im gebrakht in mitn fun der nakht un im gelosn dort.

Ikh dank aykh furoys.

Mit shalom,

Khaya Berman      [HRBER@aol.com](mailto:HRBER@aol.com)

## California Institute for Yiddish Culture (CIYCL) Activities

We are pleased to announce the winners of the second annual CIYCL Poetry Translation Contest. This is the only poetry contest of its kind, inspiring skilled translators to bring the fruits of mame-loshn to a wider audience.

The winner is Kathryn Hellerstein for her faithful translation of Moyshe-Leyb Halper's *Di Balade fun Mayn Viglid* (The Ballad of My Lullaby). A second prize goes to Andrew Firestone for his translation of Yisroel Shtern's *Nokhn Khirurgishn Tish* (When the Surgery is Over).

The awards are sponsored by Chik Wolk and Stephen Lesser, respectively. Both winning translations are featured on our website, [www.yiddishinstitute.org](http://www.yiddishinstitute.org). The first place winner also is featured in the CIYCL member's newsletter.

CIYCL thanks all those who submitted poems for their entries and encourages other Yiddish translators out there to submit a translation for the next contest. (Please see separate announcement of Entry Guidelines)

### The CIYCL 2006 Contest!

Contest Rules: Your single entry of up to two pages must include the original Yiddish poem and your own, never before published English translation. Entries over the required length will be disqualified. Submissions must be received by October 15, 2006 via post: Miriam Koral Calif. Institute for Yiddish Culture & Language; 333 Washington Blvd., #118 Marina del Rey, CA 90292 or Email: [miriam@yiddishinstitute.org](mailto:miriam@yiddishinstitute.org)

The First Place winner will be announced in Spring 2007 and will receive \$180, plus publication on our website and newsletter.

### The Seventh Annual Winter Yiddish Intensive: The Art of Yiddish

*Stage Presents: The Gift of Yiddish Theater*  
December 16-21, 2006  
at Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA

This is an immersion in Yiddish language and culture presented by the California Institute for Yiddish Culture and Language (CIYCL) in association with the Skirball Cultural Center and supported by Simha Lainer along with Nurit and Rick Amdur

## Historic Milestone in Yiddish Academy Is Formally Instituted in Johannesburg, South Africa

Sixty years after the formation of the now defunct Yiddish Kultur Federatzye in Johannesburg, the Yiddish Academy which has been in existence as a project for four years was formally constituted at an Inaugural General Meeting on Monday 8th May 2006 in Johannesburg.

The following Office Bearers were elected

Aron Ehrlich (son of Yiddish writer Hyman Ehrlich o'h) Chairman  
Eli Goldstein (Co-Chair)  
Cedric Ginsberg (Vice Chairman)  
Luba Janet (Treasurer)  
Pearl Kaplan  
Mona Berman (daughter of Yiddish writer Rachmiel Feldman o'h) – Cultural Affairs  
Tamar Olswang (Music Coordinator)  
Helen Heldenmuth (Events Coordinator)  
Matthew Krouse (Library Coordinator)  
Veronica Belling (Cape Town Coordinator and Consultant Librarian)  
Eli Goldstein (Johannesburg Johannesburg)

## Leonard Talent Associates, Inc.

I had hoped to drop by and meet you at the IAYC conference in Teaneck, but I was called out of town. As we discussed, I am sending you the names and flyers of performers that hopefully you will add to your list of Yiddish performers and lecturers. They have all performed for many Yiddish clubs. They are:

Ruth Kaye, Tinton Falls, NJ  
*My Grandmother, My Mother & Me*  
[wwwRuthkaye.com](http://www.Ruthkaye.com) singer / actress

Naomi Miller, Tinton Falls, NJ  
*Amerike Hurrah & From Klezmer To Broadway*  
800-517-6500 singer

Hall Jeffrin, Tinton Falls, NJ  
*From The Borscht Belt To Broadway*  
800-517-6500 singer

Joey Russell, Tinton Falls, NJ  
800-517-6500 comedian

Len Schlosberg Leonard Talent Associates, Inc.  
23 Sugar Maple Lane • Tinton Falls, NJ 07724  
800-517-6500 • 732-741-8832 • Fax 732-741-1409  
E-mail: [lentalent@aol.com](mailto:lentalent@aol.com)

## Merle Levy Writes About The 10th IAYC Conference

The conference was well worth the effort to get there. I haven't figured out what to pass on to Sacramento's Yiddish Club at our next meeting because I want to tell everything! We just got our photos back today, and so I'm reliving the week.

I had the added interest of knowing Hale Porter since my childhood. His daughter and I have been friends since she began dating my cousin in the '60s. They've been married for at least 20 years.

Teaneck was so welcoming. Donne said that he wished we could live there because of its proximity to NYC and the suburban feel. We had dinner at Anamore's. The owner treated us like family! It was a m'khaye to cap off our time in Teaneck there.

We went into Long Island to visit my Pitkin Ave. cousins. I saw this branch nearly every day because we lived in the same tenement in Brownsville.

Donne took Ethan to Ground Zero, Radio City and the wax museum. I have pictures of Donne cozying up to Lucille Ball's wax statue.

We changed our morning flights home to evening flights. I got NY's paratransit to pick me up at Port Authority Bus Station where the #167 Teaneck bus stops. We had some time to sit outside and have a hot dog and soak up the atmosphere.

Here is my laugh line for the trip. When I booked my ride to JFK with NY's paratransit, I forgot to ask how much the fare was. I called back to get the fare. Here's the basic conversation:

Me: "How much does it cost to ride Paratransit?"

Dispatcher: "The same as to ride the bus, lady."

Me: "And how much is the bus fare?"

Dispatcher: "Lady, are you pulling my leg? You don't know how much bus fare is????"

Me: "Don't let this accent fool you! The last time I lived here and rode the transit system, it cost a quarter. I'm pretty sure it's gone up since then."

It seems that he (and plenty of others) thought I was a local! That's how strong my accent is! I laughed about this for days! I left NY with my parents 37 years ago, but I still sound like Brooklyn (and proud of it)!

My wish is that someday we can host here or in the bay area. There are so many people in my Yiddish club who can't travel anymore. It would be great to bring the conference to them.

## Dafke: A Hebrew Magazine Devoted to Yiddish

In July 2006, Bet Sholem-Aleykhem in Tel-Aviv (with Tel-Aviv University) published the first issue of "Dafke," a new Hebrew popular magazine devoted to Yiddish (dafkeyiddish@yahoo.com). The handsome color magazine, edited by Benny Marr, is lavishly illustrated, comprises 56 pages and is planned to appear twice a year.

Participants are journalists and scholars from Israel and elsewhere. The theme of No. 1 is "Journeys" and includes articles by Ruvik Rozental, Avner Holtzman, Yosef Guri, Admiel Kosman, Rivka Volpe, Yael Chaver, Riki Ophir, Matan Hermoni, a Hebrew selection from Glatshiteyn's "Ven Yash iz Gekumen," Zehavit Stern, Hana Amit, interviews with the Hebrew poet Avot Yeshurun and Chava Alberstein, a graphic essay by Yirmi Pinkus, and recipes by Shmil Holand.

My article is "Jews Sit and Eat Bread and Green Cucumbers in the Shade of the Orange Trees," extracts from and discussion of Yehoyesh's Yiddish memoir of his stay in Palestine in 1914 ("Fun Nyu-York biz Rekhoves un Tsurik" publ. 1917).

The magazine was presented at a gala evening in Bet Sholem-Aleykhem. Subscriptions are NIS50; each issue is NIS30. This is a groundbreaking event in the history of Yiddish in Israel and an occasion for rejoicing! E-mail: sholemal@zahav.net.il  
The ordering address for Dafke is:

Beth Shalom-Aleichem  
P.O.B. 16241  
Tel-Aviv 61162

## Shootings at the Jewish Federation in Seattle

by Judy Fox

Our hearts go out to the victims and their families from the shootings at the Jewish Federation in Seattle

Here is a Yiddish poem for the victims of Seattle's Federation shootings. It is Kholemen Khaloymes (Dreaming Dreams) by Aliza Greenblatt, Woody Guthrie's mother-in-law.

For a copy in English and Yiddish look on pages 184 and 185 in *Pearls of Yiddish Song: Favorite Folk, Art and Theater Songs* by Eleanor Gordon Mlotek and Joseph Mlotek, published by the Education Department of the Workmen's Circle.

## Buenos Aires Yiddish

From: Perla Sneh <perlasneh@2vias.com.ar>

The Ministry of Culture from the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, through the Preservation Commission of Cultural Historical Patrimony and the Institute of History from the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (integrated to the Sub-Secretary of Cultural Patrimony), with assistance from the National Library of Argentina is pleased to invite you to "Buenos Aires dish" (Buenos Aires Yiddish), to be held in the National Library in Buenos Aires on September 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2006.

There is a Yiddish Buenos Aires. The invitation to walk across her does not seek to build a new chapter more or less exotic in an encyclopedia, but to recover places, voices, faces, gestures; ways of humor and debates; ways of memory; the living history of a texture made of theaters, redaction halls, restaurants, coffee places, streets, footpaths where a complex and effervescent culture weaved melodrama and journalism, poetry and gossip, militancy and pedagogy, politics and declamation.

We want to turn to these echoes of bygone voices. Buenos Aires dish wants to be a name for these traces. That is why we want to invite you to this meeting that will include artists, poets, philosophers, psychoanalysts, translators, journalists, musicians, actors, movie-makers—pacers of the urban memory. They include:

Toms Abraham,	Miriam Becker,
Max Berliner,	Marcelo Birmajer,
Pablo Dreizik,	Laura Estrin,
Daniel Feierstein,	Ricardo Feierstein,
Manuela Fingueret,	Ricardo Forster,
Luis Gutman,	Silvia Hansman,
Pablo Inberg,	Alejandro Kaufman,
Moiss Kijak,	Laura Kitzis,
Laura Klein,	Moiss Korn,
Adrin Krupnik, Graciela Lewitan de Eidelsztein,	
Abraham Lichtenbaum,	Cipe Lincovsky,
Len Rozitchner,	Yaakov Rubel,
Hermann Schiller,	Leonardo Senkman,
Myrta Shalom,	Susana Skura,
Ester Swarc,	Eliahu Toker,
Alejandro Vagnenkos,	Iosl Vakstein,
Nerina Visakovsky	Ana Weinstein.

Lic. Leticia Maronese  
Secretaria General C.P.P.H.C.

Lic. Liliana Barela

Directora General Instituto Historico de la C.A.B.A.

Lic. Perla Sneh

Coordinadora del Encuentro

## Moydua fun der fishman-fundatsye

vegn subventsn farn yor 2007

Der Termin Far Aplikatsies, in shaykhes mit bashtimte naye projektn af tsu shtarkn yidish tsvishn kinder un yugnt (der iker in di fareynikte shtaten) bemeshekh funem yor 2007, iz Oktober 15, 2006. Aplikatsyes muzn zayn af yidish un muzn farmogn a pinktlekhn budzset (biz \$2,500) un a haskome-briv fun der fun-shtayern-bafrayter-oganizatsye vos volt ufgepast af di fondn.

Af tsu bakumen a kontrolirke ("Checklist") mit detaln vegn dem neytikn inhalt fun an aplikatsye, zayt azoy gut un vendt zikh (af yidish) tsum vayterdikn adres:

Fishman Foundation  
3616 Henry Hudson Parkway, Suite 7B-N  
Bronx, NY 10463

Dos iz oykh der adres tsu velkhn men darf shikn di aplikatsyes (3 copies).

Baym oysteyln premyes veln di priyoritet bakumen di vos hobn noch keyn mol friyer nit bakumen kayn oysgeteylte premye metsad der fishman fundatsye.

A Notice from the Fishman Foundation Regarding the Deadline for 2007 Grant Applications

The deadline for applications requesting funds for NEW projects that aim at strengthening Yiddish among young children and adolescents, particularly in the USA, during 2007, is October 15, 2006.

Applications must be IN YIDDISH and must supply a description of the intended project, a detailed budget (up to \$2,500) and a letter of agreement from the tax-exempt agency agreeing to receive and monitor the expenditure of any funds that may be awarded. Projects are judged on a competitive basis.

In order to receive a checklist that covers all of the necessary details of an application, please contact (in Yiddish) at the address below.

The Fishman Foundation  
3616 Henry Hudson Parkway, Suite 7B-N  
Bronx, NY 10463

This is also the address to which the application should be sent (in triplicate). To be received by October 15, 2006.

Awards will be announced in early November 2006. Applicants that have never received Fishman Foundation Funds will be preferred

# International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC) News

## Der altveltlekher farband fun yidish-klubn naves

This issue marks the beginning of a new column in *Der Bay*. Every month we shall publish news of IAYC club activities. Our clubs represent some of the most active groups, and their success stories and activities can be inspirational and a source of information for programming; and membership acquisition, indoctrination, and retention.

There have been many instances when *Der Bay* readers have visited other clubs while they were on vacation, traveling on business, or relocating to a new area.

Your editor asks that you send in information for publishing your club's ideas and successes. Thus sharing can be a way of helping others to have a more successful group. Among the clubs there are unique ways of publicizing meetings, working in conjunction with other groups, celebrating holidays, visiting children in classes, putting on programs for JCCs and temples, publishing articles in local papers and corresponding with other individuals or Yiddish clubs in Yiddish. .

One suggestion is that you give thought to your club's name. In many cases the common usage is to call it "name of city, area, condo..." Yiddish Club or Vinkl.

What follows is an incident that happened to Fishl several years ago. He received a call from a 92 year-old woman who asked to have her club listed in *Der Internatsyonaler Kalendar*.

When she was asked the information about the club, all the facts were given except the name of the club. When it was suggested that it be called "The Name of the City Yiddish Club," the response was a definite NO!

This created a dilemma. How do you have a listing for a Yiddish club that doesn't have a name? The woman said, "I'll ask the *goyls*, and call you back next week."

Sure enough the following week the phone rang and she said in an excited voice, "The *goyls* have a name."

So what is the club's name? The response came clearly over the phone, "SPY."

When asked what kind of a name that is for a Yiddish club, the response was, "It stands for Society for the Preservation of Yiddish."

### The Mame-Loshen Group from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Our group meets the first Sunday morning each month at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre.

Our aim is to perpetuate the Yiddish language and culture—why?

1. Because we love the humanism of Yiddish literature.
2. We love the Yiddish language.
3. This is our way of honoring the six million victims of Nazism whose language was primarily Yiddish.

We begin each session with Yiddish folksongs. We read, as a group, from classical Yiddish writers. We carry on the business of the group in Yiddish. We encourage members to speak Yiddish, and they will learn even if they can't initially.

We appreciate the efforts of the IAYC and make use of the good materials that they send us. For example, our closing program in June was the adaptation of *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish.

We wish the IAYC a "yosher koach" at the conference, and we hope you will continue with your work.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Narvey  
Chairperson of the Mame Loshen Group  
146 Magnus Ave Sharon Home  
204-334-0650

Editor's note: Fred is an anecdotal writer of Yiddish and English stories. Many of these stories reflect experiences he had on the road as a traveling salesman. Fred also sings with the Stay Young Choir. He and his wife celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this summer.

Winnipeg is a remarkable Yiddish-friendly community considering its size and the amount of Yiddish programming that takes place there.

There were twelve Canadians registered for the IAYC Conference in Teaneck, NJ. Two of them came from Winnipeg. For Sharon Love this was her fourth IAYC conference, and for Rochelle Zucker it was her fifth. Rochelle's sister Sheva was the Saturday morning keynote speaker.

## Briv fraynd

#433

Name: Janine Oswald  
Age: 29  
Email: janine@janine-oswald.de  
Hobbies: Literature, Theatre, Sports  
level: advanced  
write: advanced  
method: written in yidish oysyes  
Address: Janine Oswald  
Konradstr.4  
41468 Neuss / Germany

Ikh heys janine oswald un ikh voyn in neuss, vos iz nisht azoy vayt fun disldorf un köln. Ikh bin geven a studentke far yidishe limudim in disldorf. In may hob ikh zikh farendikt dem studium un itzt darf ikh a kuk ton, vos ikh ken arbetn. Ikh hob lib arbetn in a farlag, ober dos iz nisht azoy laykht.

Ikh hob lib leyenen, oykhet oyf yidish. Ikh hob sakh geleyent fun un vegn sholem aschn, vos ikh hob lib. Vos ikh hob oykhed zeyer lib is geyn in teater.

Ikh hob hanoë fun makhn sport. Ikh loyf a sakh mit di hint (ikh hob tsvey hint un tsvey kets). Dem sof vokh vel ikh loyfn a halbn maraton in dorem deytshland, in stuttgart.

Lebn yidish hob ich zikh studirt germanistik. Beys di limudim hob ikh gearbet az a lereke far kindlen, vos zeynen nisht fun deytshland un kenen nisht keyn deytsh. Ikh hob oykhet gearbet far a tseytung, a teater un a farlag. Dos iz a sakh un ikh darf zogn az ikh hob zikh badarft etlekhe yorn far di limudim. Itst bin ikh 29. Ot a do iz a bisl vos vegn mir.

#432

Name: Ray Berman  
Age: 75/78  
Email: hrber@aol.com  
Hobbies: singing, music, yidish language  
level: advanced  
write: all  
method: either way  
Address: 9830 Malvern Dr  
Tamarac, FL 33321

#409

name: Sheila Grissom  
age: 40  
email: loanfund@vhcf.org  
hobby: landscape quilting, hiking, reading  
level: beginners  
write: beginners  
contact: Via Email  
Charlottesville, VA

## My Yiddish Experience in Paris

By Jane Pepler

I was at the three-week intensive Yiddish summer course at the Medem Bibliotheque in Paris. It was packed with students from high-school kids of 16 and 17 to elderly people, students from Italy, France, Czechoslovakia, Byelorussia, the U.S., etc.

One of my two teachers (Rubye Monet) said she hopes someday the two threads of Yiddish speakers – the orthodox community, with its living-evolving but primarily oral Yiddish, and the academic community – much smaller, but with an appreciation of literature and history, with a richer vocabulary – will merge and strengthen each other. Given the irascible nature of many, this may never happen, but it's a lovely dream.

I was in the intermediate class, with 20 members. I asked a few of my fellow students why they were studying Yiddish. A young Russian girl said, "I have to be able to speak Yiddish with my zeyde while he lives." One non-Jewish French man, a German teacher, said he is a devoted student of European history and had decided he would never understand it without understanding Yiddish.

A number of the students began studying Yiddish out of nostalgia then realized that there is a world of Yiddish speakers. One of our two teachers (Natalia Krynicka, who teaches Yiddish at the Sorbonne) brought journals, newspapers, and magazines currently being written and published in Yiddish. There were about twenty of them, it seemed, published everywhere from Israel to Poland to France to America.

It's possible the biggest block to learning of Yiddish is: the snobbish, members-only attitude of many who are native speakers or who learned long ago. "Only MY kind of Yiddish is good," or "so-and-so is an American, how can she/he be a good teacher," or "what an awful accent that person has," or "that person uses a vocabulary I reject."

Yiddish-speakers as well as readers comprise a VERY SMALL pond. It's neither helpful nor productive to denigrate the people trying to jump in as beginners to learn Yiddish.

It's the kindly, patient people who encouraged me enough to take the next step – to go to the Medem, which was a fabulous experience – and I in turn encouraged somebody else to go too! He took the beginning class and was amazed to see how much came back to him – he remembered the alphabet from Hebrew school, his grandparents and father had spoken Yiddish to him when he was a child.

## The Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus

The Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus (JPPC) was the featured act at the recent IAYC Conference. It is part of our modern Yiddish renaissance—over 30 members, ranging in age from 30-80, many of whom speak or are learning Yiddish. The JPPC is remarkable in its vast, century-spanning repertoire—largely unknown but exciting oratorios and comic operettas, labor anthems, folksongs, and popular tunes—all in Yiddish. Committed to strengthening Yiddish as a living language, The JPPC commissions and premieres new Yiddish choral works by composers such as Bella Gotesman, Binyumen Schaechter, Josh Waletzky, and Mark Zuckerman.

The JPPC shares the rich legacy of Yiddish song by performing throughout NYC's tri-state region. The JPPC has performed its Outreach Concerts at Carnegie Hall, at Lincoln Center, and at Ground Zero, as well as the North American Jewish Choral Festival and other musical conferences. So that the newest generation can carry on the lamp of Yiddish song, the Chorus also performs with the Pripetshik Singers, made up of Yiddish-speaking children from ages 6-17. Besides its Outreach Concerts, The JPPC also performs its NYC Spring Concert with highlights from that season's choral repertoire.

We are here to sing – for you! The JPPC is looking for new audiences to which we can reveal the power and beauty of Yiddish choral music. If you would like your group to have this moving experience, we are ready to help plan a program. We can provide either an entire concert or perform several numbers to enhance a commemoration or special event. For availability and booking arrangements, please email us at the JPPC. We look forward to hearing from you!

If you have a good voice, enjoy choral singing, and live in the New York metropolitan area, come sing with us. Speaking or reading Yiddish is not a requirement, because all of our musical texts are transcribed into Roman letters. Some sight-singing or music reading is a plus, but tapes or CDs of vocal parts are provided for those who need them. There is a simple audition to be accepted into the Chorus.

The Chorus rehearses Monday evenings from 6 to 8 P.M. at the Marseilles Hotel, 230 West 103rd Street (SW corner of Broadway in Manhattan). Our season runs from September to June, except for Jewish and some national holidays. Call 212-989-0212, or e-mail BSchaechter@nyc.rr.com Better yet, come down to a rehearsal. Meet and make new friends who love to sing beautiful Yiddish songs.

## Yiddish Is My Lorelei

What is Yiddish to you? This question was asked of a group of people, and it is amazing how varied were the responses. They all were very beautiful representations of their feelings.

Let's start with your editor's response.

Yiddish is like what the sea and foreign ports are to a sailor. It is the adventure of hearing, seeing and doing the new. It is the challenge of the unknown. It is my Lorelei.\*

Here are several other responses:

"Yiddish is like the comfort that a crying child feels when she is cuddled by mama next to her breast."

"Yiddish is like that first enchanting kiss on a moonlit night while you both are overlooking the glassy calm lake."

"Yiddish is like the first gulp of cool water that one feels at an oasis after a long trek in the desert under a searing sun."

"Yiddish is like the feeling of holding your first grandchild shortly after being born. It is even more gratifying than when your own eldest was born."

"It's my very soul. It was the beginning of my education."

"Yiddish, to me, is that old and familiar mame-loshn that I grew up with, and that our people have been speaking for hundreds of years, I also see Yiddish as that young and vibrant language that keeps adding new words and attracting young speakers in universities and study groups."

It might be worthwhile for you to take a moment, and ponder the meaning of Yiddish to you. Also this could be the core of a club meeting. Some of the thoughts could be published in your club newsletter, synagogue/temple newsletter, Anglo/Jewish newspaper, our Yiddish press or in *Der Bay*.

.....

\*There is a German legend that tells of a beautiful maiden, whose name was Lorelei. She threw herself into the river because of the unfaithfulness of her lover. After her death she became a siren. Thereafter she could be heard singing on a rock along the banks of the Rhine River, not far from St. Goar. The music hypnotized sailors, and lured them to their death. The tale is based on the name of a rock that echoes not far from Sankt Goarshausen, Germany.