

Der Bay

The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter

June-August 2007

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IAYC 11th Conference • Cleveland, Ohio

Orientation Session • August 3, Friday at 2 pm

This is the seventh in a series of reports on the IAYC XI Conference August 3-6, 2007 at the Marriott Cleveland East Hotel. The centerfold has the entire program. These reports are on the website at: <http://www.derbay.org/cleveland/>

The opening and closing days have been greatly expanded. There will be a full program Friday afternoon with an orientation session and the wonderful entertainment of the Yiddish People's stage with 5 Acts.

Philip Fishl Kutner: Editor, Der Bay

- I Introductions:
- II Goals:
 - Friendship/Fun
 - Information/Ideas
 - Sources/Speaking
 - Hebrew/Help
 - Leadership/Learning
- III Registration Packet:
 - Conference Journal
 - Conference Badges
- IV Conference Layout:
 - Grande Ballroom
 - Lecture/Workshop Rooms
 - Hospitality Room
 - Vendors/Exhibitors
- V Hotel Facilities:
 - Spa

- VI Program Schedule:
 - Day Programs:
 - 4 Plenary Sessions
 - 30 Breakout Sessions
 - Shabes Services
 - Evening Programs:
 - Fri.: Katz Family of Milwaukee
 - Sat.: The Workmen's Circle/
Arbeter Ring Gala Evening
 - Sun.: Concert in Cain Park

- VII Vendors/Exhibitors:
 - Authors, Performers, Translators,
Commercial, Organizations,

- VIII Meals:
 - Table Names
 - Time for Sharing

- IX Daily Conference Newsletter:

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“A Community Calendar”

Lists of events abound on the Internet, but usually they refer to a particular cultural, “fraternal” etc. organization, or entertainment individual or group. Many have websites with a “Calendar of Events”. But, when someone wants to know “What’s going on when I visit ...” it’s another matter. One resource is the local Yiddish or Anglo-Jewish newspaper.

Der Bay’s Internatsyonaler Kalendar has been a resource in the hardcopy, and in even greater detail, on the website at the homepage, Yiddish Events or <http://www.derbay.org/calendars/kalendar.html> There are listings of 15 regions and 17 organizations. It is updated daily when Fishl’s home.

The latest innovation to the site is the addition of a separate page (section) for Israeli events. This has been made possible with the new reporting of Bella Bryks-Klein of Petsah Tikva, Israel.

Der Internatsyonaler Kalendar serves a dual purpose, for not only is it a boon to people wishing to attend Yiddish events, but also it is a great publicity tool. Best of all it is absolutely FREE.

What information can one learn about events? Once one decides on the region and date/s they would like to attend a Yiddish event, then a look on the website will give the 5 following bits of information:

City
Date/Day
Time
Title of the event/presenters
Contact Phone Number

Where the URL for the website is known, or e-mail address is sent in, it is included as a link so that it serves as a resource for additional information.

Now that we have covered information for attendees, let’s turn our attention to the performers or organizations. Fishl’s mantra is NETWORKING! “Cooperation is the basis of success.”

Get free publicity wherever and wherever you can. Do NOT do it yourself. Your time is too valuable. You are too busy planning and handling the “big picture”. Get a significant other or someone who would be thrilled to be asked to help you.

On a monthly basis send the updated 5 bits of information to Fishl and at least 5 other freebies—better yet, make it 10. Once you have the list and the updated information, it is merely a push of the *send key*☺ and you are on your way to greater success.

Fun with Letters:

A Yiddish Club or Class Activity

By Philip Fishl Kutner

Learning the alphabet can be fun at any age. We need to agree on the sequence of letters. If we didn’t have an agreed standard, we could not quickly look up words in a dictionary or names in a phone book.

There are patterns to letters. Our Hebrew/Yiddish letters start out like the Greek letters—alpha, beta, gamma, delta...

We do not use an English alphabet. Our alphabet is the Roman alphabet. The letter M is the middle letter (#13) the pattern of LMN in Yiddish is lamed, mem nun. Another sequence is RST, reysh, sin, tov.

Lamed looks like lightning. Pairs are told apart by little tricks. The giml has a **Gap**—the nun does **Not**. The mem has a **bottoM** slit and the tes on **Top**. The reysh gets **Rounded** and the daled **Does not**.

Letters stand for numbers. Alef is 1 beys is 2... Khay (Chai) means 18 because khes is 8 and yud is 10.

These can be done as take home activities to be brought in to the next meeting. Make it optional, for some may not do it, and you do not want them to be discouraged from attending the next meeting.

At the meeting they can be grouped into 2s or 3s

These games can be used around a letter or sound. Using dictionaries—transliterated ones can be useful. Here is an example of how it is done.

Yiddish Needs the

Here is an English example using the KHs

Let’s try a Yiddish sound, the ch sound as in the German ach or Scottish Loch. We use KH as in the YIVO Standard Orthography (spelling).

Yiddish Needs the KH’s

The sound KH is a marvelous sound.
That is why Yiddish needs the KH’s.
The khes and khof both give this sound.

A Groom is a Khosn,
A Wedding is a Khasene,
Your Child’s Father in law is a Mekhutn
Your Child’s Mother in Law is a Makheteniste
Your Child’s in Laws are Makhutonim

On the next two pages are 100 KH words.
They also are on the website at:
www.derbay.org/words/index.html

Alongside of the Yiddish word place the number of the English word that matches it

1 A Bread	Araynbrekher	51 Hog	Khoyle
2 A Holiday	Bikhershank	52 Hole	Khoyshekh
3 Abdomen	Bodkhalat	53 Holocaust	Khoyv
4 Also	Boykh	54 Horse Radish	Khoyzek
5 Although	Brekh	55 I	Khreyn
6 Animal	Brokh	56 Important	Khrope
7 Ankle	Brokhe	57 Judge	Khumesh
8 Apron	Bukh	58 Kitchen	Khurbn
9 Austria	Dakh	59 Laugh	Khvalye
10 Author	Dikhter	60 Make	Kikh
11 Bathrobe	Durkh	61 Matchmaker	Knekh
12 Bill	Estraykh	62 Me	Kokh
13 Bladder	Etlekhe	63 Milk	Krikh
14 Book	Fartekh	64 Month	Kukher
15 Bookcase	Fokher	65 Mumps	Lakh
16 Brain	Frankraykh	66 Nausea	Lekek
17 Break	Gikh	67 Night	Lokh
18 Broth	Gliklekh	68 Nightgown	Makh
19 Burglar	Hekht	69 Oneself	Mekhaber
20 Cake	Hoykh	70 Orchid	Mikh
21 Cantor	Ikh	71 Pentateuch	Milkh
22 Carpet	Khale	72 Pike	Milkhiks
23 Catch	Khalesh	73 Poet	Mizrakh
24 Charm	Khaloshes	74 Portion	Moyekh
25 Chef	Khanike	75 Prayer	Nakht
26 China	Khap	76 Quick	Nakhtemnd
27 Choir	Kharote	77 Radish	Nokhmakhn
28 Cook	Kharpe	78 Regret	Noztikh
29 Copy	Khasene	79 Ridicule	Orkhidi
30 Creep	Khaver	80 River	Oykhet
31 Dairy	Khaye	81 Roof	Penkher
32 Darkness	Khazer	82 Safety Pin	Retekh
33 Daughter	Khazerl	83 Several	Rikhter
34 Debt	Khazn	84 Shoe	Shadkhn
35 Disgrace	Khet	85 Shoes	Shikh
36 Dream	Kheylik	86 Sick Person	Shtekhler
37 East	Kheyne	87 Sin	Shukh
38 Esteemed	Khezhbn	88 Skunk	Shvakh
39 Faint	Khidesh	89 Snore	Taykh
40 Fan	Khine	90 Sure	Tepek
41 Flattery	Khmalye	91 Surprise	Tkhoyer
42 Fracture	Khknife	92 Thing	Tokhter
43 France	Khokhem	93 Through	Tsherepakhe
44 Friend	Kholem	94 Turtle	Vikhtik
45 God Forbid	Kholile	95 Wave	Vokh
46 Groom	Khor	96 Weak	Yoykh
47 Handkerchief	Khoshev	97 Wedding	Zakh
48 Happy	Khosn	98 Week	Zikh
49 Hedgehog	Khotsh	99 Whack	Zikher
50 High	Khoydesh	100 Wise Person	Zikhershpilke

Answer Sheet

1 A Bread	Khale	51 Hog	Khazer
2 A Holiday	Khanike	52 Hole	Lokh
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4 Also	Oykhet	54 Horse Radish	Khreyn
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50 High	Hoykh	100 Wise Person	Khokhem

I.L Peretz and My MRI by Harold Ticktin

While undergoing my second MRI in three weeks after an auto accident, I discovered a connection between MRI's and I.L. Peretz. What, you say, can Magnetic Resonance Imaging have to do with a 19th century Jewish writer of great repute? Obviously an explanation is in order.

I'll spare you all of the minor details of the crash (a careless left turn in front of me) but it involved a hospital stay for several days, a first MRI to assess possible spinal damage, and then the follow-up three weeks later. Given the glories of modern radiology, I suspect many readers over 25 are familiar with the ordeal of lying still inside a steel donut accompanied by a primitive drumbeat and screeching for at least ½ hour.

As one approaches that unforgiving tunnel, the task is what to do with your mind, flat on your back, arms motionless and straight. I had a half successful ploy, the stock portfolio, good for maybe 15 minutes followed by romantic memories for 10; but still leaving an agonizing hiatus of 5 minutes to RELIEF.

It was during those last 5 minutes that I.L. Peretz came to my rescue with his beloved story, "Oyb Nisht Nokh Hekher." Recall that the tale involves a shtetl with a problem about its beloved Hasidic Rebbe. It is known that he rises early in the morning and disappears for hours.

The devoted Hasidim believe that he ascends to heaven to do Talmud with Ha Shem. But a skeptical Mitnagid, being a devotee of traditional Lithuanian Yeshiva learning, bookish and definitely anti-Hasidic, scoffs at the notion and resolves to seek the truth by hiding under the Rebbe's bed and following him in the morning.

It is precisely here that Peretz and MRI's converge. The problem with both the Mitnagid and the MRI patient is how to occupy oneself during the time of their respective ordeals. The Mitnagid, splayed under the Rebbe's bed solves his dilemma. Dedicated to book learning, memory and mnemonic devices to keep it straight, Mitnagdim were what the Talmudic sages called, "baskets of books." That is, if the subject at hand were a tractate in say, Baba Metzia, Shmuel or Chaim or whoever could simply be called on to recite the entire text, a talent that remained in place after the Talmud was reduced to writing and survived even the printed word. So, Peretz tells us, the embedded Mitnagid simply "did Talmud" while he waited for the light of day, all in his head as if the text were before him.

Lying athwart my second MRI table in 3 weeks, those last five minutes of tortuous waiting were made livable for me by rereading with my "mind's eye", Peretz' charming description of the Mitnagid under the Rebbe's bed, "doing Talmud." Waiting for release from the MRI tunnel of steel, I "read" how the Mitnagid follows the Rebbe, who is now outfitted as a woodcutter. He chops some wood and carries it to the hovel of a poor widow with children. He calls out that he has wood available. She responds that she has no money. He tells her that she does not have to pay, leaves the wood with her, and returns to the shtetl in time for morning prayer.

As the story ends, the Hasidim ply the Mitnagid with questions. Does the Rebbe indeed ascend to the heavens? The Mitnagid replies with the title of the tale – Oyb Nisht Nokh Hekher – "if not higher."

IAYC Confernce Innovations

There were a dozen new ideas tried at the Teaneck Conference. Gregg & Stephanie Hudis and the hosting Teaneck JCC Yiddish Club successfully instituted them. This year Harold Ticktin and his committee will add new ideas. They include:

A Litishe un Galitsyaner Tish baym IAYC Konferents

The Cleveland IAYC conference Committee just announced that there will be a separate tish for both Litvaks and Galitsianers where only Yiddish will be spoken. There will be dictionaries available at the tables, but only Yiddish will be permitted.

A Yidish Tish is not unusual at the university level, where staff, and community members can attend. By having the meeting during lunch and as part of the noonday meal, there is no problem with time or location restraints.

A Yidish Lerers Tish

There will be a table designated just for Yiddish teachers. Hopefully the members of the Yiddish online list will be well represented at this table.

Full Schedule on First Afternoon

The first Yiddish Peoples Stage with 5 acts follows the orientation session to complete a full schedule for the first afternoon. Past conferences started in the evening with no programs during the afternoon.

Yiddish Concert in the Park

Workmen's Circle Concert to be held in conjunction with The IAYC Conference in Cleveland Features "Yiddish Swingtet" 7pm on August 5, 2007

The Yiddish Swingtet is headed by Greg Wall, virtuoso saxophonist/clarinetist. His critically acclaimed release, "From the Belly of Abraham", with Hasidic New Wave and Senegalese master drummers Yakar Rhythms was named one of the ten best CD's of 2002 by Jazz Times magazine.

The Workmen's Circle of Cleveland is delighted to have Joanne Borts perform again in our city. She is one of New York's favorite theater and cabaret artists with a reputation as a performer of Broadway music and the rich traditions of the Yiddish Theatre.

Ms. Borts has performed with Neil Sedaka, The Klezmatics, Khevrisa, the Klez Dispensers, the Klezmer Conservatory Band and Frank London's Klezmer Brass All-Stars at The Lincoln Center, the 92nd Street Y, The Public Theatre and Carnegie Hall. Joanne recently co-starred with Mike Burstyn in On Second Avenue at the Folksbiene Theatre.

She is the director, co-author and co-star of Kids & Yiddish, the successful annual off-Broadway family show. Joanne has been a member of the teaching faculty at The Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, KlezKamp and KlezKanada, and has appeared at The Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto and The Monument National Theatre in Montreal.

Another highlight on this star-studded Yiddish Concert is Susan Watts. She is a "double threat" in that she is both an accomplished trumpeter and vocalist. Susan was featured in the Yiddish Concert in the Park of the 2005 performance. Rounding out the Yiddish Swingtet will be Aaron Alexander on drums, Brian Glassman on Bass, and Art Bailey on piano.

This year's 29th Annual Yiddish Concert in the Park will be held at Cain Park in Cleveland Heights, OH. This historic amphitheater has 1222 seats in a covered outdoor pavilion, plus a lawn that can hold another 1300 people. The Cleveland Workmen's Circle Yiddish Concert is a free concert endowed by the late Eugenia and Henry Green.

The 2007 Yiddish Concert in the Park will be held in conjunction with the International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC) Conference to be held in Cleveland, August 3rd-6th. So, in the fullest sense, "Yiddish Culture is to Flourish in Cleveland" this summer in August 2007.

Yiddish Program in Birobidzhan

From August 13-30, 2007

For the first time in the history of Yiddish studies, a program of the Yiddish language and culture is to take place in Birobidzhan, the capital of the Jewish Autonomous Region. Since 1934, Birobidzhan has been the only place in the world where Yiddish has an official status as the state language. Birobidzhan has undergone many political and economic hardships. No one has changed the official status of Yiddish in the Autonomy.

A center for the research of the history and culture of Yiddish is being organized at the Faculty of Foreign Languages of the Birobidzhan Far Eastern State Academy for Humanities and Social Studies. The first undertaking of the center will be this program. It is intended for university students as well as anyone else interested in the subject.

Four language levels are being offered, as well as lectures on Yiddish literature and culture, and workshops on Yiddish cinema and Yiddish Cantorial repertoire (with one of Montreal's leading cantors). The program will take place daily, except Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- participate in the ethnographic expeditions covering the Jewish region as well as visiting the pioneering settlements, which bear Yiddish names Birofeld, Naifeld, Valdheim, and Amurzet;
- meet original pioneers;
- meet representatives of the Autonomous Region government;
- visit local Yiddish institutions; the "Birobidzhaner shtern" Yiddish newspaper, the local radio and television, the museums and the Shalom Aleichem Library;
- see a performance by the Kohelet Theater troupe;
- visit Jewish sites in the Autonomous Region capital, the new synagogue and community center, the old synagogue, the closed Jewish cemetery and Yiddish writer's memorial sites;
- visit the neighboring city, Khabarovsk, which is the center of the Russian Far East;
- travel to the Chinese city of Kharbin, the center of Manchuria, and to acquaint themselves with the Jewish history of the city (optional);
- have a Shabbat meal at local Jewish community.

For more information see

<http://www.2all.co.il/web/Sites/yiddishproject>

Dr. Boris Kotlerman: Bar Ilan University, Israel
Mr. Khanan Bordin: Hebrew University, Israel
Dr. Miron Fishbein: Birobidzhan, Russia

A Major Klezmer/Yiddish Song Event by Yale Strom

I am organizing a major klezmer/Yiddish song event in conjunction with the Eldridge Street Project for Oct. 11-14, 2007. There will be a gathering of the most influential klezmer artists since the revival began in the mid-1970's through today in front of the Eldridge Street Synagogue. The synagogue is celebrating its 120th birthday as well as it being fully refurbished.

Just like the fame photo taken in 1954 in Harlem called "A Great Day In Harlem" with all of the jazz greats of that time in front of a brownstone in Harlem, this photo "A Great Day on Eldridge Street" will be remembered for decades. It is significant that the photo will take place in the Lower East Side the cradle of East European Yiddish culture in America.

Besides the photo shoot there will be roundtable discussions with musicians (woodwinds, string, brass, percussion) open to the public, press conference, a march to the synagogue which will be the largest klezmer marching band ever (some 80 - 100 musicians from all over the world), erev Shabes services in the Eldridge St. shul, plus 2 evening concerts. The press (TV, radio, internet, magazine and newspaper) will be national and international in scope. Then after this weekend from Oct. 15-21, 2007 13-20 musicians will tour New York state for a week playing in four cities and giving two workshops. These events will be video taped and professionally recorded for an eventual film I am directing.

In Dec. 7-9, 2007 in La Jolla, CA I will direct a mini version of "A Great Day on Eldridge Street" where we will celebrate the arts of the "Yidishe velt". We will have a photo exhibit based upon the events that took place, and evenings and afternoon with programs consisting of music, comedy, theatre, literature and film. Depending on the progress of the documentary film we might even screen a segment from the new documentary I shot in NYC.

I am writing to see if your institutions would be interested in doing some kind of version of "A Great Day on Eldridge Street" in 2008? I recently was appointed as artist-in-residence at San Diego State Univ. where I teach one class a semester in the Jewish Studies Program. My klezmer band Hot Pstromi just released its 10th CD for Transcontinental Music called "The Absolutely Complete Introduction to Klezmer a companion to the book I edited "The Absolutely Complete Klezmer Songbook. The band is recording a new CD for ARC out of England.

I can be reached at: 619-255-1651

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute Wilderness Retreat at Little Switzerland, N C August 9-12, 2007

This will be the 29th season for this event.
Presenters and performers this year will include:

Ali & Gene Kavadlo: Outstanding klezmer duo
Cantor Robert Abelson: Cantorial operatic singer
Joyce Rosenzweig: Pianist, arranger, entertainer

Charlotte Yiddish Institute
5007 Providence Rd. #111
Charlotte, NC, 28226

Baila Pransky: 704-366-5564
Branya Gibbs: 704-849-6933
Don Herbstman: 704-752-1910

Knowledge, Creativity and Transformations of Societies by Astrid Starck-Adler

**Moving Beyond the
Contradictory Discourses on Yiddish
Vienna, Austria: December 6 - 9, 2007**

Regarding Yiddish, the information media send out two somewhat discordant messages. On the one hand, Yiddish is ever and again presented as a disappearing if not already dead language; on the other hand, significant coverage is lavished upon Yiddish literary, cultural and musical productions.

The number of concerts and festivals keeps on growing; new summer courses and weeklong Yiddish camps are organized; workshops on klezmer music, Yiddish song and theater abound. Those who are interested can learn the language, be active as teachers and translators, become trained as Yiddish actresses, actors, musicians and singers.

This Yiddish cultural activity is found not only in lands where Jews reside in great numbers, but also in those countries from which they emigrated or where they were exterminated. Thus is celebrated an assured future for a language menaced with extinction. But are the affirmers of Yiddish vitality any more believable than the nay-sayers?

Our section will examine the relationship between these contradictory discourses on Yiddish, and explore ways out of thinking of Yiddish in such starkly opposite terms.

http://www.inst.at/kctos/sektionen_n-s/starck_adler.htm
E-mail: astrid.starck@uha.fr

Quorum Sensing and Critical Mass by Philip Fishl Kutner

Is there a lesson we in the Yiddish community can learn from the research in the physical sciences of Critical Mass (CM) and the biological sciences from the newly developing Quorum Sensing (QS)? They both require a minimum presence of atoms in CM and a minimum number of microbial organisms in QS.

What has this to do with Yiddish? Are there any real constructive analogies that can be drawn from this? Can we apply any of the principles in these sciences to fostering Yiddish?

In each of the above cases there is a minimum amount of mass to have a reaction. Is there a minimum number one needs to have a successful *leyen*krayz, *shrayb*krayz or *shmues*krayz? Likewise is there a point where a group gets too large and unwieldy?

It appears that in entertainment it is possible and even desirable to have groups of a thousand or even several thousand and it can still work well. There are clubs where many of the members come just to listen and not participate. This does not lead to a vibrant situation. History shows us that after a while the leader becomes tired or disillusioned at the lack of cooperation and leaves.

Experience has shown that a lower limit seems to be the minimum for a viable club situation. There is always a leader—if only for scheduling or calling. Seldom will everyone attend sessions. It may be a seasonal situation and the group meets only during the winter as they do in warmer climes.

- Six participants seems to be the lower limit for a *shrayb*krayz. (Yugntruf seems to have the only vibrant *shrayb*krayz.)
- Six also seems to be the lower limit for a *leyen*krayz.
- Ten to twelve seems to be the lower limit for a *shmes*krayz (the vast majority of clubs fall into this category. Groups with attendance in the 20-50 range seem to be the most successful.

A *shneyfoyl* is a snowbird—one who comes down south to Florida, California or Arizona for the “season”. A *shneyele* is a snowflake—one who comes down but only for several weeks. These seasonal groups are often ephemeral.

The longer “vacationers” remain in their temporary home, the greater is the chance that they will attend a Yiddish club.

Klezfest St. Petersburg 2007

The Center for Jewish Music of the the Jewish Community Center of St. Petersburg is proud to announce "KlezFest St. Petersburg 2007," an international seminar on the traditional music of Eastern European Jewry, to be held July 8-12, 2007 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

"KlezFest St. Petersburg," now in its 11th year, is the oldest klezmer seminar in Russia. The 2007 festival will include master-classes on Yiddish folk songs and klezmer music, workshops on Yiddish folklore and Yiddish dance, lectures, concerts, and two excursions: "Jewish St. Petersburg" and "Rivers and Canals of St. Petersburg."

Our staff will include world-famous musicians -- from New York, the violinist, accordion player, vocalist, ethnomusicologist and the world's leading expert on Yiddish dance, Michael Alpert; also from New York, the vocalist from the famous Klezmatics group, Lorin Sklamberg; from Zaporozhie, Ukraine, the Yiddish folk poet and singer Arkady Gendler, and others.

"KlezFest St. Petersburg," dedicated to bringing klezmer music and Yiddish culture back to the land of their birth, includes Jewish musicians from the vibrant centers of the Jewish renaissance throughout the former Soviet Union.

This year again we are pleased to announce a very special program for lovers of Yiddish music and culture from other parts of the globe. We are asking for a contribution of \$550. This sum will include food and lodging in St. Petersburg for 5 days and the entire seminar program, including interpreters when needed, concerts and two excursions. Participants will pay for their own transportation to St. Petersburg.

For more information, please contact the Jewish Community Center of St. Petersburg via e-mail <frenk@lea.spb.su> or visit our website at: <www.klezfest.ru>.

If you wish to have advice on travel and visa arrangements, contact our American sponsor, the Jewish Community Development Fund in Russia and Ukraine. It is a project of the American Jewish World Service (New York), via: telephone: (+1-212) 792-2916, or e-mail: <jcdf@ajws.org>.

Join us at "KlezFest St. Petersburg" this summer! If you haven't been on the Neva River during White Nights with Russian klezmerim, you haven't lived!