

# Der Bay

## The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter

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September 2007

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### The IAYC XI Conference August 3-6, 2007 Lomir shpiln ma zhon

The IAYC XI Conference August 3-6, 2007 at the Marriott Cleveland East Hotel is history. It goes into the books along with the other ten. Each one has been in another venue. They have been at universities, hotels and conference centers. Some of the highlights now follow.

Each night my Sally told me of the exciting people she met and the things she did. Imagine playing mah jongg in Yiddish! Along with Varda Ginspan, Sydney Turk Porter and presenter Ruth Goodman they used the Hebrew/Yiddish terms for the major points of the compass. Naturally the Jews in Eastern Europe did not have bamboo so you can guess what word they used.

Charles Gruenspan led the Saturday morning Hebrew services. The instructions and portion were in Yiddish by presenter and IAYC Board member, Professor Refoyl Finkel. They made sure that we all followed along and participated.

All 3 of our keynote speakers were superb and used just enough English so that those with a lesser knowledge were able to follow along. Dr. Motl Rosenbusn, Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein and Gerry Kane.

There was a full schedule of entertainment that included:

- The Yiddish People's Stage with five acts,
- The team of Reuben and Dorothy Silver
- Bert Stratton's Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band
- The Workmen's Circle Gala with Zalmen Mlotek, Adrienne Cooper, Joanne Borts and Heather Klein

- The Concert in the Park at Cain Park
- Cantor Kathryn Sebo in Concert

There were 30 different presenters in 30 different lectures and workshops—no repeats!

This year's recipient of the Yiddish Lifetime Service Award went to Simon Swirsky. In her introduction Annabelle Weiss recounted the many Yiddish activities that Simon was involved and gave of his. Simon is a worthy follower to last year's awardee, Chana Mlotek.

The IAYC trustees and officers were announcement for 2007-8. The officers are:

**President: Paul Melrood – Milwaukee, WI**  
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**Secretary: Lenora Zimmerman – Skokie, IL**  
**Treasurer: Gerry Gerger – W. Bloomfield, MI**

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# "Jerusalem of Lithuania"

Editor: Milan Chersonskij

The newspaper "Jerusalem of Lithuania" was born during the wave of restoration of independence in Lithuania and national revival of all peoples living in Lithuania, including the Jews. The newspaper's first issue was printed in November 1989.

The title of the newspaper reminds of the glorious community of Litvaks that thrived in Lithuania before the Holocaust. Lithuanian Jews made significant achievements in many fields of human activity. Among the Jewish Diaspora the 18th-20th century Vilnius was renowned as the most important Jewish cultural center. That is why it was called the "Jerusalem of Lithuania".

"Jerusalem of Lithuania" belongs to the Jewish Community of Lithuania, which has fewer than 5,000 members. During WWII about 250,000 Lithuanian Jews were murdered. The newspaper is issued in four languages: Yiddish, Lithuanian, English and Russian. This is unique in the Jewish press – no other Jewish publication is printed in four languages.

"Jerusalem of Lithuania" reports about all major events in life of the Jewish community of Lithuania, contains information about life of Lithuanian Jews in Israel and other countries of the world and acquaints the readers with the rich history of the Litvaks.

For us it is a way to offer information about ourselves and to express opinions about events in our country and in the world. Our eight-page newspaper appears four times a year. "Jerusalem of Lithuania" does not receive any support from the state institutions and is published thanks to the donations of our sponsors and readers.

Your subscription is a support for us. We also very much would appreciate any donations to our newspaper. The cost of an annual subscription is \$USD 30, \$USD 40 in two languages).

To subscribe to the "Jerusalem of Lithuania", please send a check and indicate your **address and language (languages)** in which you would like to receive the newspaper. Our address is:

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# Richard Kaiser Writes

I was delighted to meet you in the Cleveland Marriott East Hotel in Cleveland at the Eleventh Conference of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs. I especially found interesting the presentation of Daniel Galay's update on renewed attempts to bring the Yiddish language back to Israeli society.

He spoke (in Yiddish, of course) of using the language:

- to broaden the Israeli perspective,
- to encompass a multiplicity of ideas from Jews in Israel and abroad.

He reasoned that by the society becoming more inclusive as a result of Yiddish re-introduction, this would potentially increase the prospects for peace through greater understanding.

Mr. Galay did recognize, as do we all, the current demographic situation regarding the aging Yiddish speaking community as a whole. He emphasized that advanced Yiddish studies at the university level are insufficient. Academia alone cannot revive a language.

To be reintroduced into common usage, the younger generation must become actively engaged. Thus, Mr. Galay expressed renewed interest by many Israeli Sabras in the language of their parents and of their grandparents. I believe he said that the year 2003 may well have been that turning point. We shall see if this is so.

My own belief, which I expressed at the conference, is that the media is crucial. Television programming in Yiddish, with Hebrew subtitles, is vital. Small amounts of Yiddish programming presented consistently over a long period of time, with program content geared to different, especially younger audiences, may prove to be quite effective. The change would be subtle but over-time pronounced.

At any rate, I also am writing to ask you to please include my name as a Yiddish translator. I do read Yiddish script in addition to printed material, and I have translated letters for others on numerous occasions.

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# Yiddish Club Formation or Revitalization—Free Consulting Service

By Philip Fishl Kutner

All International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC) member clubs can avail themselves of FREE advice from the parent organization. The officers and trustees are a true cross section geographically as well as ability and interest. They are at your service both at the conferences and by e-mail.

Let us be specific as to what is needed to have a successful club or how to start one. We shall call the starting point the *business plan*, for the analogy is very close. When one goes for a loan to the lending institution, one is always asked for this plan. It not only shows that there are sufficient financial resources to warrant a loan, but that there is *know how* and personnel for a successful venture.

## *Plan your work and work your plan*

When there are many eager buyers (potential members) word of mouth will bring success. When there are many eager buyers the product doesn't have to be superior. However, when the market is lean and the product is only average, then the plan becomes crucial.

Many startup clubs soon run out of steam. The excitement of the newness soon disappears and club attendance diminishes. The key word is sustainability. Whether it is a clothing store, a klezmer band, a Yiddish teacher or a Yiddish club you must be prepared for *change*. It is like reading the market. As the styles, clients, students, or members change you must be prepared beforehand to *adapt* and *adopt* new styles, and new methods.

If your club is transitioning from *young* (under 60) to *middle age* (over 60), you need to change from evening to daytime meetings or events. If your group is becoming less knowledgeable in Yiddish, you may wish to introduce transliterated material. These changes likewise will determine the type of guest speakers or entertainment.

Many club members were born before or during the Great Depression or overseas. Their interests and knowledge is entirely different than those who came later.

One major change has been the mass usage of the Internet. My data show that in the last 5 years the growth in computer literacy in the relevant population has grown from 33% to 66% and still growing. This has led to access to Yiddish oriented websites, Yiddish general and specialty lists like Mendele and Yiddish teachers, and the large growth of cyberspace briv fraynd.

## How IAYC Membership Can Help Your Group

This is the first in a series. Each issue will carry another phase of club formation, vitalization or revitalization. These are time-tested methods and procedures that have been gleaned from successful member clubs. This first facet essential for a successful club deals with a question that all clubs need to tackle at every meeting—"What is the Program for Next Month?"

- **Programming** - Many of the more successful clubs have developed programs or ideas that you can adapt to your own needs. *Co-operation is the basis of success*. At the last conference Roz Baker had a workshop on Sharing Club Ideas.

Alvin *Dink* Holzman's Milwaukee based club uses holidays to showcase Jewish foods. Members bring in their specialties and share recipes.

Eda Zimler-Schiff and Helen Smolkin's Toronto based Friends of Yiddish publishes *Dos Bletl*. This club newsletter has run a series by Etke Patt called *kokhlefl*. It has recipes in Yiddish and English. Portions of club meetings can be set aside to study words relating to foods and preparation and then a lively discussion on the merits of the recipe.

Raquel Leisorek's San Diego based club made a video of a Yiddish version of *My Fair Lady* that has been used by several clubs with great success.

Ed Goldman wrote a series of comic bible scenes that are 1-2 page skits in transliteration with English translation immediately after less-know words. Each person is given a copy and the group reads it over for meaning. The skits are then performed in front of the group—no memorization is required. Copies of these skits are free to member clubs by sending a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (regular business size) to Fishl with your request.

So contact us whether you are a member club and *losing steam* or need help starting a new group. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Likewise if you have ideas that you would like to share, send it in to your editor. If you have special areas that you wish us to cover, let us know.

One of the future topics will relate to membership. We shall cover suggestions on each of the 3 phases of club membership—acquisition, indoctrination and retention. Getting new members, welcoming them and keeping them are ongoing processes.

# The Best Little Website in the West

By Philip Fishl Kutner

WhyWeWill.be.the.IAYC.org is the best little website not on the Internet. No Yiddish website can compare to The Best Little Website in the West.

There are Yiddish sites with graphics and links. Just look at the Folksbiene and listen to music. Go to the Klezmer Shack and learn all about our wonderful bands. Enjoy Refoyl Finkel and his Bavebter Yid. Don't forget to read the Forverts online. Remember to visit the Freedman collection at the University of Pennsylvania Library. How about *Der Bay's* website? We could go on and on and on with all the great links at: <http://www.derbay.org/links.html>

While all of the above is true and can be verified by the almightees, there is none that can touch the depth and breadth of WhyWeWill.be.the.IAYC.org

Website addresses are called URLs (Uniform Resource Locators). So where is this site? If it is not in cyberspace or on the Internet, does it actually exist? The term *Virtual Shtetl* refers to the imaginary group of people who communicate online in lists like Mendele. By virtue of a group of several thousand, who follow and occasionally post, there exists a shtetl-like environment in cyberspace.

Someday, somehow, somewhere, someone will get somebody, sometime in someplace who will do something so that The Best Little Website in the West will be a reality.

The first step was taken here in *Der Bay* newsletter by creating the URL for this site. Now your editor has tossed out the challenge to someone who will get somebody, sometime in someplace who will do something someday, somehow, somewhere to actually create this ultimate Yiddish website.

The second and final step to bring this to fruition is to actually convince someone, someday who will pay somebody, at sometime, to do something, somehow somewhere in someplace, to actually create this ultimate Yiddish website.

## Reshime fun *Some Verter*

Somebody - emetser  
Someone - emetser  
Somehow - vi es iz  
Something - epes  
Somewhat - epes  
Sometime - a mol  
Somewhere - ergets  
Someday - eyn tog

# Bialik Hebrew Day School

Bialik Hebrew Day School in Toronto, Canada is seeking a teacher of Yiddish language and culture.

This is a unique opportunity to work in an exciting, dynamic Jewish educational institution with a history of academic excellence and a strong commitment to the State of Israel and to Jewish heritage and culture.

Rooted in the Labor Zionist Movement, Bialik serves some 800 students from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 8. Our students learn Hebrew, English, Yiddish and French within our Jewish and General Studies programs.

Candidates for the position of Yiddish teacher will be fluent in all aspects of the Yiddish language. They will have experience with teaching children, and will have a strong desire to impart Yiddish language and culture to Bialik students.

di bialik shul in toronto zukht a lerer fun yidish shprakh un kultur.

dos iz an eyntslne gelegnheyt tsu arbetn in a dinamisher yidisher dertsiongs-institutsye, velkhe iz yorn lang bakant far ir akademisher oysgetseykhntkeyt un shtarker ibergegebnkeyt tsu erets isroel un tsu yidisher kultur un yerushe.

bialik iz ayngvortslt in der arbeter-tzionistisher (poley tsion) bavegung un hot an erekh 800 shilers fun kindergortn biz klas 8. di talmidim lernen hebreish, english, yidish un frantsoyzish in di yidishe un veltlekhe programen

kandidatn far dem postn fun yidish lerer veln zayn flisik in ale protim fun der yidisher shprakh, veln hobn derfarung in lernen kinder un veln hobn a shtarkn viln ibertsugebn di kinder fun bialik a libe tsu der yidisher shprakh un kultur.

farinteresirte kandidatn darfn shikn a briv, an iberblik fun derfarung un referentsn tsu:

Simona Dayan,

Principal of Jewish Studies

Ph: 416-783-3346

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Bialik Hebrew Day School  
2760 Bathurst Street  
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# Life Time Achievement Oracle Award: Roslyn Bresnick Perry

Acceptance speech - July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Once upon a life a little girl, born in a small Jewish village in Belarus, left for America and arrived at the beginning of the Great Depression—with all of her family, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends with whom she had spent her childhood years together with all the people of her town who were murdered during the horrors of World War Two.

She found it hard to let go of what was and become a “Real American Girl,” which was her dream. A learning disability did not allow her to enter “The University” until the age of 56. She had a heart full of stories. The storytelling community opened its arms to her and saw within the laughter of her tales the tears lurking underneath. I have no words to express the gratitude I feel for this great honor that you have given me.

How can I convey what it means to me to receive this recognition since what I have tried to convey was the memories of a world that no longer exists, a culture, a language, and mostly a people who disappeared with out a trace. When I tell my stories, and you hear them, they live again if only in my tales. My stories are sad, funny and loving because that was how I experienced them. Many of my stories are about an immigrant child lost in a strange new world with a strange new language. Many times this world was a hostile one.

When I was about ten years old, my parents sent me to a Jewish cultural folk school, after coming back from public school. There I appeared in several theater productions. In one of them my part was to stand on a soup box and say in Yiddish, “ Akh sara shand, in a land fun gold un broyt un vayn zulu hungerike zayn.” (Oh what a shame in a land of gold and bread and wine there should be hungry people).

I never forgot those sentiments and some of my stories attest to that. Several others are about having a learning disability, scarred throughout a lifetime, yet finding other ways of succeeding. And some are about New York City and the happenings that could only happen there!

I wanted you to see the love, humor and humanity of the hardworking Jewish people among whom I grew up. I wanted to share our laughter, foibles, goals, our view of life where there was, and still is, the wisecrack hiding the hurt that came across the ocean with the first Jewish immigrant. When I was able to feel good about whom I was, I was able to see you and yours in the humanity we all share.

I always have said that it is hard to hate those whose story you know. Therefore I have stressed the importance of telling personal stories that incorporate the surrounding culture in which the character and action take place. After hearing the story the audience must feel that they know more about the characters and the situation of the story than the teller has told them.

A storyteller is more than a teller of tales. We all know that a storyteller is part oral historian, part entertainer and part folklorist. We must tell our folktales, fairytales, literary tales, as they share the wisdom of the world with us, but it is our personal stories that bring us together and blend our laughter and tears into our mutually braided lives.

You know stories do not stop unless you stop. Growing old is not as it used to be. I admit you have to spend quite a bit of time for the maintenance of your aging edifice, but with a little help from modern medicine, and some stamina, you'd be surprised how long you can keep going. And if your head still works it's great to be around. I would, therefore, like to inform this prestigious gathering of young friends that I have not as yet retired. In fact I recently have created a body of stories called “ Life in the fast lane when old age is running after you.” You would be surprised what they're about.

Lastly, I want to say ‘thank you’ to all the wonderful people who have gone out of their way to make this evening possible. I have a very special thanks for Jim May who was the first Festival Coordinator to recognize my ‘extraordinary’ talent and Steve Sanfield who has been my loving friend and listener all of these many years. I love you all and thank you for making ‘the bottom of my cup so sweet,’ as Lillian Openhimer, an old wonderful friend of storytelling once said.

And if this is not enough, I have recently become a great grandmother. Also, a book of all my stories is at the publisher right now and is due to greet the world in the winter of 2008. Several of the stories of my childhood will appear in illustrated versions for children. I would say “My cup runeth over!” wouldn't you?

**Editor's note:** Roslyn has presented at an IAYC conference, as has her sister, Phyllis Berk—a well-known Yiddish singer. During the winter they are snowbirds in Deerfield Beach, Florida. We hope to have them back at a future conference.

# The Yiddish Committee of Winnipeg and Winnipeg's Yiddish History

The Yiddish Committee of Winnipeg provided Winnipeg's new immigrants with the Yiddish cultural programmes so vital to them as they adjusted to life in an unusually strange country.

For decades Winnipeg has been recognized as a major centre of Yiddish cultural activities—and not only in Canada. It is interesting to note that the minutes of the Winnipeg Congress Council's meetings from 1942 through 1948 were written in Yiddish only.

Right through until today members of the Yiddish Committee continue to organize the annual Yartzeit for the Holocaust victims. This traditional observance is held at the B'nai Abraham Synagogue and children from the Jewish schools participate.

In addition, the Yiddish Committee has always been a staunch supporter of the Jewish Public Library, and until recently, provided a modest annual stipend from its own limited budget.

It has been an important cultural outlet for the community, although the scope of its programming has been somewhat reduced in recent years because of the gradual shrinkage in the Yiddish-speaking population. Oscar Antel, who took over the chairmanship of the Committee from past chairman D.L. (Itzie) Victor, is very protective of the core of Yiddishkayt in Winnipeg.

The emergence of a young adult group called the Chaverim far Yerushe (The Group for Yiddish Heritage) is likely to strengthen and expand that core. This group grew out of the Winnipeg branch of Yugentruf (Youth for Yiddish) organized in the early 70's by Sheva Zucker, one of the very first graduates of a Jewish school in Winnipeg. She trained in a Jewish Teachers Seminary in New York with the help of a scholarship established by Congress in 1968 to alleviate the acute shortage of Jewish teachers in western Canada.

In 1984 more than 1200 people attended a reception that was convened by the Chaverim far Yerushe on behalf of the Jewish community in tribute to Yiddish broadcaster and newspaper columnist Noah Witman.

He was the host for the past 31 years of an hour long Sunday afternoon local Jewish radio show and likewise for 14 years he had a weekly half hour evening television show that was both in Yiddish and English.

The first Yiddish daily newspaper in Canada was Winnipeg's *The Canadian Israelite*, later renamed *The Israelite Press*. It generated much of the rich and varied cultural life enjoyed by the early European immigrants who settled in western Canada.

Fivel (Frank) Simkin became the publisher in 1914 and Ben Sheps was a strong supporter of the paper. The paper's two editors, H.E. Wilder and S.M. Selchen were deeply involved at the time in the movement to establish a Canadian Jewish Congress.

*The Israelite Press* followed a consistently non-partisan editorial policy and because of its bold advocacy of Jewish rights and its championing of creative Jewish life on the Canadian scene it became a powerful influence in molding Jewish opinion in the Province of Manitoba and Western Canada.

The advent of Anglo-Jewish newspapers in the late twenties did not immediately affect the circulation of *The Israelite Press*, but by the fifties the paper was encountering serious financial problems. All attempts at rescue proved unsuccessful, including the period of 1965 to 1968 when Winnipeg printer, Harold Margolis and his wife, Doris, became the publishers and owners of *The Israelite Press*, (or Yiddish Press, as it had come to be known) with Noah Witman as editor.

For a few years after the Margolis's relinquished the paper Congress undertook to keep it afloat, but in spite of valiant efforts by Fivel Simkin and a few other diehards, the Yiddish Press ceased to exist in the early seventies.

## Current Yiddish Activities

- **Yidish Vinkl** – The Yiddish portion of the Jewish Library. It has 6000-7000 books.
- **University of Manitoba Yiddish Program** – One to two years of Yiddish language. Rochella Secter is the instructor.
- **I.L Peretz School Endowment Trust** – Supports Yiddish programs in Winnipeg like the Annual Yiddish Film Festival.
- **Gwen Secter Yiddish Women's Reading Circle** Jeanette Block is the leader.
- **Yiddish Radio Program** – It is a half hour, Sunday afternoon program. This was run by Osher Kraut and now by Rochelle Zucker.
- **Yerushe Group** – The Leader is Rochelle Zucker
- **Mameloshn** – The leader is Fred Narvey

# Leah Todres Yiddish Song Festival

by Philip Todres

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The 7th Annual Leah Todres Yiddish Song Festival took place in Cape Town, South Africa at the Baxter Theatre Centre. The title was Sholem Songs from the Heart. The talented performers, musicians, director, teachers and researchers stage a different show each year. The audience keeps expanding as rave reviews convince the younger people that it's not music for the older generation only.

The publicity began with a presentation on Fine Music Radio—the local classic and jazz broadcaster focusing on Eastern European Music and Yiddish Song. World Café is a weekly program presented by Sylvia Bruinders, a music ethnologist based at the University of Cape Town. Together with Fay Singer, also a music ethnologist at that university, and Dragana Jevtovic, a singer originally from Belgrade.

Fay Singer researches the repertoire. Dragana Jevtovic was the guest artist. She has a degree in music from the University of Belgrade and although not Jewish, sang with a Jewish Choir for 10 years. The artists in Sholem – Songs from the Heart are Aviva Pelham and Beverly Chiat. They were joined by Ivor Joffe and David Gordon.

Each year students from Herzlia, the Jewish Day School, enthusiastically get involved. The choir of children, 7 - 10 years old, under the direction of Sandy Segal, make a spirited and charming appearance. They have developed a repertoire of songs and have their own slot, when they perform in the lobby pre the show. A talented corps of grade 6 and some teens have been formed into the Herzlia Ensemble. These gifted and spirited young people are great performers and bring the house down.

Matthew Reid and Fay Singer have been the Musical Directors since inception. Matthew Reid directs the Playing With Fire Klezmer Band, who provided the accompaniment. Irma Kesler, who is in charge of staging, pulled the whole production together. The Yiddish Song Festival is a true celebration of life, in the universal language of song. It is in aid of the CJSA the Cape Jewish Seniors Association.

FAY SINGER'S intimate knowledge and love of Yiddish Song is invaluable. Together with Matthew Reid she has contributed to developing programs for each festival. Fay has established the South African Jewish Music Centre, which is affiliated to the Jewish Music Institute, University of London. She is at UCT College of Music, working on her Doctorate.

DRAGANA JEVTOVIC was born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and obtained her BA, specialising in the vocal arts at the Belgrade Faculty of Music Arts. She also sang at concerts in the USA and in Europe, and has recorded for Yugoslavian Radio and Television. She has been active in the performing and visual arts and focuses on her native Balkan folk music.

AVIVA PELHAM has appeared as soloist in Rotary Pops, Divine Divas, Summer School, Queen at the Ballet, Navy Band at Dry Dock, Aviva & Friends, Every Woman Deserves an Oscar and Viva the Voices. Aviva was nominated for Woman of Worth, Jewish. She lectures at the UCT Opera School.

BEVERLEY CHIAT completed her studies at UCT Opera School. Post-graduate studies took her to England where she received the prestigious Peter Moores Foundation bursary. Beverley has performed with KZNPO in the "Bravissimo Opera Highlights" at the Durban Playhouse Theatre and with the CTPO at the Cape Town City Hall.

IVOR JOFFE has served as Cantor and Choirmaster to the United Orthodox Hebrew Congregation, at the North Eastern Jewish War Memorial Centre and Mizrahi Shuls in Melbourne. He has performed in South Africa, Australia, and Jewish Music Festivals in Israel, England and the USA. Currently he is the Cantor of the Green & Sea Point Hebrew Congregation and co-ordinates the Jewish Music Programme for the United Herzlia Schools. Ivor trains the young stars of the Herzlia Ensemble.

DAVID GORDON is choirmaster at the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation. David has been singing in Shul choirs for 25 years. He has performed in many community musicals and has been involved in the Yiddish Song Festival since 2002.

MATTHEW REID was musical Director of the Yiddish Song Festival for the seventh year. He started the Simcha Klezmer and Playing with Fire Klezmer Bands. An award winning clarinetist, Giora Feidman sparked his interest in Klezmer music. He was invited to the 2007 Grahamstown Festival to be on the Main Stage Program.

IRMA KESLER has a Licentiate in Speech & Drama. In Cape Town she runs a school, boasting three full time teachers. She has been involved in staging shows to help raise funds for Jewish organisations. She staged the Purim Wedding Shpiel.

## Generations of the Shoah Interantional

<http://www.genshoah.org>

### Child Survivors of the Holocaust

Anna Andlauer [andlauer@onlinehome.de](mailto:andlauer@onlinehome.de)

I am looking for child survivors of the Holocaust who lived in Kloster Indersdorf, near Dachau, Germany, right after the war (1945-1948), before they were transported to other countries.

There were three different DP Children's Centers at Kloster Indersdorf: The first DP Children's Center Kloster Indersdorf, Germany 1945-1946 was led by UNRRA Team 182 (Principal Welfare Officer Greta Fischer). The second center, the 'Jewish Children's Center Kloster Indersdorf' lasted till 1947 and was led by UNRRA Team 1066 and had different Kibbutz organizations from Poland and Hungary.

The IRO and Kibbutz Dror were in charge of the last 'Jewish Children's Center' until 1948. Who can remember this time in Kloster Indersdorf?

### FSYSNA Fellowship Announced

The Friends of the Secular Yiddish Schools in North America Collection At Stanford University Libraries, Department of Special Collections is accepting applications for its Annual Research Fellowship 2007-2008

The sum of \$3000-4,000 to be awarded to the applicant who will commit to at least a 2 month in-residence period (of choice) using the impressive multilingual resources (Yiddish, English and Hebrew) of the extensive SYSNA Archival Collection. Fluency in reading Yiddish is required. A substantive publishable paper or project in any of the three languages is a goal of this fellowship.

A distinguished panel of scholars in Jewish/ Yiddish Studies, Education, Bilingualism and Ethnicity will review all applications.

The deadline for submission of applications (in triplicate) is October 15, 2007. Notification of award will be no later than November 15, 2007.

For further information contact: Joshua A. Fishman  
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## Yiddish at a Phoenix, High School by Morrie & Tybie Feller

As I promised, here is a report of our week of Yiddish at this high school. Unfortunately due to certain circumstances, the five days were cut to 3.5 days. We managed to teach reading of Yiddish, and also my wife, Tybie, did an outstanding job in teaching five Yiddish songs of which "zog nit keymol" was the most dramatic and impressive.

We started by reading the special Yiddish greetings from Tsuguya Sasaki (Tsvi Sadan) from Israel, and from Paul Melrood, President of the IAYC. Then we read the excellent article which described the development of Yiddish over the centuries, and which I previously had sent to you.

In addition to the reading lessons, I provided the students with Yiddish proverbs, excerpts from the textbook "Learning Yiddish in Easy Stages", a list of universities that offer Yiddish courses. Also I provided them with a list of words of Yiddish origin that are found in the Oxford English Dictionary. This list was greeted with "ohs" and "ahs".

At the last session we had a show and tell. I showed the new construction at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst Massachusetts, and talked about all the books that had been saved and which had been digitized. They will be put on the Internet so that one can download them.

I also showed a copy of the National Yiddish Book Center's Pakn Treger, and of the Forverts which was celebrating 110 years of continuous publication, and handed out copies of the first pages of the translations into Yiddish of the famous children's books: "Winnie the Pooh", "The Little Prince", and Sholem Berger's very delightful Yiddish version of Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat".

We hope that there will be some lasting interest in Yiddish on the part of these graduating students and perhaps even become active.

**Editor's note:** Morrie & Tybie Feller attended 8 IAYC conferences. Morrie was the treasurer and still is a key member of the IAYC Board. He has taught Yiddish and Hebrew. Morrie is very interested in using Yiddish on the computer and is very knowledgeable in the area.

Hannah Pollin teaches Yiddish to students in Los Angeles under a special Spielberg grant.

# The Marvelous YIDDISH Alimentary Canal

by Philip Fishl Kutner

Before entering the marvelous chambers of the alimentary canal we shall step back a moment and get a better perspective of the overall digestive system. Food and beverage have not only nourished the Jewish People, but have played important roles in holidays and ceremonies.

This is not an assembly line like in an auto factory, for all the raw materials go in and issuing out the other end is the valued merchandise. In our Yiddish Alimentary Canal (henceforth referred to as YAC), the tasty goods go in and only waste goes out. It is the many processes occurring in YAC that counts.

YAC also cannot be compared to the famous man-made Suez or Panama Canals, for in the canals, what goes in comes out exactly the same. The sole function is to move goods and people from one place to the other intact.

An excellent example is a coal furnace where the shiny black metamorphic rock called anthracite is placed into the belly of the beast and out comes smoke going out the flue and ashes down the pit. These are worthless by-products. However, it is the energy released in the form of heat that is the desired product.

The role YAC plays is in the digestive process—a journey of 10 yards in adults. It is the conversion of the ingested food and beverage into a form that can be transferred into the blood-system that then takes it to all of the organs of the body. Nutrition for the eyes, muscles, fingers, and feet all are able to perform from the renewable energy that YAC produces.

We have a cultural aversion in referring to the end waste process and by-products of YAC; therefore, in this article reference will not be made to them, but we leave you to the wonderful Yiddish dictionaries—should you wish to further your Yiddish vocabulary.

Food and beverage are and have always been important to Jews from the first time of spiritual offerings up to today. We have many blessings and holiday rituals with food and beverage as vital constituents. We shall refer to them in a future article.

Let us now enter YAC and learn the Yiddish aspect of the AC and see why mama always encouraged her children to “es, es mayn kind” or tell her

guests, “nu, trink a bisl”. Was it because so many of our immigrant ancestors never had the copious supplies found at our modern super markets, or the gelt to purchase the myriad fresh, wrapped, canned or frozen items?

## The Yiddish Alimentary Canal (YAC)

Even before we start to discuss the ingestion, digestion and elimination processes of YAC, we must realize that there are a multitude of associated blessings and procedures. We say, we sing, we chant—all to give thanks for the growth and life-sustaining processes related to eating and drinking. We even start with the blessing of washing our hands before eating.

There is a wonderful list of 121 Yiddish foods and beverages under the word list “kitchen.” They are in transliteration and English at *Der Bay's* website: <http://www.derbay.org/words/index.html>

Alimentary canal	g'deyrim
beverage	getrank dos
chew	kay
colon	grobe kishke di
digestion	fardayung
drink	trink
eat	es
esophagus	shpayzrer di
enzyme	enzim
food	esnvarg dos
gall bladder	gal di
gums	yasles di
small intestine	kishke di ?
large intestine	grobe kishke di
liver	leber di
mouth	moyl dos
pancreas	untermogn-driz di
pharynx	shlung di
rectum	grode kishke di
saliva	shpayekhts
sip	zipn
stomach	mogn der
swallow	shling
taste	farzikh
teeth	tseyndi
tongue	tsung di

This can be used in a wonderful Yiddish club meeting. It could include recipes in Yiddish. The newsletter, *Dos Bletl*, of the Toronto Friends of Yiddish has carried recipes both in Yiddish as well as in English.