

Der Bay

The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter

May 2008

Vol. XVIII No. 5

The XII IAYC Conference, La Jolla, CA, Oct. 24-27, 2008 Conference Presenters

In previous issues we have covered the:

- Keynote Speakers: **Boris Sandler**, editor of the Forverts, **Dr. Motl Rosenbush** and **Yale Strom**
- Entertainment: **Archie Barkan**, **Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble**, **Workmen's Circle Gala Revue of Stars**, **Hot Pstromi Klezmer Group**, **Mayn Sheyne Meydl** (Live), **Cindy Paley**
- Formation of the International Association of Yiddish Teachers IAYT (4 panels with a moderator & 4 Yiddish teachers in each panel)

Presenters

Roz Baker: (Panel) Yiddish Programming Ideas
Sabell Bender: The Underworld of Sholem Asch
Prof. Chaim: Berman: Evolution of Yiddish Schools and the Labor and Radical Movements
Cookie Blattman: A Yidishe Shtunde
Kolye Borodulin: Experiments with Culture in Birobidzhan
Sabina Brukner: The KlezKamp Experience
Dr. Zack Chayet: The Jews of Mexico
Adrienne Cooper: Yiddish Songs of War in Women's Lives
Debby Davis: The Life and Music of Molly Picon
Vivian Felsen: Czernowitz and the Early Jewish Immigrants to North America
Sonia Fuentes: Mayne Yidishe Tate-Mame
Dr. Amelia Glaser: Remembering the Old Country in the Old Country
Troim Katz Handler: The Songs of Mark M. Warshawsky (1840-1907)

Frank Handler: Esther Frumkin, Yiddishist, Feminist, Bundist

Hershl Hartman: Yiddish Surge in Current Hollywood Films

Dr. Miriam Koral: Yiddish Poetry

Dr. Sandy Lakoff and Dr. Elie Shneour: The Life and Work of Zalman Shneour

Dr. Peter Louis: The Jews of South Africa

Prof. Meinhard Mayer: Yiddish and German Poets from Czernowitz

Cantor Hale Porer: Influence of Yiddish Theatre and Music on U.S. Culture

Ron Robboy: On the Trail of Der Yidisher Kauboy

Prof. Joel Schechter: Yiddish Theater in the 1930s in America

Prof. Julius Scherzer: Growing up in Czernowitz

Harold Ticktin: The Roots of Jewish Humor

Prof. Robert Zelickman: The History of Recorded Klezmer Music 1908-2008

Rokhl Zucker: Yiddish Radio (Haynt)

Dr. Barney Zumoff: My Experience as a Yiddish Translator

Conference Registration Form is on page 15.

Conference website: www.derbay.org/lajolla/

Conference Chairman - Norman Sarkin:
normansarkin@yahoo.com

Conference Co-chair – Bella Suchet
herbybel@san.rr.com

Conference Questions - Fishl: fishl@derbay.org

The Leyenkrayz of Winnipeg

By Rhea Tregebov

"This originally was published in the Spring 2008 issue of *Jewish Book World*, the quarterly publication of the Jewish Book Council. For information about the Jewish Book Council, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org."

"When I was a little girl, my father told me he would pay me a nickel if I spoke only Yiddish. In those days, a nickel bought a loaf of bread. I said no." Bess Kaplan, Winnipeg Yiddish Women's Reading Circle member, recounts this story of her resistance to Yiddish.

For those in their late seventies and eighties, Yiddish can be fraught with conflicting emotions. But the women in the Reading Circle are finding in the group's activities not only a recovery of their linguistic abilities, but a connection with the world of their mothers.

The Reading Circle has its roots in an attempt to save the Winnipeg Jewish Public Library. Although the Library did close, volunteers assessing the collection found a great number of titles by female authors. Why had they never heard of the authors, much less read their stories? They were determined to learn more about these women's works and lives. Since their skills in Yiddish varied, the book club format wouldn't work. They decided to go to a leyenkrayz format. A member who is adept reads the stories aloud in Yiddish; the group then carries on the discussion, largely in English. The first meeting in 2001 drew ten women. Now the Circle has twenty-five attending the monthly meetings.

The Reading Circle has generated "Arguing with the Storm: Stories by Yiddish Women Writers," the anthology of translations that I compiled. I heard of the Reading Circle from the organizer, Jeanette Block—my mom. I was living a thousand miles away, in Toronto, but our Sunday morning phone calls were dominated by a shared obsession. These powerful stories of women's lives—stories of labor and love, struggle and survival had to be heard. Translation into English would make them available to non-Yiddish speakers.

The Winnipeg group's generosity continued during the months I was researching the sometimes-tragic biographies of the authors. It was difficult to uncover a birthplace and date. The network expanded as a worldwide community of researchers, readers, librarians and Yiddishists joined (via email) in our efforts. Although there are pieces of the puzzle that are still missing, we were able to find a photograph for each one and thus give a face to each name.

At the Winnipeg launch of this book, in the midst of celebrations, I felt a tap on my shoulder. "Nu?" A member asked, "when do we start on the next one?"

Search for Head of School National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA

The National Yiddish Book Center is seeking applications and nominations for the new position of Head of School. The successful candidate will lead a year-round, multi-generational educational center offering substantive learning in all aspects of modern Jewish culture from Yiddish language and literature to music, film, cooking and more.

Our goal is to broaden understanding of Jewish identity and help new generations better understand who they are and where they come from. Our initial focus will be on college students and adults. On-site classes will be supplemented by a robust program of distance learning. The Head of School will work with an advisory committee to plan a year-round schedule of courses and will recruit and supervise the faculty.

Requirements for this position include an entrepreneurial spirit, administrative experience in an educational environment, a collaborative attitude, and superb communication and organizational skills. Teaching background and familiarity with modern Yiddish and Jewish literature, history and culture are preferred. Willingness to re-locate to western Massachusetts is a must.

This position includes excellent salary and benefits. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to: Anne Atherley, Search Committee
National Yiddish Book Center
1021 West St., Amherst, MA 01002.
No phone calls, please.

J.I. Segal Awards 2008

We are calling for submissions from authors, educators and filmmakers for the J.I. Segal Awards 2008 competition in eight categories on Jewish themes including literature, translation, education and film. Forms at: www.jewishpubliclibrary.org at the Jewish Public Library, 5151 Côte Ste-Catherine Road, Montreal. Established 40 years ago to honour and perpetuate the memory of the great Yiddish-Canadian poet J.I. Segal (1896-1954) and to foster Jewish cultural creativity in Canada, these prestigious awards are presented every two years to encourage and reward creative works on Jewish themes and to recognize contributions in Jewish education, both formal and informal.

The competition is open to Canadians for works in English and French, and for North Americans in Hebrew, and worldwide in Yiddish. For more information, contact (514) 345-2627 ext. 3017 or www.jewishpubliclibrary.org.

London KlezFest 2008

This year we are giving many opportunities to try out new things, making it easier for musicians to try out singing and dancing classes and encouraging singers, musicians and dancers to work and perform together. You will be learning new tunes, improving your style and developing your Klezmer skills.

We have some fantastic additions to the faculty that will make a huge difference. We have the amazing Israeli clarinetist **Moshe Berlin** who will introduce a different Klezmer tradition. We are more familiar with the Hassidic Klezmer style known as the Meron style – to complement the American-style Klezmer.

Andreas Schmitges, the director of the Yiddish Dance School, introduces charismatic and inventive dancer **Steve Weintraub** (USA), who will lead us through many of the variations Klezmer dances, showing us great new tricks and discovering ways of developing new dances based on the tradition. Another great artist this year is **Joanne Borts**, (USA) a Broadway actress/singer specializing in Yiddish Theatre, who is going to add some razzmatazz and glitz to the proceedings, teaching alongside **Shura Lipovsky**, the Song School director

We want to hear from you if you are coming to KlezFest as a Klezmer band. You will have the opportunity to play as a band and you enter our own **THE KLEZ FACTOR**, our showcase of emerging bands receiving and you can book for a band master-class, receiving guidance from some of the top Klezmer musicians in the world.

So put **10 – 15 August** in your diary, for **KlezFest 2008**. Also **KlezFest in the Park will be on Sunday 17 August** plan to stay on for that. **Ot Azoy!** is a week-long **Yiddish language crash course from 17-22 August** – an ideal way of getting fully emerged in Yiddish culture.

Spread the Word!

If you can **encourage a friend to come to KlezFest**, you will be entitled to a discount of 5% off your total fee, plus your friend will also get the 5% discount. So, please let all your family and friends know about all the wonderful things in store this summer.

See the JMI website www.jmi.org.uk

To see the online flyer go to:
www.jmi.org.uk/downloads/Klezfest2008Flyer.pdf
Laoise Davidson, Yvonne Glass and
the London KlezFest team.

“Brownsville: The Jewish Years”

New Book Brings Back Brownsville’s Glory Days
As an American Jewish “Shtetl”

This is the only book on Jewish Brownsville, Brooklyn that focuses on an authentic portrayal of daily life in all its ramifications. It is a multi-layered portrait of a success story – of hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their children coping with daily survival struggles, the impact of a World War and other global events, from the Holocaust and its after-effects, the birth of Israel, the Cold War, the trauma of the McCarthy era and the Rosenberg trial.

“Brownsville: The Jewish Years” re-creates daily life from shopping on Pitkin Avenue or among Belmont Avenue pushcarts, to cheering for the Brooklyn Dodgers and seeing the movies at the Loew’s Pitkin, a luxurious movie palace with twinkling ceilings and a resident organist named Henrietta.

This was the Brownsville with a shul on virtually every block, in which the Orthodox co-existed peacefully with Socialists and Communists in crowded tenement houses, and where Yiddish was heard in the home and street, or blaring from radios.

It was a world where education was *it*, be it Jewish education or public school education, learning was the key to success, which among other things, meant getting out of Brownsville. For kids, Brownsville was as some have called it, a “nurturing neighborhood,” with the HES (Hebrew Educational Society), the Brownsville Boys Club and other activities, even a well-used library, not to forget after-school classes and jobs. There was little time for getting into mischief and always a neighbor peering out the window to tell your parents when you misbehaved.

How well the Jews of Brownsville succeeded is self-evident. Why they succeeded becomes apparent as you explore the cultural riches that flourished alongside the grueling poverty – a lesson for our time and future generations.

For personal signed copies, \$20 plus 5.50 s/h
Please send check to Sylvia Schildt
3702 Durley Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207

(Pub. By BookSurge)

“Brownsville: The Jewish Years” Celebrating Hope, Hard Work, Tolerance and the Triumph of the Human Spirit 142 pages with over 80 archival photos
ISBN #1-4196-8386-1

Summer At Circle Lodge

The opening weekend features singer, songwriter, and folklorist **Laura Wetzler**, whom Pete Seeger calls "one of the very best" in concert and lecturing on international Jewish music.

July 8-11 Food/History

Jewish Cooking/Cooking Jewish.

Learn the history of the bagel, falafel and gefilte fish from celebrity guest cooks. There will be lectures, films, tastings and hands-on cooking sessions.

July 13-18 Yiddish

Master instructors **Nikolai Borodulin**, **Chava Lapin**, and **Peysakh Fiszman**. Learners and speakers are welcome at all levels.

July 21-25 Women's Arts

Yiddish diva **Adrienne Cooper** and jazz great **Marilyn Lerner** present concerts, workshops, and films on Jewish women's lives, including the premier of a new multimedia concert, "Every Mother's Son: Songs of War and Peacemaking."

July 27 – August 1 Yiddish Theatre Fantasy Camp.

The National Yiddish Theater - Folksbiene's Artistic Director **Zalmen Mlotek** and Associate Artistic Director **Motl Didner**. This workshop puts you on stage performing songs and scenes from classic plays and comedy routines. There will be backstage stories of the Yiddish theatre, today's innovators, and kids in Yiddish theatre.

August 4-8 history/Yiddish

Prof. Eugene Orenstein will spin tales of the Tshernovits Conference and the 100th *yortsayt* of Avrum Goldfaden, developer of Yiddish musical theatre.

August 11-15 comedy/Yiddish

Michael Wex, author of the best sellers "Born to Kvetch" and "Just Say Nu," as he serves up his hilarious view of Yiddish language and culture.

August film

Author and pioneering Jewish film curator **Eric Goldman** will screen and discuss his all-time favorite Jewish films.

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring invites you to CIRCLE LODGE on Sylvan Lake in Hopewell Jct., NY. Artist-in-residence/program coordinator Teresa Tova is a singer, actor, and playwright. Don't miss Tova's weekly Jazz Under the Stars events.

For more information please call (845) 221-2771 or visit www.circle.org

Index of Jewish Periodicals

We first learned about this wonderful service during the IAYC Conference in Cleveland, Ohio last year when we met Lenore (speed-reading, indexer of over 200 periodicals) and her husband Harry Koppel (the computer maven and business manager).

The Index of Jewish Periodicals all began when Miriam Liekind while dying of cancer in 1990, called and asked Lenore to continue the work of indexing Jewish periodicals. Liekind had the records on cards in hardcopy and stored in shoeboxes. The Koppels took the project over and now have it published electronically.

Lenore speed-reads each article of all these English language journals and then creates a listing based upon either the topic or author.

While individuals can also purchase the INDEX, it can be found in libraries – colleges, temples.

The INDEX is in hardcopy (from 1963 – 2006) and has a CD with all listings from 1988-2007. In 2004 the EBSBO publishing house started to offer an online version. This is EbscoHost and is found at: www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&toPicID=89

For each article Lenore uses 2-4 key words that researchers can use to locate articles of interest in their research. These key words constitute a continuously evolving group as new topics and areas of research arise

Included in the index are periodicals from a wide field of interests that include articles of Jewish content in anthropology, agriculture, education, genealogical research, the Holocaust, literature, philosophy, the political arena, psychology and social studies.

Among the list of Jewish Journals of Yiddish content are YIVO News and the National Yiddish Book Center's Pakn Treger as well as *Der Bay*. The list does not have weekly newspapers like the Forverts. The website lists all the periodicals and has links to their websites.

The mailing address is:

**PO Box 22780
Beachwood, Ohio 44122**

Ph: 216-921-5566 Fax 603-806-0575

E-mail: index@jewishperiodicals.com

Website: www.jewishperiodicals.com/

The New Issue of *Afn Shvel* A Yiddish Magazine for the 21st Century

The League for Yiddish is pleased to announce that issue 340-341 of *Afn Shvel* is available. This special issue, devoted to refugees and partisans during the Holocaust, has 64 pages and features authentic first-hand accounts and letters as well as articles on partisans, refugees, DP Camps, and *Yizker* books. Of particular interest are several articles on the refugee experience in Kobe, Japan and in Shanghai with rare photos and postcards from the war years.

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My Memoirs: Bar-Mitzvah Speech of Leybl Melamdovich, a Boy from Bialystok in Chicago, 1945 – Leybl Melamed
From Warsaw Thru Europe to Japan – Masha B. Leon
Letters from a Refugee in Shanghai 1946-1947 – Meyer Zucker
Leipheim, A DP Camp – Miriam Gottdank Tabak Isaacs
About Books: "The Magical Landscape": Memorial Books and Jewish Memory – Aaron Rubinstein
Authentic Yiddish: Words and Company: Eliezer Shteynbarg – Shimen Neuberger
Books Received: Works by Alexander Shpiegelblatt, A.N. Stencl, Rivka Basman-Ben-Khayim, Grunia Sutzky-Kohn and Jill Culiner

About *Afn Shvel*

Afn Shvel, now in its 67th year, is published 3 times a year by the League for Yiddish and features articles of Yiddish cultural, literary, linguistic, and communal interest. It has a beautiful, modern layout, a multi-colored cover and high-resolution photos. Of note are several articles accompanied by extensive glossaries to help newer readers.

Cost of a subscription is \$36 (\$18 for students, \$50 for institutions.) A single issue is \$15. Please send a check made out to League for Yiddish or credit card information to:

League for Yiddish, Inc.
45 East 33rd St., Suite 203,
New York, NY 10016.

Please send us your name, address and telephone number, and include your email address. You also may subscribe online at: www.leagueforyiddish.org.

For questions, please contact us at: info@leagueforyiddish.org or call: 212 889-0380. Subscribing automatically makes you a member of the League for Yiddish and entitles you to receive VZMAY "HOW DO YOU SAY IT IN YIDDISH," an electronic "Yiddish Q & A" which promotes the use of Yiddish words and expressions not easily found—or not found at all—in existing Yiddish dictionaries. To find out more about *Afn Shvel* and The League for Yiddish visit us at our website.

Lithuania & Latvia Heritage Tour

Jews have lived in Lithuania & Latvia for over 700 years—in areas before the arrival of Christianity. It is rich with Torah and secular scholarship. While the Nazis cut a swathe through Jewish life, there is much to experience and see. A post-Soviet openness has awakened interest in Jewish history and culture. The tour is under the auspices of Vilnius Yiddish Institute (VYI). Meet members of the VYI where Yiddish is part of the curriculum of Vilnius University, Lithuania's premier university.

Day 01 Sun. June 22 Fly to Vilnius, Lithuania.

Day 02 Mon. Arrive in Vilnius (Vilna). Optional meetings with genealogists.

Day 03 Tues. Visit the VYI on the Old Campus of Vilnius University. Attend lectures on Lithuanian Jewish History and culture. Go on a walking tour of the Old Town's Jewish Quarter.

Day 04 Wed. Travel to Riga, Latvia. En route visit the shtetls of Yoneshik and Zhager.

Day 05 Thurs. Riga – Visit the only remaining synagogue, Jewish museum and Documentation Center, site of the Jewish Ghetto, the chic "Art Nouveau" District, where many Jewish Latvians, among them Oxford scholar and philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin, lived. Riga has one of the world's most impressive Art Nouveau architecture.

Day 06 Fri. Riga – Daugavpils (Dvinsk) Visit Daugavpils once known as Dvinsk, home of famous misnagedim and Chabad rabbis.

Day 07 Sat. Vilnius, Attend services, or sightsee.

Day 08 Sun. Vilnius, Visit the Holocaust Museum (Green House), tour the streets and alleyways of the wartime Vilna Ghetto and be in a panel discussion at the VYI. Topics include: Holocaust and war criminals, restitution, and perception of truth in history. Later tour the Jewish Museum's Tolerance Centre, formerly the Jewish theatre, where Dr. Maria Krupoves-Berg will perform Vilna Ghetto songs.

Day 09 Mon. Travel to Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city. Visit the Kaunas synagogue and the Holocaust site at the Ninth Fort.

Day 10 Tues. Visit the site of the secret Jewish partisan base in a forest outside Vilnius. Tour the Lithuanian Jewish Community and meet community leaders. Later, participate in a panel discussion on "The Jewish Cultural Legacy of Lithuania in the Present and Future." Attend a farewell concert with Dr. Maria Krupoves-Berg.

Day 11 Wed. July 2 Vilnius – Home Flights

Price per person: \$ 2899, Single supplement: \$670
June 22 - July 2, 2008
Momentum Tours & Travel, M-F 10am - 4pm.
Call 1-800-868-7108

Museum of Family History

By Steven Lasky, New York
www.museumoffamilyhistory.com
steve@museumoffamilyhistory.com

I created the virtual (internet only) Museum of Family History in the hopes of doing my part to honor and preserve the memory of our Jewish families and culture for the present and future generations. The site is open for all to see and welcomes contributions of material from anyone.

I am writing to you so that I may introduce you to the "Yiddish World" aspect of my museum at: www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/y-main.htm Much of this part of my museum is devoted to the Yiddish theatre, both the acting and the writers of Yiddish plays. Recently I instituted a "Great Artists Series" to honor those Jewish artists who have made an extraordinary contribution to the world through the scope and quality of their work.

Online are exhibitions about Bialystok-born artist Max Weber, created with the cooperation of his daughter. Also, there is an exhibition about Yiddish playwright David Pinski, created with the help of his grandson and his wife. Here you will find various audio clips, one of which is part of a 1954 interview with a Haifa radio station.

I am placing online my exhibition about Maurice Schwartz and the Yiddish Art Theatre, and a serialized form, i.e. several chapters per month, the only known biography of Maurice Schwartz, as written by the late Martin Boris.

There are links to the Weber, Pinski and Schwartz exhibitions on the main "Great Artists Series" page at www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/gas-main.htm. You will find coming attraction pages for the future Richard Tucker and Al Jolson exhibitions. If anyone has anything to add to these exhibitions, whether they be of a personal recollection or of a material nature, please contact me.

There is more that can be found within my "Yiddish World," including exhibitions of the MIKT, a Yiddish acting troupe that entertained in the DP camps post-WWII, an exhibition about Luba Kadison and Joseph Buloff (including more audio clips of interviews), the Vilna Troupe, the Habima in New York, and more. You can see video previews to a dozen documentaries with a Jewish theme in the "Screening Room."

Links to everything on the site can be found on the Site Map page.

They're Singing Yiddish Songs in Hebrew Day Schools!

by Hershl Hartman

No matter how enthused we may get at a Yiddish club event, at the IAYC conference, or at news about some recognition of the value of Yiddish culture, there's almost always an unheard sigh: "Yes, but what will happen after we're gone? What will children know of our heritage?"

Some of today's children in Hebrew Day Schools are singing Yiddish holiday songs and, if **Cindy Paley** has her way, that number will keep on growing ever greater. That's why she conceived of and produced *S'iz Yontev Kinder! Lomir Zingen!* (It's A Holiday Children! Let's Sing!), a songbook (with lyrics and music) and an accompanying CD. They're growing in popularity in the greater Los Angeles area — where all music teachers in Jewish Day Schools have received copies — and Cindy hopes to expand their reach.

The CD features Cindy and four other soloists, including two cantors — plus a children's chorus! It alone is a delight, but the real revelation is the songbook. It's far more than a songbook. The lyrics appear in Yiddish, in transliteration and with English summaries. Each song also has a vocabulary list in all three formats — so it becomes a Yiddish textbook on the elementary level! (Full disclosure: I'm credited for the Yiddish proofreading.)

And the song selection is outstanding, as befits a graduate of the secular Valley Kindershule in Van Nuys, CA. Two brief examples: For *khanike*, most Day School kids know only *khanike, o khanike* and "I Have A Little Dreydl" in very bad English "translations."

Thanks to Cindy, they learn those songs in their original Yiddish *plus* these others: *drey zikh, dreydele* (Chana Mlotek / Avrom Goldfaden), *o, ir kleyne likhtelekh* (Morris Rosenfeld / Leo Lyov) and *fayer, fayer*. Though not keyed to a specific holiday, the CD and booklet end with songs of the Jewish Resistance (a subject woefully lacking in Day School curricula), *zog nit keynmol* (Hirsh Glik / Pokras Bros.), *shtil di nakht* (Hirsh Glik) and *zol shoyrn kumen di geule* (Shmerke Kaczerginski / Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook).

So, rather than sighing about Yiddish in the next generation, it behooves all Yiddish-lovers to make sure the Hebrew Day Schools in their communities have this marvelous collection. How would they get it? Buy it and give it to them as a gift! *S'iz Yontev Kinder! Lomir Zingen!* can be ordered at www.cindypaley.com

Oystsugn fun briv in der redaktsye

Brownsville: The Jewish Years (Celebrating Hope, Hard Work, Tolerance and the Triumph of the Human Spirit) is the sequel to Mayn Shtetele Brunzvil. It has over 80 archival photos and a 5-star review on amazon.com. The book takes you shopping on Pitkin Ave. and the Belmont Ave. pushcarts. It describes the Saturday matinees at the Loew's Pitkin, the pain of the McCarthy era and the Rosenberg trial, and more.

Sylvia Schildt, Baltimore, MD

Editor's note: Sylvia was the chairperson of the IAYC conference held in Baltimore. She is a Yiddish teacher and active on several online mail lists. Read a fuller description of the book earlier in this issue.

I am in Israel till March 17. I just returned from the Ladino conference that took place in a hotel by the Dead Sea. It was great—there was a lot of old music. We heard speakers about the culture of the Ladino and there were storytellers and many more. Next Yiddish club meeting will be a combined Paramus and Teaneck clubs program on Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 10.30 am at the Teaneck JCC.

Varda Grinspan, Fair Lawn, NJ

"Touching the Soul-Diary of a Jewish Chaplain" is the title of my book that Nodin Press will publish in the fall. I am at that stage of editorial layout and art design and having a problem with the Yiddish. There is no consistency with the Yiddish English spellings between Harduf, Fred Kogos, Michael Fein and Leo Rosten. I get divergent thoughts when asking friends.

Max Fallek, Minneapolis, MN maxfallek@aol.com

My degree is from the Midrasha in Buenos Aires and Israel, Every day I say to myself that being a Lerer is closer to art than to science. I grew up with my zeyde, Shmuel Tsesler. He was a Yiddish poet and lerer in Poland and Buenos Aires. He taught me almost everything when we walked "Tzum Vald," singing and telling stories.

Fabiana Lipka, Toronto, Canada

I have a website, www.jewsontheweb.com geared to Jews who live in isolation or feel isolated from the Jewish community whether due to health, the city where they live having few Jews, their age, time constraints that prevent 'physical' participation with Jewish activities. I wish to exchange links with your site. If this is agreeable, we can exchange text links or banners. **R. Irving, ouremailsite@gmail.com**

Der ershter numer fun Gilgulim iz aroys. Ir vet gefinen ale protim vegn zhurnal un vi tsu bashteln oyfn vayterdikn adres: <http://www.gilgulim.org>

Gilles Rozier, Paris,, France

e-mail: gilgulim@neuf.fr

Please include our group the Jewish Currents Discussion Group in your calendar. We meet the 3rd Sunday of the month 2-4 pm in Oakland. We subscribe to the Workmen's Circle/ Arbeter Ring magazine, Jewish Currents. We discuss many topics of Jewish and Yiddish interest. Our next meeting is May 18. Our speaker will be UC Yiddish Professor Yael Chaver. Newcomers are welcome.

Esther Sabin, Alameda, CA

I attended the annual ceremony in Vilnius to honor those who saved Jews during the war. The speakers included the Israeli Ambassador and the director of the Vilna Gaon Jewish Museum. The final speaker was Wyman Brent. Yes, I spoke at this ceremony. I was not asked until just before the ceremony began. Afterwards, people said they liked what I had to say. I will remember it the rest of my life.

Brent Wyman, Vilnius & La Jolla

Editor's note: Brent is not Jewish and will be at the IAYC Conference in La Jolla

Arguing with the Storm: Stories by Yiddish Women Writers was released in the U.S. in April 2008 by The Feminist Press (CUNY). The book's ISBN is: 978-1-55861-558-8 (1-55861-558-X) \$14.95. I am the editor and the introduction is by Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein, at the University of Pennsylvania who gave a keynote address at the last IAYC conference.

Rhea Tregobov, Toronto Canada, rtregobov@wier.ca

I hope you took my daughter's advice and got more details on the Valley Yiddish groups.

Portia Rose, Beverly Hills, CA

Editor's note: Portia is a dear friend.

In 2003, we discovered a book that my great uncle published in Yiddish in Israel with a committee including Sutzkever, Karpinovitch and a host of other renowned Yiddish intellectuals. The book chronicles our family for 200 years and the return to Vilna after the war. I think that the story, both personal and literary would make a great and interesting lecture. **Mitch Smolkin, Toronto, Canada, mitch@mitchsmolkin.com**

This is an idea for Yiddish teachers from the NYBC. Look at some of the primers in the collections. Sprinkling water on old ground might sprout new ideas built on the basis of previous excellence. View and download examples of Yiddish primers:

www.yiddishbookcenter.org/10449

Learn about our *kheyder* exhibit, with a slide show:

www.yiddishbookcenter.org/10441

Gerry Kane, Toronto, Canada

International Association of Yiddish Clubs

12th Conference * La Jolla, California * October 24-27, 2008

Registration Options: Choose option A or any combination of B, C, D or E

A. Full Registration \$325.00: Includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sunday breakfast and dinner, Monday breakfast, lunch plus all entertainments & sessions. 3 KOSHER DINNERS ADD \$30.00 – LUNCHES PAREVE

B. Friday only \$85.00: Includes Friday dinner, orientation and entertainment. KOSHER DINNER ADD \$10.00

C. Saturday only \$125.00: Includes Saturday morning services, breakfast, lunch and dinner and access to all Saturday meetings, lectures, presentations and evening entertainment. KOSHER DINNER ADD \$10.00

D. Sunday only \$95.00: Includes breakfast, dinner and access to all Sunday meetings, lectures, presentations and evening entertainment. KOSHER DINNER ADD \$10.00

E. Monday only \$85.00: Includes breakfast, lunch, lectures and the special closing ceremony.

Please circle your request, fill out the form below and mail with your remittance.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 1st. AFTER JULY 1st PLEASE ADD \$30.00

CANCELLATIONS: Conference (not hotel) refund after Sept. 1st will be reduced \$100 on full attendance. Daily rate refund will be reduced by \$85 per day. No refunds after Oct. 1st 2008.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call 858-587-1414, Conference rate is \$119.00 + tax per night, single or double occupancy 3 or 4 is \$129 plus tax. Must say "Attending IAYC Conference" to get this low rate. You are responsible for your hotel reservations and must book by Oct. 1st to guarantee the conference rate--if still available. Same rate 3 days before and after conference.

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Mama's Advice to Her Boys

by Philip *Fishl* Kutner

We always went to Mama for advice. It did not matter what the subject was and we always knew what the answer would be. It was almost always a final seal of approval of what we probably would have done even if we did not ask for Mama's final blessing. We seldom asked for her opinion, for her answer would have been, "Why are you asking me? How should I know? You went to college. You should know. You should know."

I still can hear her saying that right now. It always was the same, "Tu di erlekhe zakh." We boys took it to mean do the right thing. I just looked up the word in Weinreich and the first definition was *observant* then come, *virtuous, honest, straightforward* and *honorable*.

The values that Mama instilled into her boys, especially of doing the *right* thing has stood them well in later life. They have been handed down to our children as well as to our nephews and nieces.

Often when I am alone I still ask Mama, "What should I do?" From afar I can still hear her voice saying, "Fishele, tu di erlekhe zakh."

Mama gave her boys good advice.

Four of a Kind

Mama never had time to play cards, but she envied the men playing pinochle in the parlor. She picked up words and phrases that she used quite often.

Her boys were "*four of a kind*."

When she did not care for a couple she would say in a derogatory manner, "That's a *pair*!"

If a shadkhn made a great match, it was a "*royal marriage*."

When she referred to a mixed marriage she called them a *pinochle*.

If someone was wealthy it was either "*filthy rich*" or "*they're flush* with money."

If someone pulled off a good deal he "*trumped*."

Der Bay

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