

Der Bay

The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter

June 2008

Vol. XVIII No. 6

The XII IAYC Conference - La Jolla, CA - Oct. 24-27, 2008 Conference Exhibitors & Vendors

On the website and in previous issues of *Der Bay* we have covered the following areas of interest at the upcoming twelfth IAYC Conference:

- Keynote Speakers: **Boris Sandler**, editor of the *Forverts*, **Dr. Motl Rosenbush**, IAYC Vice Pres. and **Yale Strom**, renowned ethnomusicologist.
- Entertainment: **Archie Barkan**, **Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble**, **Workmen's Circle Gala Revue with Adrienne Cooper**, **Mitch Smolkin**, **Heather Klein**, **Hot Pstromi Klezmer Group**, **Mayn Sheyne Meydl** (Live) and **Cindy Paley**.
- Orientation session and **The List of Presenters** at lectures and workshops and their topics were listed last month.
- Formation of the **International Association of Yiddish Teachers (IAYT)**, 4 panels with a moderator (Archie Barkan, Dr. Motl Rosenbush, Miriam Koral and Adrienne Cooper) and 4 Yiddish teachers in each panel.

Located immediately outside of the main ballroom in the hallway will be all of the exhibitor and vending tables. This is where the escalator comes up from the lobby area. There will be 24 long tables and it is anticipated that there will be between 30 and 36 exhibits/vendor displays at any one time on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

If you have questions about vending/exhibition space, contact Fishl Kutner at: 650-349-6946. There is no charge for presenters or entertainers who wish to have a reserved space and the only cost for others is to place an ad in our conference journal. Remember that the conference website has a great deal of updated information about La Jolla, the hotel, the entertainment and the programming. See the next column for the website, key phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

A Preliminary List of Exhibitors & Vendors

California Inst. for Yiddish Culture & Language
Cindy Paley
Congress of Secular Jewish Studies
Cookie Blattman
Der Bay
Dr. Barney Zumoff
Forward Association
Frida Cielak
Hatikvah Jewish Music
Heather Klein
Hot Pstromi Klezmer Band
International Association of Yiddish Clubs
KlezKamp
Lawrence Family JCC
Lori Cahan-Simon
Los Angeles Yiddish Culture Club
Marcia Gruss-Levinsohn
Marriott La Jolla Hotel
Mitch Smolkin
Mitzvah Survivor Project
Troim Katz Handler
Schwartz Judaica
Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble
Sonia Pressman Fuentes
Valley Chapter - L.A. Yiddish Culture Club
Vilnius Jewish Library Project
Vivian Felsen
Yiddishkayt LA
Workmen's Circle Los Angeles District
Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring

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
Ph: 650-349-6946

Yidishe lerers: Heldn amol un haynt Yiddish Teachers: Heroes Then and Now

The title of this article was the theme of The Eighth International Association of Yiddish Clubs Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. It was held September 4-7, 2003. Chairing the conference was Sylvia Schildt, author and master Yiddish teacher and assisted by Ted Chaskelson.

With the hopeful formation of the International Association of Yiddish Teachers at the upcoming 12th IAYC conference in La Jolla, California we again shall stress the importance of both fostering Yiddish among our youth and also having the qualified and dedicated cadre of Yiddish teachers that we shall need for the future.

Several key presenters who were at the Baltimore conference will be in La Jolla. If you are interested in Yiddish teaching or know someone who is, this upcoming conference should be on your must list.

There will be seven sessions dedicated to teachers and teaching Yiddish. Because of the great outpouring of interest four of the sessions will be panels with a moderator and four teachers. The themes will be:

- Using Music to Teach Yiddish;
- The Curriculum, Content and Computers;
- Pedagogical Methodology (The How of Teaching Yiddish);
- The Future—Organizational Matters (In What Direction Should We Go? Should It Be A Curriculum Bank, Certification, Job Placement, Etc.)

The IAYC will donate the URL for a future site and has guaranteed a place where they can meet and not have to go through the work of getting a meeting place, putting down a deposit, doing the registration, etc. at no charge to the group. This is akin to what the AAPY does the MLA conventions

Teachers and Lecturers Who Again Will Appear

Marcia Gruss-Levinsohn chairs the Yiddish group at CAJE, the major membership organization of Hebrew-school teachers and principals. She has attended every IAYC conference since the first one at the Univ. of Maryland. Her specialty is pre-school and has written several children's books. She will come early and present at Jewish pre-schools.

Nikolai "Kolye" Borodulin is a dynamic teacher and the Educational Director of the Workmen's Circle. He has had several demonstrations and lectures at previous IAYC conferences. Kolye comes from Birobidzhan and lectures on this Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Russia.

Yale Strom will be another returnee. At the Baltimore Conference there was the film debut of Yale's "L'Chaim, Comrade Stalin." In addition to his performance with Elizabeth Schwartz (Sunday evening) He will be the plenary speaker Monday morning. His topic will be "The Secret Language of the Klezmerim."

Lori Cahan-Simon moderator of the online Yiddish teachers list (with over 150 subscribers.) Her trio performed in Baltimore, and now she will be on a panel and an important figure in the formation of the IAYT. She teaches Yiddish culture and language at the Workmen's Circle shule in Cleveland.

Mitch Smolkin was the emcee of the Cabaret at the Baltimore conference. He is from Toronto where he directed the Ashkenaz Festival. In La Jolla Mitch will be one of the stars of the Saturday night Workmen's Circle Gala Star Revue.

Hilda Rubin director producer of the Washington DC area Yiddish theatrical group, Di Shpilers, will be a participant in the teacher's panel. She was a reading teacher prior to retiring. Hilda has attended every IAYC conference and been a presenter.

Dr. Motl Rosenbush IAYC Vice President will be the Sunday plenary session speaker— "der aroysfoder fun yidish"/The Challenge of Yiddish Today. He also will moderate the Yiddish teacher's panel on Curriculum Content and Computers

Troim Katz Handler (author, teacher, leynkraz leader and was secretary to Itche Goldberg z"l. She will speak on "The Songs of Mark M. Warshawsky (1840-1907)."

Roz Baker (chair of the Minneapolis Conference) will moderate an exciting panel of successful Yiddish club leaders on Successful Programming Ideas for Yiddish Clubs.

Frank Handler (teacher, historian, lecturer) will have present an exciting lecture entitled "Esther Frumkin, Yiddishist, Feminist, Bundist."

Performance Tested Translations by Frank Krasnowsky

In 1995, to publicize the Chutzpah cassette *Songs of the Jewish Workers*, I wrote: "Out of the poverty and oppression of the Jewish people in shtetl and ghetto - Out of the 'rachmones' of the Jewish people towards suffering humanity - Out of an inner voice demanding musical expression - came some of the most beautiful and inspiring poetry and music of the 19th and early 20th century."

For some 25 years -- from 1980 until the death of my accompanist, pianist Sydney Steuer, our musical duo, Chutzpah, sought to preserve that musical heritage. With grants from the Seattle and the King County Arts Commissions, and the tolerance of an anti-Yiddish Jewish Federation, we gave about 50 hour-long Yiddish concerts a year, mostly at folk festivals, retirement homes and Senior Centers.

Since over half of our performances were to non-Jewish audiences, and Jewish audiences knew only a smattering of Yiddish, it was necessary to translate the songs into English. But a simple translation wasn't enough. Yiddish songs are much more than Klezmer, which has a tendency to drown lyrics in heavy rhythm. We have been a singing people and most Yiddish songs are poetry set to music embodying the soul and culture of the Jewish people. (In Yiddish the word "lid" means both song and poem). As most translations available to us in the Northwest simply summarized the text in English or provided translations that eliminated idiomatic expressions or changed the words and imagery of the original, I developed my own singable translations. They are in the meter of the songs, and, I believe, carry into English the essence of the lyrics.

Our performances presented the English versions along with the Yiddish songs. To keep the program from being too long or too repetitive, the shorter numbers were sung in both Yiddish and in translation, and I often recited the English of longer ballads over piano accompaniment. With repeated performances I honed the translations, and we worked out suitable arrangements for over 150 songs and recorded about fifty of them. I hope now to make them available to other Yiddish performers.

The song in the next column is an example of my singable translation. The song is found in Chana Mlotek's songbook "Pearls of Yiddish Song," p.116 along with the music, Yiddish, transliteration and Chana's English translation.

MAY-KO MASH-ME-LON — What's the Meaning? By Frank Krasnowsky

Abraham Reizen (1875-1953), a poet of the enlightenment, writes with deep sympathy for the youth in the Yeshiva. This was often a poorhouse, where young men, isolated from the world, lived on handouts and slept on benches. Ironically, this student learns more by looking around him than he does in reading the Mishna.

What is the meaning of the rain?
What does it say that I must hear?
Its drops upon my window pain
Roll down like grieving tears.
And outside it's wet and muddy,
And my boots are worn and torn.
Soon will winter come upon us.
I've no coat to keep me warm.

What's the meaning of the candle?
What does it say that I must hear?
It's dripping and its tallow melting,
And soon it will disappear.
So I waste away in the temple
Like a candle, weak and small.
Till I too will disappear
Quietly, in the Eastern Wall.

What's the meaning of the big clock?
What does it say that I must hear?
With its moving yellow fingers;
With its ringing, loud and clear.
It's a manufactured item,
Has no life, and has no feeling.
Comes the hour, it must strike
Without desire, without willing.

What is the meaning of my life?
What words are these, that now I hear?
Rotting, withering in my youth,
Growing old before my years.
Drinking tears, and fed by strangers;
Sleeping on benches – cold and numb.
Slowly dying here, in this world;
Waiting for the world to come.

Performance note: Although the translation may be sung, I have found it more effective to recite the first half and then sing it in Yiddish, repeating with the last two verses. This type of activity can be used as part of a Yiddish club program or class activity.

Editor's note: Frank can be reached at: 503-206-6864 or E-mail: Krasnowsky@Hotmail.com

The Status of Yiddish and the IAYC Conference

By Philip "Fishl" Kutner

At each International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC) Conference, the newly- elected board meets to assess the progress and plans for the future of the organization and its almost 100 member clubs.

The status of Yiddish today, in the recent past and what it most likely will be in the immediate future, is far different than it was in our grandparent's time. The concept of a Yiddish club as we know it today would be foreign to them. While there were writing circles akin to a shraybkrayz today, the current situation where most clubs permit a fairly large percentage of English would be an unheard of situation. It is interesting to note that up until the 1920's at all Arbeter Ring branches the minutes and meetings were held in Yiddish—today none does.

The status of any situation must be understood in the context of from where it came so that it can assist us in foretelling the immediate future. Are there perceptible trends in the Yiddish world? If there are, what are they and what do they portend for the IAYC and other Yiddish organizations?

- Interest is growing in Klezmer/Jewish music—especially among the younger set.
- The attitude of Israelis toward Yiddish has changed. No longer do they see it as threatening.
- Germany is rapidly increasing in its Jewish population (mainly from Eastern Europe) and Yiddish is being taught in several universities.
- Eastern Europe is again having Yiddish programs and festivals (including Birobidzahn—albeit not geographically in the area.)
- Several excellent new Yiddish dictionaries recently have been published or will be in the near future.
- New Yiddish publications are now available while some of the others are disappearing Gilgul, Tam Tam, Vayter are excellent additions.
- Access to the Internet is becoming much more prevailing (4 years ago about 40% of *Der Bay* readers had e-mail addresses—today it is 70%)
- The quantity and quality of Yiddish websites (and blogging) and websites are increasing and using Yiddish fonts.

The Survivor Mitzvah Project

It is dedicated to providing direct financial aid to those elderly Jewish Holocaust survivors scattered throughout Eastern Europe who are isolated, sick, impoverished, and receive no financial aid from any other agency.

Their families and communities destroyed by the Nazis, they struggle to survive in their few remaining years, lacking the means to buy even the most basic of human necessities: food, medicine, heat and shelter. Most live alone in harsh conditions. Our project, by bringing help quickly and directly to these survivors, helps ensure that they may live out their last years with some measure of comfort, support, and dignity.

Editor's note: Zane Buzby and Chic Wolk will be at the conference in La Jolla. You will be able to see and hear first hand about their great philanthropic project. Don't miss their booth.

Zane will be one of the presenters. She is a television producer and director and has directed over 200 episodes of network television including *Golden Girls*, *Newhart*, and *Married...with Children*.

Bill Averbach's Klezmer Bands

I still have the Austin Klezmerim going strong, and need to send you a couple of new releases we have. Also we are playing a very special concert at Festival Hill Institute in Round Top, Texas. This is an honor to be invited to perform. Their web site is: <http://www.festivalhill.org/>
We'll be performing there October 12th.

My newest group is called the Carolina Klezmer Project. We are a new band up here in Charlotte (the new Yids on the block) and this city reminds me of Austin 30 years ago. Although there is already a Klezmer band here the Community is tiny and the music thing is not happening....yet.

I started this band about two years ago. It is small and we are really a Klezmer band in that we are not a concert band but a utility group for weddings and B'nai Mitzvot; we can play just about anything and often do. Anyway, I was hoping to get listed on your site. Any help there would be great.
Here is the contact info about the band:

Carolina Klezmer Project
3736 Foxford Place, Charlotte NC, 28215
Ph: 704-966-6873 Email: klez@bamusic.net

Twelfth International Association of Yiddish Clubs Conference

La Jolla, California, October 24-27, 2008

FRIDAY

Fishl Kutner - Orientation Session

Teacher's Panel I - Teaching Yiddish Through Song

Archie Barkan – Moderator, Woodland Hills, CA

Cookie Blattman – Tamarac, FL

Elisheva Edelson – San Diego, CA

Cindy Paley – Sherman Oaks, CA

Lori Cahan Simon – Beachwood, OH

Evening Program / Entertainment

Katz Family of Milwaukee Sponsor

Cantor Hale Porter: Shabes Blessings

Archie Barkan – Raconteur

Yiddish, Yinglish and Borscht

Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble - Debby Davis

Celebration 350 From Seville to Second Avenue

SATURDAY

Shabes Services – Hebrew/ Yiddish

Harry Lerner Memorial Lecture

Boris Sandler – Editor of the Forverts

Di evolutsye fun der yidisher literatur nokh
der tshernovitser konferents biz haynt.

Session I

Troim Handler

The Songs of Mark M. Warshawsky (1840-1907)

Sabell Bender

The Underworld Plays of Sholem Asch

Cookie Blattman

A Yidishe shtunde

Kolye Borodulin

Experiments with Culture in Birobidzhan

Ron Robboy

On the Trail of Der Yidisher Kauboy

Lunch

Session II

Teacher's Panel II – Curriculum Content

Dr. Motl Rosenbush – Moderator, Kensington, MD

Frida Cielak – Mexico City, Mexico

Ruth Goodman – Wilmington, DE

Sheyndl Liberman – Los Angeles, CA

Hilda Rubin – Rockville, MD

Cantor Hale Porter

Influence of Yiddish Theatre & Music on U.S. Culture

Prof. Chaim Berman

Evolution of the Yiddish Schools and
the Labor and Radical Movements

Debby Davis

The Life and Music of Molly Picon

Vivian Felsen

Czernowitz and the Early Jewish Immigrants
in North America

Session III

Yiddish Club Panel on Programming

Roz Baker – Moderator, Minneapolis, MN

Cookie Blattman – Tamarac, FL

Racquel Leisorek – San Diego, CA

Murray Meld – Seattle, WA

Prof. Al Feldman – Scottsdale, AZ

Hershl Hartman

The Yiddish Surge in Current Hollywood Films

Prof. Joel Schechter

Yiddish Theater in the 1930s in America

Prof. Robert Zelickman

The History of Recorded Klezmer Music 1908-2008

Miriam Koral

Yiddish Poetry

Workmen's Circle Gala Banquet

Norman Sarkin – Conference Chairman

Workmen's Circle President Elect

Yiddish Lifetime Service Award

Sabell Bender – Introduction

Hershl Hartman – Introduction

Lilke Majzner – Recipient

Workmen's Circle Gala Revue

Starring Adrienne Cooper & the W.C. All Stars

Also Featuring

Heather Klein & Mitch Smolkin

Twelfth International Association of Yiddish Clubs Conference La Jolla, California, October 24-27, 2008

SUNDAY

Dr. Harold Black Memorial Lecture

Dr. Motl Rosenbush

"Der aroysfoder fun yidish"

The Challenge of Yiddish Today

Session IV

Teacher's Third Panel – Pedagogical Methodology

Miriam Koral Moderator Venice, CA

Yakob Basner – Seal Beach, CA

Kolye Borodulin – Staten Island, NY

Alva Dworkin – Southfield, MI

Marcia Gruss Levinsohn – Silver Spring, MD

Dr. Sandy Lakoff & Dr. Elie Shneour

The Life and Work of Zalman Shneour

Prof. Julius Scherzer

Growing up in Czernowitz

Rokhl Zucker

Der yidish radio (haynt) af yidish

Dr. Barney Zumoff

My Experience as a Yiddish Translator

Lunch

Session V

Adrienne Cooper

Yiddish Songs of War in Women's Lives

Sonia Pressman Fuentes

Mayne Yidishe Tate-Mame (My Jewish Parents)

Frank Handler

Esther Frumkin, Yiddishist, Feminist, Bundist

Prof. Meinhard Mayer

The Yiddish and German Poets from Czernowitz

Harold Ticktin

The Roots of Jewish Humor

Session VI

Teacher's Fourth Panel – Organizational Future

Adrienne Cooper Moderator New York, NY

Prof. Al Feldman – Scottsdale, AZ

Fishl Kutner – San Mateo, CA

Cantor Hale Porter – Los Angeles, CA

Lori Cahan-Simon – Beachwood, OH

Sabina Brukner

The KlezKamp Experience

Zack Chayet

Yidish in Meksike

Peter Louis

The Jews of South Africa

Dr. Amelia Glaser

Remembering the Old Country in the Old Country

Evening Program / Entertainment

Yidishkayt LA Program

Roz Baker

Introduction of Scholarship Recipients

Norman Sarkin & Bella Suchet

Introduction of La Jolla Conference Committee

Mayn Sheyne Meydl – (My Fair Lady)

San Diego Yiddish Club

Hot Pstromi Klezmer Group

Yale Strom & Elizabeth Schwartz

MONDAY

Vendors and Exhibitors until Noon

Paul Melrood – IAYC President

Introduction of IAYC Officers & Trustees

Michael Baker Memorial Lecture

Yale Strom – Ethnomusicologist

Labushnik Loshn:

The Secret Language of the Klezmers

Cindy Paley – Recording Artist & Cantorial Soloist

"Zing Along with Cindy"

Group Singing and Dancing

Announcement of the Next IAYC Conference Site

Introduction of the Next Conference Chairperson

Lunch & Recognition of Delegates

Socializing (Networking, Networking, Networking)

Sightseeing / Departur

Chelm Copyright Code (CCC)

By Philip *Fishl* Kutner

News of the long lost code spread across all of the international networks. It made the headlines in all of the major newspaper. Television commentators spoke of it for days upon days. This long lost paper was found in a time capsule in the chalk caves under Chelm. Along with it was an explanation of the code and why this place was chosen. The finders were the lead members of a Yiddish-speaking, spelunking club from Yenemsville, U.S.A.

Thus read the accompanying document, "We the higherarchy of this first ever Sanhedrin can see far, far into the future. In the futur see a world of foolishness:

- where man will turn against man
- where man will become very selfish.
- where families will be disrupted
- where mothers or fathers will leave their children
- where a few will amass great wealth
- where there will be no concern for the masses
- where man will fight against man
- where disease will be rampant
- where nations will die of starvation
- where people will not obey His Commandments.

So we have created the Chelm Copyright Code."

"We declare that God has given the Commandments, and he did not copyright them. Who gave man or woman the right to say that his or word is more important than God's word? Therefore we decree the Chelm Copyright Code that states, "NO PERSON SHALL HAVE THE SOLE RIGHTS TO ANY STORY, PLAY, POEM, SONG OR ARTICLE."

The International Yiddish Community decided that this was too important a matter to be handled lightly. In fact the matter was immediately brought before the United Nations General Assembly. All other debate ceased. Even the Security Council placed this priority above Iran's nuclear arms race, the North Korean problem, the Palestinian issue and world terrorism.

The decision was reached that The Code must have great thought, discussion and debate. It was too important a matter for just a few representatives at the U.N. What was needed was to have regional symposia and a representative from each of the symposia would come to Chelm and give a report. Then the wisest judges of Chelm's sages would render a decision.

Each country has its own copyright code. In fact we even have the © symbol to denote that a book, story, article, etc. has been copyrighted. Even this rule of international law is not always followed. Rogue nations have turned an eye in cases of mass production of musical CDs, videos and cassettes.

After years of thought, discussion and debate, delegates came to Chelm, and at the tribunal each representative presented the findings of his/her regional symposium. It soon became apparent that there were two camps with opposite philosophies.

The Do-Good, God-Fearers felt that if that's the way God wanted it, it was good enough for them—all copyrights should be removed without any Grandfather Clause included. The Evil, Rogues felt that authors, publishers lyricists, as well as printers would not create or publish new material, for it would affect their ability to amass wealth.

What first appeared as an insurmountable obstacle, proved no match for these tribunal judges who were the Sages of Chelm. It is common knowledge in Chelm that these pious men *daven* in the morning as well as in the afternoon and evening.

During this time creativity occurs. Since no man is allowed to speak about mundane matters during prayer, the wives used this time to make requests and give opinions. Since no man ever responded, the wives assumed that the husband agreed to the request. Rarely did he shake his head from side to side as his body *shokled* up and down.

It was in the household of the Chief Sage of Chelm that a resolution to this international dilemma was first promulgated. It was Kluge Ketsese, the wife of Chief Sage of Chelm who spoke the words that were the basis for the resolution confronting the nations of the world. Here is what she said, "Why not give each side exactly what they want?"

This bit of brilliant wisdom caught the Chief Sage of Chelm off-guard. He stopped *shokling* and smiled at Kluge Ketsese. How else could it be?

She filled in the game plan after the prayers were completed. "Let's charge twice as much for each item. Half will go as in the past and the other half will go to the needy, and it will be a *mitsve*.' So ended the problem of the Chelm Copyright Code.

I Remember Mama Saying:

By Philip "Fishl' Kutner

Gey nisht borves.
Es nor koshere zakhn.
Hob khasene mit a raykhn meyd.
Ven s'iz kalt, trog a hut un hentshkes.
Folg dayn tate un mame.
Tu on t'filn.
Gey tsu shul shabes in der fri.
Es nisht tsu shnel.
Her zikh tsu tsu vos dayne lerers zogn.
Zhaleve nit far esn un a dokter.
Zoln dayne kinder tun far dir
 vos du tust far mir.
Di velt iz ful mit ganovim.
Gedenk, du bist a pror.
Dayn mame iz a bas k'henes..
Vash di hent.
Loz di blote in droysn.
Shling nisht dos esn.
Khayes zenen oykhet gots kinder.
Freg nisht!
Dos iz gots veg.
Ven er volt gevolt az du zolst es hobn volt er es
 dir gebebn.
Zorg nisht.
Zoln mayne sonim dos hobn.
Zol er krenkn.
Tshepe nisht di shikses.
Hob a sakh kinder.
Hob a sakh nakhes
Zol got geyn mit dir.
Mish nisht di milkheks un fleysheks.
Nem a bod.
Trog di glezer.
S'iz rikhtik—s'iz geshribn.
Got hot dos ales gemakht.
A ku darf hobn a sakh vaser in zumer.
Er iz nor a hunt.
A kats iz gut nor far khapn moyz.
Shisn a biks iz nor far goyim.
Ober dayn tatns mishpokhe esn khazer.
Es nor frische fish.
Vash di negl.
Zog kadish nokh mayn toyt.
Du trogst dem nomen fun mayn feter fishl.
Zog nisht proste verter.
A grobe moyd iz a foyle moyd.
Gey nisht arum mit leydike hent.
Gey nisht aroys ven es dunert.
Breng arayn genug holts.
Zhaleve nisht far dayne kinder.

Rozvelt iz a held.
Truman iz a guter man.

Mama's Word Game

By Philip "Fishl' Kutner

I didn't see mama very often as she got older. There was very little she could say when I asked her, "Mama what have you been doing?" She would speak in Yiddish and I invariably answered in English.

Finally there reached a time that she had nothing new to say. It was then that she made up this word game. I never asked her how or why she did it, but it became a routine with her whenever I visited. It was almost like she spent her time thinking up what to ask me. It was as if she did not want to have to say "Ikh hob gornisht geton" (I haven't been doing anything.)

The word game was a series of words that either rhymed or had some commonality to them. Most of them have long since been forgotten, but a few remain.

She would say "Ober Fishle gedenskt a bisl Yiddish?"

My response was always the same "Yes, mama, a little." Then the game started. At this point she became more alert and there was a twinkle in her eye and a lilt in her voice.

"Fishele, vos iz der untersheyd tsvishn, *vish*, *vash* un *vesh*?"

In this case all 3 words start with the same letter and the last 2 letters are the same.

As a child I had played word games. It was called *Rounders*. The idea was to use all of the 5 vowels between the same 2 consonants. I remember P and T. You can place *a*, *e*, *i*, *o* and *u* between P and T and have a real word. Maybe this was where mama got the idea to play Yiddish word games with me.

On another occasion it was *hant*, *hent*, *hint* and *hunt*.

Then there was the other type of:

hun, hiner, hon and hener
(hen, hens, rooster and roosters.)

Having had a chicken farm near Flemington, NJ in our younger years made this one more meaningful.

Now, out here in San Mateo, California there is no one with whom to play this game

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.

NEED A ROOM MATE, HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS, OR HAVE A QUESTION? Please call Fishl at 650-349-6946.

Please print and mail this page and check to: Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Fishl Kutner: 1128 Tanglewood Way, San Mateo, CA 94403 - Make checks payable to "IAYC La Jolla"

Title _____ Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Country _____ Apt _____ E-Mail _____

Zip _____ Phone Number _____ Fax _____

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Mama Had Seasons - Peysakh

by Philip *Fishl* Kutner

Mama had a "tsayt far dem". There was a time for everything. When the *tsayt* came, everything changed. Mainly, it was the large country kitchen that was rearranged and food always was a part of it. There was excitement and we boys always were a part of it.

Peysakh meant that all the dishes, silverware, pots and pans from the attic came down and unwrapped from the newspaper binding. All the regular items were wrapped and brought upstairs to replace them.

All the *khomets* was removed and we were ready for new dining pleasures. Everything revolved around eggs. Our chicken farm had plenty of cracked eggs and Mama always had a jar of eggs that she had filled with eggs that she cracked open and slipped into the Mason Jars. Mama could separate the yolk from the albumen with the bat of an eye—and never ever broke the yolk.

We had *matse bray*, *matse latkes*, a *faynkukhn*, and *eyer in zalts vaser*. Mama even used them in making the *kneydlekh* (*alkes* or *matse balls*). She said the difference between the floaters and sinkers was the amount of fat in them. The fat is the binder and the more *shmalts* the h e a v i e r they were.

Mama Said, "Zorg Nisht"

by Philip *Fishl* Kutner

Mama was the soothing force in our home. When things were bad and the family was down in its luck, mama was the shining light, the buoyant force. She was like the Rock of Gibraltar. Her faith never wavered in *der eybershter*.

"Greyt zikh, get ready, be prepared, it's okay," or, "it's for the best." Mama said, "Everything is okay, and if it is not okay, it's okay too."

Maybe after going through all that she did in WWI in Tiktin (now Tikocyn) Poland, she had seen it all. "What new tricks could He have for me?" That optimism was passed on to her 4 boys.

Mama would say: "Tell your readers. "

"Enjoy this issue.

The hardcopy costs money for printing and mailing.

You should see how much it is for *Fishele* to send it overseas.

Maybe all issues will be sent online someday."

Then Fishl would say:

"Maybe if it were a bi-weekly it would come out more often." :-)

Der Bay

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