

# *Der Bay*

## *The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter*

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October 2008

Vol. XVIII No. 8

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### **The XII IAYC Conference - La Jolla, CA - Oct. 24-27, 2008 The Final Preparations**

#### **The Yiddish Teacher's Section**

This is the final issue of *Der Bay* before what may well be an historic conference. The IAYC is hosting an honors group of Yiddish teachers who will be in the process of discussing what and how to teach the Yiddish language and culture across pre-school, shule, university and adult/senior levels. The organization may be called the IAYT— The International Association of Yiddish Teachers.

The group will decide the feasibility of this organization being involved in Yiddish teacher accreditation, acting as a job clearinghouse, forming a curriculum bank for Yiddish materials, holding conferences, acting as a scholarship and fellowship clearinghouse.

Four of the seven conference time-slots have been delegated to the teachers in the beautiful Orchid Room. There will be panels of a moderator and four experienced teachers. These include all four levels of age groups.

If the organization is as successful as the IAYC, then this truly will be an historic conference. To mark this significance key people in the Yiddish community and Yiddish teachers have been asked to submit a single page giving their ideas and suggestions about the future of Yiddish teaching. This will then be distributed to those Yiddish teachers attending as well as the contributors.

#### **Native Czernowitz Lecturers at the Conference**

All three have PhDs and cover a wide band of interests and achievements. Prof. Meinhard Mayer and Dr. Julius Scherzer both were classmates of Dr. Modechai Schechter, o"n. The third is Prof. Iosif Vaisman of Mendele fame and one of the premier Yiddish websites—Virtual Shtetl.

#### **Major Sponsors**

**Arbeter Ring/Workmen's Circle:** The only major fraternal organization fostering Yiddish. For the 3rd year Adrienne Cooper leads a star-studded revue. Pres. Bob Kaplan will honor Lilke Majzner.

**Arbeter Ring/Workmen's Circle So. Cal. District:** The talented and very popular Executive Director Dr. Eric Gordon will introduce the Sunday morning plenary speaker, Prof. Iosif Vaisman

**Katz Family of Milwaukee:** They will sponsor the Friday evening performance. IAYC President Paul Melrood will introduce the night's show of Archie Barkan & The Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble.

**Lawrence Family San Diego JCC:** Program Director, Jackie Gmach will introduce The Sunday evening entertainment of Mayn Sheyne Meydl plus Hot Pstromi Klezmer Band and Yale Strom

**Harry V. Lerner Memorial Lecture:** Dr. Jonathan Sunshine, President of Yiddish of Greater Washington will introduce Boris Sandler, editor of the Forverts, at the Saturday plenary session.

**SAJAC:** Brian Marks is the editor of the South African Jewish American Community of San Diego. Conference chair Norman Sarkin is one of the founding members as is co-chair Bella Suchet.

**Yiddishkayt LA:** It is the major organization in the west sponsoring Yiddish. President and Founder Aaron Paley will introduce the recording star, and Yiddish teacher, Cindy Paley.

**Conference Registration Form is on page 15.**  
**Conference website:** [www.derbay.org/lajolla/](http://www.derbay.org/lajolla/)  
**Chair:** Norman Sarkin: [normansarkin@yahoo.com](mailto:normansarkin@yahoo.com)  
**Questions:** Fishl: 650-349-6946, [fishl@derbay.org](mailto:fishl@derbay.org)

# Yiddish Culture Group of Century Village, West Palm Beach, Florida

Report by Edy Sharon (IAYC Member)

This year we welcomed two new board members—Irving Silber, who filled the office of treasurer, and David Goldstein. Let us hope that all the members of our board will continue to serve in good health.

Three of our very active board members have left because of health reasons. Rae Cabot moved to be with her daughter, Channa Goldenberg Schwarcz has moved into an assisted living facility in Riverdale New York, and Sid Schumann left due to his wife's illness and his own. All three of these people who have been board members for many years, asked me to convey their good wishes.

It is unusual to have three co-presidents in any organization. I am happy to report that we work well together. We each have our own areas and converse often. Rebecca Lutto is the publicity chair and is filling her job admirably. She even put her husband, Sy, who is a computer whiz in harness to make up our programs for both the chorus and the My Fair Lady program.

Fannie and I work on getting the programs, signing contracts with performers and laying out the calendar. We try to vary it as much as possible and always are looking for new and informative as well as entertaining programs.

The Tuesday Morning programs were generally well attended. The last two programs actually filled the theatre. They were the Yiddish Culture Chorus on March 18th and My Fair Lady (in Yiddish) on March 25th. Many, many hours were invested in the production. Troim was the guru who made sure that the Yiddish was correct and she was also the producer. Of our board, the following people were connected with or were in the cast, Troim & Frank Handler, David Goldstein, Rebecca Lutto. Marsha Love as the Fair Lady and Leon Aronson as the professor had leading parts. Other roles were filled by Ruth Muraskin, Norma Brown, Miriam Schott, Arline Warrence. Bary Jaffe accompanied on the piano. The director Cythia Greenblatt handled all the details in a professional manner. The show was a hit and people are still coming up and saying what a great idea it was to bring a Jewish show!

Every one of the arms of Yiddish Culture worked well and was well attended. All programs are seasonal and start in December and run through the end of March. The exception is the Yiddish Vinkl which meets semi-monthly all year round.

The Yiddish Culture Chorus had 5 performances. We sang at the Tradition, at Bobb's Music Store, at a Hadassah Meeting, at Aitz Chaim and on the main stage. Shelley Tenzer is an energetic and kind leader. She treats us as if we are her kinderlekh. Shelley teaches with love and the group went from 20 some odd people in 1997 to 55 voices on stage in 2008. Many more people have approached us and asked to join the chorus. We were at the maximum number for the large music room. If many more join us, we will have to apply for a larger room.

Frank Handler's Jewish History classes were all well attended and we learned a great deal. Frank does a tremendous amount of research and makes his lectures very interesting. There is a question and answer session at the end of each lecture. The lectures run from January through March and are held each Monday.

Troim Handler's Leyenkrayz is almost finished with Yitskhok Bashevis Zinger's book, In Mayn Tatns Bezd'n Shtub. Troim mails us the vocabulary for every chapter prior to our reading it in class. The classes are held in Troim's home. We meet the second and fourth Friday of every month. Next season we will finish the book and will start Eli Weisel's book, "Night" in Yiddish.

Golda Shore's Yiddish Conversational Classes are well attended and the students learn to read, write and speak Yiddish, My neighbor who did not know more than a few words, now proudly speaks with me in Yiddish. She has been enjoying Golda's classes for several years and glows when she speaks of the class.

The Yiddish Vinkl is an informal type of class. It has been very well attended and often there are no extra chairs. Fannie Ushkow is the faithful pianist. I try to teach a new Yiddish song once a month with every word explained. There is a round robin at the start of every class, where everyone gets to speak on the topic of the day. There are times when Yiddish customs are discussed especially around holiday time. Most of the people who come to the class are Ashkenazim. When some of the Sepharadic people come we compare the customs. It makes it more interesting. It also is unimportant as to what kind of Yiddish is spoken. The days of Galitzyaner and Litvak differences have been put aside and it does not matter what accent is used as long as it is Yiddish.

# Czernowitz and Yiddish—Random Reminiscences

By Prof. Meinhard E. Mayer (Mendele – Aug. 23 1998) (Will lecture in La Jolla)

Between the two world wars Czernowitz (Romanian: Cernauti, Russian: Chernovtsy, Ukrainian: Chernivtsi) was a city of about 110000 inhabitants, situated on the river Prut, in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. The population was quite mixed but heavily Jewish (there were about 50000 before the Holocaust). In the streets you could hear half-a-dozen languages (Yiddish, German, Romanian, Ukrainian, Polish, Hungarian, Russian). The lingua franca until the late 1930s was "Bukowinaer deutsch"—a variation on Austrian German, with a strong Yiddish syntactic influence and Slavic admixtures. There was a University, established in 1875, which had a good reputation in the Austro-Hungarian period (the mathematician Hans Hahn, the Shakespeare scholar Leon Kellner, and others were on the faculty, and the last professor of theoretical physics appointed in 1917 was Erwin Schrödinger—he never filled the job since in 1918 Czernowitz became Cernauti).

## Czernowitz Yiddishists Between the Wars.

I come from a family where Yiddish and Bukowinaer deutsch were spoken. My father, Dr. Pinkas Mayer was still a high-school student during the 1908 Yiddish Congress, but he was already active in Yiddishist circles. I personally remember evenings of Yiddish readings and music, in which many of my father's colleagues and friends participated, among them Dr. Wiesenthal, Chaim Kraft, Chaim Lecker, Mr. Roskies, and many others. My uncles, Hersch and Gerschon Segal were mathematics and physics teachers, but were active in the "Schulverein" and the "ORT" school, together with Chaim Ginninger (my future Yiddish teacher), Eliezer Steinbarg, Itzik Manger, Itzik Schwartz, Naftule-Herz Kohn, Meyer Kharatz, Fried Weininger, and the actors/reciters Leybu Levin and Schwarzbart.

Life was not pleasant for Jews in Bukovina under the Romanian royal regime; there was constant harassment by the authorities: one year a "revision of citizenship" Jews who were not born on Romanian territory had to prove (read bribe the right official) that they were entitled to Romanian citizenship (I wish we had lost it and would have been forced to emigrate). The next year it was a "revision of the right to practice medicine" for doctors who had studied abroad (like most of the ones in Czernowitz). My father made many trips to Bucharest, where the right officials at the Ministry of Health were bribed to establish the equivalence of a Viennese Diploma with one from the local Medical School. In 1938 a fellow by the name of Alexianu was appointed Governor

of the region; one of the first decrees he introduced was to forbid anyone to use a language other than Romanian in public (reminds one of Quebec today). A Jewish customer had to ask his Jewish barber for a haircut in Romanian --- anyone using Yiddish, German or Ukrainian would be fined on the spot.

## Czernowitz and its Yiddish Schools in 1940/41 and 1944/45

As a sequel to the Stalin-Hitler pact, the north of Bukovina and all of Bessarabia (which had been Russian for two centuries until 1918) were taken away from Romania and given to the Soviet Union. On June 28, 1940, Cernauti changed its name to Chernovtsy/Chernivtsi, and became part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. We Jewish youngsters were happy that this meant the end of Romanian anti-semitism, the end of uniforms, arm-patches, etc. Indeed, the Soviets opened two Yiddish schools, a Yiddish theater, Yiddish newspapers from Kiev and Moscow were on the newsstands, and lots of cultural activities were encouraged (all, of course under the guiding light of the all-knowing leader Comrade Stalin, whose pictures and slogans were everywhere).

In the fall of 1940 I enrolled in the 5th grade of the Yiddish Middle School No. 5, and that year of school was perhaps the one I enjoyed most. There was another Yiddish high school, number 26, also with almost 1000 students. Other Jews enrolled in Ukrainian, Russian or Moldavian (Romanian with cyrillic letters) high schools.

At the beginning, before we became aware of the Stalinist terror which lurked in the background and transformed the way people acted, there was a sense of liberation from the Romanian anti-semitic oppression. The fact that the whole curriculum was taught in Yiddish, with excellent textbooks for the language, mathematics, the sciences, history (little did we understand the historical-materialistic distortions of the social sciences in the texts). The dialectical materialism pervading our biology classes was a precursor of the coming "lysenkoism."

The teachers we had were almost uniformly excellent, including the few imports from the Soviet Union, like the school principal, who taught history, and her sister who taught Yiddish. About the only bad teacher was a young Ukrainian lady from Kiev who taught us Ukrainian. The upper grades had Chaim Ginninger who was the Yiddish teacher.

There were extracurricular activities (mostly within the framework of the young-pioneer organization) such as the "wall-newspaper" of which I was editor, drama and science clubs, musical activities, ski outings, etc. But there was also subtle and not-so-subtle indoctrination with Marxist-Leninist ideology. One of my friends was expelled and publicly humiliated, when someone turned him in reporting that he put on "tefillin" every morning.

Czernowitz (and our school) were visited by famous Yiddish writers and actors, such as Dovid Hofshetyn, Itzik Fefer, Leyb Kvitko, Samuel Mikhoels (all of whom were later killed by Stalin in 1948). The Yiddish theater put on plays by Sholom Aleykhem, Goldfaden, Peretz. Being Jewish was, according to Stalin's theory of nationality a nationality—not a religion (religion was a "dirty word"—people practiced it in secret). We felt, for the first time in our lives that we belonged to a nationality like any other, and did not consider it objectionable if our identity cards ("passports") listed nationality as one of the entries; after all, others were Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Romanian, Gipsy, Tartar, etc.—a nationality was defined as a group of people who had a common language, heritage, and maybe even a territory. Stalin created a "Jewish autonomous region": Birobidzhan with Yiddish as the official language.

While we children lived happily under the new regime (I strongly recommend the movie "Burnt by the Sun" to get a feeling for what life was like in that period—we sang the same songs, but in Yiddish, and had similar outings as the one shown in the film), our parents slowly discovered that things were not that rosy after all. The NKVD (the predecessor of the KGB) was all over, actively recruiting people as informers against each other. In the spring of 1941 the deportation of "undesirables" to what was later called the Gulag started. Undesirables being: social democrats (which Bolsheviks considered as worse enemies than capitalists), small shopkeepers ("exploiters of the working class"), clergy (spreading "opium for the people"), Zionists, deviators from the party line to the right or to the left, and people who were turned in by informers for no good reason at all. There were plenty of true believers (I had an uncle in this class) who would say that Stalin is doing the right thing—he could not do wrong . . .

In July 1941 the Germans, joined by the Romanians who were eager to reconquer the lands the Germans had given away to the Russians just a year before, broke the non-aggression pact and invaded the Western territories of the Soviet Union. They first bombed the airport, and on July 6, 1942 entered Czernowitz. The troops that entered the

city were a combination of Romanian infantry, gendarmes and an SS "Einsatzkommando" in charge of dealing with Jews. About 100 prominent Jews, among them Chief Rabbi Mark were arrested and shot the next day at the river Prut. The big synagogue—a beautiful 19th century building was burned to the ground.

There followed a period of anti-semitic measures that went into effect: Jews had to wear yellow stars, there were curfews, shopping restrictions, no schools, forced labor, etc.

In October 1941 the governor decreed that all Jews move into a Ghetto, from where they would be deported to the part of the Ukraine between the rivers Dnyestr and Bug occupied by Romania, called Transnistria. The mayor, Traian Popovici who was sympathetic to the Jews, stopped deportations and tried to keep as many as possible from being deported. About 19000 "necessary" Jews were left and allowed to leave the ghetto.

In June of 1942 deportations to Transnistria started again. This time my family did not escape and we were sent to camps in Transnistria from which we returned in March 1944, when Czernowitz was liberated by the Red Army.

One Yiddish school was reopened and I went to the 9th grade, where I had as classmates people who later became active in Yiddish language (Mordkhe Schaechter), Yiddish broadcasting in Israel (Anka Schorr—she may have hebraicised her name), and others. Since the war was still going on those who were 17 or 18 were drafted; many of the teachers had a hard time escaping the draft. Among those employed at my father's psychiatric hospital, in order to escape the draft, was the poet Paul Celan.

The school in 1944/45 was a sadder place—we thought of our friends who had not returned, and soon learned from a group of Dutch Jews freed from Auschwitz by the Red Army, who stayed in Czernowitz for a while waiting for repatriation, of the extent of the Holocaust, and the atrocities committed by the Germans together with their Ukrainian and Lithuanian stooges in the camps.

I finished high school in 1945 (with a Yiddish Diploma, which unfortunately got lost in my wanderings) and enrolled in Medical School for one semester. We stayed in Czernowitz till June of 1946, when we were "invited" to leave for Romania.

Although the atmosphere after the war ended was somewhat more hostile towards Jews, Yiddish books, newspapers and Yiddish theater continued in Czernowitz till the Stalinist paranoia of 1948.

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

## FRIDAY

**Fishl Kutner** – Editor of Der Bay  
Orientation Session 3pm

**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 6pm**  
**Katz Family of Milwaukee Sponsor**  
**Norman Sarkin** – Conference Chair  
**Paul Melrood** – IAYC President  
**Cantor Hale Porter** – Shabes Blessings

**Archie Barkan** – Raconteur  
Yiddish, Yinglish and Borscht

**Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble**  
**Debby Davis** – Leader, Vocalist  
Celebration 350 From Seville to Second Avenue

## SATURDAY

**Dr. Ray Fink:** Shabes Services – Hebrew  
**Dr. Markle Karlen:** Shabes Services – Yiddish

**Harry Lerner Memorial Lecture**  
**Dr. Jonathan Sunshine** – Pres. YGW

**Boris Sandler** – Editor of the Forverts  
Di evolutsye fun der yidisher literatur nokh  
der tshernovitser konferents biz haynt.

### Session I

**Sabell Bender**  
"Oy He Left Me For My Sister"—Melodramas & Shund

**Zane Buzby**  
Survivor Mitzvah Project

**Adrienne Cooper**  
Yiddish Songs of War in Women's Lives

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

**Ron Robboy**  
On the Trail of Der Yidisher Kauboy

Lunch – Noon

### Session II

**Teacher's Panel II** – Curriculum Content  
**Hilda Rubin** – Rockville, MD– Moderator  
**Frida Cielak** – Mexico City, Mexico  
**Ruth Goodman** – Wilmington, DE  
**Sheyndl Liberman** – Los Angeles, CA  
**Prof. Iosif Vaisman** – Arlington, 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  
**Prof. Al Feldman** – Scottsdale, AZ  
**Joseph Grinberg** – San Francisco, CA  
**Varda Grinspan** – Fair Lawn, NJ  
**Racquel Leisorek** – San Diego, CA

**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**  
The Passionate Ones: Yiddish Women Poets

**Workmen's Circle Gala Banquet**  
**Norman Sarkin** – Conference Chairman  
**Bob Kaplan** – Workmen's Circle President

**THIRD LIFETIME YIDDISH SERVICE AWARD**  
**Sabell Bender** – Introduction  
**Hershl Hartman** – Introduction  
\*\*\***Lilke Majzner**\*\*\* – Recipient

### Workmen's Circle Gala Revue

**Starring Adrienne Cooper & the W.C. All Stars**  
**Roz Kinkel, Heather Klein & Mitch Smolkin**

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

## SUNDAY

### Vendors and Exhibitors All Day

**SAJAC Lecture** – 9am  
**Brian Marks** – Editor  
**Prof. Iosif Vaisman**  
"The World Wide Shtetl:  
Yiddish on the Internet"

### Session IV

**Teacher's Panel III** – 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

**Prof. Sandy Lakoff & Prof. 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

**Kolye Borodulin**  
Experiments with Culture in Birobidzhan

**Frank Handler**  
Esther Frumkin, Yiddishist, Feminist, Bundist

**Rachel Leah Jablon**  
*Yizker Bikher*, Rhetoric, and Jewish Identity

**Prof. Meinhard Mayer**  
The Yiddish and German Poets from Czernowitz

**Harold Ticktin**  
The Roots of Jewish Humor

### Session VI

**Teacher's Panel IV** – Organizational Future  
**Adrienne Cooper** Moderator New York, NY  
**Prof. Al Feldman** – Scottsdale, AZ  
**Troim Handler** – Monroe Township, NJ  
**Cantor Hale Porter** – Los Angeles, CA  
**Lori Cahan-Simon** – Beachwood, OH

**Dr. Zack V. Chayet**  
Yidish in Meksike

**Sonia Pressman Fuentes**  
Mayne Yidishe Tate-Mame (My Jewish Parents)

**Peter Louis**  
The Jews of South Africa

**Dr. Amelia Glaser**  
Remembering the Old Country in the Old Country

### Evening Program/Entertainment

**Lawrence Family JCC Program**  
**Jackie Gmach** – Program Director

**Roz Baker**  
Introduction of Scholarship Recipients

**Norman Sarkin, Bella Suchet & Debby Davis**  
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 9am  
Introduction of IAYC Club Delegates

**Arbeter Ring/Workmen's Circle So. Cal. District**  
**Dr. Eric Gordon** – Executive Director

**Yale Strom** – Ethnomusicologist  
Labushnik Loshn:  
The Secret Language of the Klezmers

**Yiddishkayt LA Program**  
**Aaron Paley** – Chairman & Founder

**Jacob Lewin:** Yiddish Actor  
Konferentsn – A Satire

**Cindy Paley** – Recording Artist & Cantorial Soloist  
"Zing Along with Cindy"  
Group Singing and Dancing

**Lunch & Recognition of Delegates**  
Socializing (Networking, Networking, Networking)

# Leader of the Sirkin Yiddish Club in Israel (An IAYC Member Club)

by Harry Rajczyk

Even though my mother is living now almost 20 years in Israel she still can hardly understand Hebrew. German, Polish and of course Yiddish, those are the languages in which she communicated her whole life.

You can imagine how happy I was when I heard about the Sirkin Club, a Club holding seminars in Yiddish. I introduced my mother there and became a member of this extraordinary club. It then would never have come to my mind that it would be me who would save and re-establish this Club three years later.

I dedicate this article to my dear mother, Rachel Kuttner, and to a whole generation whose tears will never dry.

I was born in 1951 in the German city of Köln. My parents came from Poland. My father escaped the Germans and fought with the Partisans in the Russian army against the Germans. Also his mother and his 2 brothers and his sister survived.

My mother was not so lucky. Her parents and her brothers and sisters were all killed by the Germans. I indeed never could understand, and I never will, how they remained living in Germany after the war and after what the Germans had done to them.

I was born in Germany and grew up there. As I was physically quite strong—I was one of the best young athletes in Germany, an excellent soccer player, a good runner (10.6 on 100m) and a trained fighter. As a youngster, I always was looking for trouble with Germans. A big Magen David always hung around my neck just sticking into the face of the Germans reminding them that they did not succeed in exterminating us. When I was 6 years old my parents divorced and my mother married the late Moshe Kuttner.

After studying physical education and business administration I opened my own company I.T.T.A. GmbH which became one of the first European companies dealing with Israeli High Tech products. Since then I work with Israel. Today my most successful project is Aerophone ([www.aerophone.biz](http://www.aerophone.biz)). About 20 years ago I was the partner of a quarry and of a construction company in Israel.

I am twice divorced and have 3 sons, Gabriel (31), Moshe (23) and Benjamin (17). Gabriel lives in Israel and has his own Internet marketing

company. He came to Israel about 12 years ago and fought 3 years in an elite commando unit (in Lebanon) in the Israeli army. He loves Israel and could not live anywhere else. Moshe is finishing his studies in political science. Benjamin is still in high school and also is playing soccer.

I was a member of the Makkabi Germany national soccer team at the first Makkabiah where Germany participated after the war (1969). They asked me to carry the German flag when we marched in the Ramat Gan stadium. I did not agree. In 1971 I was invited to play in the first league in Israel at Makkabi Jaffa. But then I had only beautiful girls on my mind.

With my mother I always had a very special relationship. She was one of the survivors of the death march from Germany to the CSSR. After my stepfather Mosche Kuttner died she started writing her memories. I soon realized that these were very important proofs of history that my mother was writing. I encouraged her in continuing writing and till today she is writing about the shtetl, the Jewish life in Poland and of course from the unbelievable deeds of the Germans. Hopefully, very soon I will publish her writings in a book.

After 2 unsuccessful marriages I found my ideal life companion. Dagmar also was born in Germany from Polish parents. She also was divorced and has 2 beautiful children. Maya and Moshe. She has a very strong Jewish Identity and we plan, so G-d will, to move to Israel within the next two years.

The Sirkin Club in Israel is close to my heart because each one of these beautiful people is a part of our history.

**Editor's note:** Harry learned that there was no one to run his mother's Yiddish club and it would disband. So he has been coming down from Germany to lead the monthly meetings.

Norman Sarkin Chair of the La Jolla conference and his wife, Heather, spend several months each year in Israel. He attends the meetings and was instrumental in the club joining IAYC.

The Sirkin Club meets Mondays at 10am in the Histadrut Building in Tel Aviv. Visitors are welcome. If you are at the conference, ask Norman about the Sirkin Yiddish Club. If you visit Tel Aviv, try to include a visit to the Sirkin Club.

# אינטערנאַציאָנאַלער פֿאַרבאַנד פֿון ייִדיש קלובן

## International Association of Yiddish Clubs

**12<sup>th</sup> 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 – LUNCHESES 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 OCTOBER 1st. AFTER OCTOBER 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## My Mama Bentsht Likht by Philip Fishl Kutner

No woman did it the way Mama did. Over those many years I have seen it done over and over again, many hundreds of times, but not the way Mama did it.

I have seen some women have a very special laced kerchief that they used to cover their head like a shawl. Some even used a fully swinging swoop as if they were an operatic singer taking a bow.

Not my Mama—she used this time to have a conversation with *Der Eybishter*. Each shabes eve the conversation was different. Before the candles were lit and the blessings done, the requests were made. These ranged from deep pleading to mild requests.

Before getting to the task, Mama went through her entire week and noted all of the minor details—“in case G-d missed something so He should know.” This conversation did not cover the terrible events or mention anything that would be noted in her later requests and pleas.

Mama was very careful in her wording so that G-d would not think that she was over-exaggerating her request because this litany of words were saved for her pleas. Every possible compliment that one could imagine and every positive attribute was included in her personal talk with Him.

In a joking way much later in life, Mama once mentioned that she hoped G-d didn't think that she was selfish, for she never asked for things for herself—only for her boys—her four sons.

### *Der Bay*

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