

Der Bay

The International Anglo-Yiddish Newsletter

December 2008

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IAYC Looks Back at the Last Conference and Ahead to the Bar Mitzvah

Highlights of the La Jolla Conference

Starting with a magnificent setting, a great hotel, wonderful climate and the superior leadership of Norman Sarkin and Bella Suchet, it is like siring a champion. The conference centerpiece was the award acceptance speech by Lilke Majzner and the introduction by Sabell Bender. Native Czernowitzers were; Professors Julius Scherzer, Meinhard Mayer, and Iosif Vaisman

Because Fishl was not able to attend, Norman, Bella and Debbie Herman (who filled in for Fishl) made several major, trendsetter changes.

Norman's photo panels about Czernowitz were a showstopper. The last-minute absences of 2 key presenters gave them the chance to improvise with wonderful innovations. The Monday finale saw a bevy of entertainers supporting Cindy Paley in a rousing close to a wonderful show.

The formation of the International Association of Yiddish Teachers (IAYT) was successfully carried out. The moderators and presenting teachers were in 4 panels. They now have the beginning of a website at: www.iaoyt.org that lists the 4 panels and the 35 Yiddish teachers who attended the conference.

Evaluations gave ratings to the lectures of good to superior. The highest were Kolye Borodulin and Miriam Koral. Entertainment ratings were very good to "superb". The highest in this category was Elizabeth Schwartz, singer of Hot Pstromi. The Workmen's Circle was the leader in sponsorship, presenters and entertainers. This is the third consecutive conference Adrienne Cooper and W.C. has played this pivotal role.

Looking Forward to the IAYC Bar Mitzvah

This was the second time that a conference was held on the West Coast—the previous one was in Los Angeles at the International Conference Center on the UCLA campus. IAYC now has completed a dozen successful conferences in different cities with different conference chairs. What is ahead in the future?

The parent organization, the International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC), now has 100 member clubs in Canada, Israel, South Africa, as well as in the United States.

With each conference it has assumed more and more of the planning duties. This conference in La Jolla was the first time that the registration was not handled by the local committee. Debbie Herman of Lakeland, Florida took over this task and stepped into a leadership role at the last minute to help Norman and Bella. Fishl missed his first conference; he had attended all previous eleven. Marcia Gruss Levinsohn and Hilda Rubin remain as the only two who have attended all twelve IAYC conferences.

Dear reader, are you the one to step forward and be the next conference chair? Are your city and your friends ready to host the prestigious IAYC bar mitzvah conference? IAYC is ready to send a committee to meet with you and put a deposit on the next site!

Norman Sarkin had not attended a conference before last year, when in Cleveland he came forward and said, "La Jolla is your city and I am your person." For Bella, the co-chair, this was her first conference!

A Letter to Norman Sarkin from Rochelle Weiner

Many thanks for your e-mail. It's good to hear from an ex-pat Dorem Afrikaner, who is now a gantser knoker in the Yidishe velt in the USA. Jokes aside, I'm pleased you are so involved, and I'm sure you enjoy doing whatever you can. There are not many ibergegebene Yidishe folk left and every individual who concerns himself with keeping Yiddish alive and well – zoln di hent zayn gebentsht.

Yes, I was happy to see that Fishl printed my letter to him. It's good advertising for my group. I'm very proud of what I have achieved. We had a wonderful Succoth Yiddish morning at our local Chabad House. There were one hundred people there and they really enjoyed my presentation. Ale viln hern a Yidishe vort and they always support me. We had a lekker tea afterwards with a Black Label shnaps which always goes down well, especially during a Yom Tov!!!!

Next year, our Rabbi will have been at the Shul in Durban for 25 years. Our Shul, the Durban United Hebrew Congregation will be 125 years old and my Yiddish Group is 15 years old, so we will have some good celebrations.

I have been thinking of you all and wondering how the IAYC conference went off.

Ikh ken zikh nit dervartn tsu hern vos hot dortn pasirt! Please write and tell me—I know I will see it all in *Der Bay*. I am so happy to be receiving the postal copy. It means a great deal to me to have this as I have no printer and I use the articles for my Yiddish Group. I would VERY MUCH like to get a copy of the address on humour that Mr Tickin gave. I hope I have the name correct. I am very interested in Yiddish humour. Do you think this would be possible? I would be so grateful if you could find out.

I am very busy at this time of the year with my teaching. I told you that I'm a remedial Afrikaans teacher. I have fourteen private pupils and they are all one-on-one lessons so it's pretty tiring—six days a week. I have a break in December and January and that is when we go away for a few weeks to Cape Town—when it's hot in Durban and pleasant in the Cape. Our winters are mild while theirs are cold, rainy and windy. Who said life is a rose garden! But as you say: Es ken zayn erger. Men zol nor zayn gezunt.

Nu, genug geredt. Zayt gezunt un ikh hof tsu hern in gikh. A grus far Fishl. My dream is to meet you all some day and to attend a Yiddish Conference.

The Yiddish Vision Interest Tests:

The I, Eye and Aye Exams
By Philip Fishl Kutner

As one ages, it is essential to see that your healthcare carrier covers most of your tests, meds, and visits. Every one of the tests in this article is completely covered by *Der Bay's* "Medibay Plan." All subscribers to the hardcopy and online abbreviated versions receive the unconditional warranty of complete satisfaction or your contribution for the unused portion will be fully refunded—postage-free.

The I Exam –The *Shuel* I Chart

This is an oxymoron—the bigger the letter the poorer your vision. The I exam tests your self-centeredness. It checks your willingness to share your knowledge of Yiddish with younger/less knowledgeable people wanting to learn Yiddish. What unselfish acts of giving are your contributions to fostering our mame-loshn?

The Eye Exam

This tests the rating in your reading and watching Yiddish. If your interest is just in schmoozing and socializing, much of the rich heritage of our Yiddish literary, poetic, historical and cultural heritage is beyond reach. For we folks who are blind or visually impaired, our ears take over as our major sensory organ and the Jewish Braille Institute is our Forverts.

The Aye Exam

This is the most crucial of all the tests. It's the one that checks your willingness to step forward and say, "Hineini, here I am." Are you a soldier in the Yiddish Army? We lost the battle with Hebrew, but just like the Jewish People, we are resilient, move on and flourish once again.

In the spectrum of people are you:

- 1. an inspirer, a motivator, a contributor?**
- 2. a watcher, an observer, an onlooker?**
- 3. a wonderer—I wonder what she said or I wonder what that is all about?**

Take the time to visit a Yiddish Optician, Yiddish Optometrist or a Yiddish Ophthalmologist. Take the I, Eye and Aye Tests. Don't flounder, around the *World of Yiddish* as a blind or visually impaired person. You don't have to go down blind alleys. The more you nourish our mame-loshn, the more you will take from her.

Yidische Shraybers-Film-Projekt —

A Velt Mit Veltelekh: Shmuesn Mit Yidische Shraybers Beyle Shekhter-Gotesman: Harbstlid

Der film *Beyle Shekhter-Gotesman: Harbstlid* iz a redaktirter intervyyu mit der bakanter yidisher poetese, lider-shraybern, un zingern, durkhgefirt fun ir zun, dem folklorist/zhurnalist Itzik Gotesman, un baraykhert fun fotografyes un Shekhter-Gotesmans eygener muzik. Der film iz 72 minut lang. Der intervyyu iz durkhoys af yidish mit zeyer pinktlekhe un arumnemike englishe unterkeplekh.

Beyle Schaechter-Gotesmans nomen iz farbundn say mitn modernem yidishn lid un say mit der tsentraler role vos zi hot geshpilt un shpilt nokh alts bam uflehn un inspirirn dem interes in yidishn lid un poezye tsvishn a nayem dor kinstlers. Inem film redt Beyle vegn ir lebn un shaferishn gang: ire kinder-yorn in der yidisher kultur-svive fun Tshernevits (demolt Rumenye) vi di tokhter fun a fayner folkzingern un a laydnshaftelekh yidishist, di milkhome-yorn in Rumenye, ir antviklung vi a moderner yidisher poet un lider-shrayber in Nyu-York, un ire gedanken vegn der yidisher literatur un shaferishkeyt. Se bakumt zikh derfun a filfarbik bild fun der velt fun a froy vos hot kindvayz retsitirt poezye farn groysn mesholim-shrayber Eliezer Shteynberg, iz geven a teyl fun a lebediker yidish-svive in di Bronks, un iz der eyntsiker yidisher poet vos zol ven a mol hobn bakumen di premye far natsyonaler kultur-yerushe bam landishn oylomes-fond far kunst, di hekhste oystseykhenung in Amerike far der folkkunst. Di hoykhpunktn nemen arayn Beyles retsitirn etlekhe fun ire lider, vi oykh ir zingen etlekhe fun ire eygene lider, tsvishn zey di balibte "Mayn Khaverte Mintsye" un "Borekh-habo Dir, Khaver".

DER PROYEKT - *A velt mit veltelekh: shmuesn mit yidische shraybers* tsilevet tsutsushteln say a vizueln say a bal-peikn dokument fun bakante haynttsaytike yidische shraybers kedey itstike un kumedike doyres zoln kenen "farbrenge" mit ot di fastsinirndike figurn un khapn an araynblik in zeyer verk un svive. Biz itst, akhuts Shekhter-Gotesmanen, hobn mir filmirt Itshe Goldberg, vi oykh dem moler/shrayber Yonye Fayn un di shraybern Khave Rosenfarb.

Undzer ershter film - *Itshe goldberg: oyb nit nokh hekher*, vegn dem yidishn pedagog, eseyist, literature-kritiker, poet un redaktor Itshe Goldberg, iz oykh do tsu bakumen. Beyde filmen shteln mit zikh for a perfekte program far a yidish-krayz,-klas, tsi afile ayer ortikn yidishn tsi dokumentarn film-festival. Di filmen ken men bakumen in format fun oder VHS oder DVD.

INFORMATSIE: Lige far Yidish
64 Fulton Gas, Gang 1101 Nyu York, NY 10038
info@leagueforyiddish.org oder telefon 212-889-0380

Beyle Schaechter Gotesman: Song of Autumn is an edited interview conducted with this remarkable Yiddish poet, songwriter, and singer by her son, folklorist/journalist Itsik Gotesman, and enhanced by photo stills and Schaechter-Gotesman's music. The film is 72 minutes long. The interview is entirely in Yiddish with very accurate and complete English subtitles.

In *Song of Autumn*, BEYLE, whose name has become synonymous with modern Yiddish song and who has played a central role in reviving and inspiring interest in Yiddish song and poetry among a whole new generation of artists, discusses her life and creative path: her upbringing in the Yiddish cultural milieu of Tshernevits (then Romania) as the daughter of a remarkable traditional folk singer and a passionate Yiddishist, the war years in Romania, her development as a modern Yiddish poet and songwriter in New York, and her views on Yiddish literature and creativity. What emerges is a rich picture of the world of a woman who recited poetry to the great Yiddish fabulist Eliezer Shteynberg as a child, was part of a vibrant Yiddish enclave in the Bronx, and is the only Yiddish poet ever to be awarded a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, America's top honor for folk arts. Highlights include Beyle's reciting several of her poems as well as singing several of her own songs, among them the favorites, "Mayn khaverte Mintsye" (My Friend Mintsye) and "Borekh-habo dir, khaver" (Welcome, My Friend).

THE PROJECT - *Worlds within a World: Conversations with Yiddish Writers* aims to provide a visual and oral document of prominent contemporary Yiddish writers so that present and future generations can "spend time" with these fascinating figures and gain some insight into their work and milieu. Thus far, in addition to Schaechter -Gotesman, we have filmed Itche Goldberg, painter writer Yonia Fain, & poet/novelist Chava Rosenfarb.

Also available for purchase is our first film *Itche Goldberg: A Century of Yiddish Letters* on Yiddish educator, essayist, literary critic, poet and editor Itche Goldberg. Both films make the perfect program for a Yiddish circle, class, or even your local Jewish or documentary film festival. The films are available in VHS or DVD format.

INFORMATION: League for Yiddish
64 Fulton St. Suite 1101 New York, NY 10038.
info@leagueforyiddish.org or call 212-889-0380

Vos Vet Vern Fun Yidish?

fun Alva Ann Dworkin

Vi azoy ken men gefinen a pedagogishn tsugang tsu farzikhern az Yidish zol banutst vern vi a vikhtike shprakh in kumendike yorn?

Es iz nisht far di fun undz vos lernen di shpraklh in klasn mit dervaksene oder kinder tsu zogn vos vet zayn. Mir tuen vos mir kenen tsu helfn di vos viln lernen a por naye verter oder hern a nay lid oder farshteyn a bisl beser dos vos amolike shrayber hobn geshribn. Ober kedey a shprakh zol blaybn lebn darfn shaferishe mentshn shraybn naye lider, bikher, un poezie vegn di itsike tsaytn un veltlekhe yidies. Di shprakh ken nisht ongeyn bloyz mit dos vos iz amol geven.

Ikh ze az es zaynen faran studentn vos lernen zikh vi azoy tsu shraybn and leynen, un efsher veln zey kenen brengen naye verk tsu undzer folk. Azoy darf zayn.

Yidish ken nisht zayn dos vos es iz amol geven. Mir lebn in a naye velt, un mir muzn gefinen naye vegn tsu banutst di shprakh. Kluge shprikhverter veln shtendik zayn vikhtik, un mir darfn zey haltn tayer.

Mir kenen oykh nisht vartn biz kinder veln oysvaksn--mir darfn zey khapn in kindergortn oder yinger un redn yidish mit zey. Ikh ze vi azoy di rusishe eltern lernen zeyere kinder kedey zey zoln nisht fargesn rusish: zey redn mit zey fun kindvayz on af rusish in der heym. Mayne eltern hobn geredt mit mir yidish in der heym, un ikh hob oykh durkhgemakht arbeter ring shuln. Itst, ober, hobn mir nisht keyn shuln un lerers vos zoln kenen arbetn mit kinder vi in mayne yunge yorn.

In di hayntike tsaytn hobn kinder azoy fil tsu shtudirn az zey hobn nisht keyn tsayt tsu lernen a naye shprakh, ober oyb yidish vet banutst vern in der heym vet efsher meglekh zayn es oyftsuhalt.

Vu veln mir gefinen shuln, lerers, un eltern vos kenen yidish un kinder vos viln lernen? Ikh zog es nokh a mol: loyt mayn meynung, muz dos kumen fun der heym--yidish heyst dokh "mameloshn!"

Editor's note: Alva is Mrs. Yiddish of the greater Detroit area. She was a panelist at the recent La Jolla Conference at which the International Association of Yiddish Teachers was founded. Daniel Galay

Di Frage fun Daniel Galay

Mit a tsayt tsurik, iz oyfgehoybn gevorn di frage, tsi in isroel zenen geven oder zenen nokh faran gezetsn kegn undzer mameloshn. Zayt mir moykhl vos ikh hob frier nit reagirt. Ot iz der entfere:

Neyn--keyn gezetsn kegn yidish zenen nit geven, ober az s'iz geven far yidish shver un biter, dos iz zikher. Men hot gegeben preferents tsu der hebreisher shprakh, un ale andere, fremde shprakhn hot men shtark bagrenetst (un khotsh men hot geredt vegn fremde shpakhn in mertsol, meynen hot men gemeynt spetsiel yidish.) Der fakt aleyen vos yidish iz geven barekht vi a fremde shprakh iz shoyn geven a geferlekhe zakh. Di kavones zenen efsher geven gute, nor di resultatn zenen geven shlekhte.

Az men bakumt nit keyn shum shtitse kedey tsu antviklen yidishe proyekt, az men leygt aroyf shtayern oyf yidishe tsaytungen oder derloybt nit az men zol zey publikirn, az yidishe pyeses muzn geshpilt vern unter gor shlekhte badingungen, heyst dos alts az men bakemft akhzoriedik un umyoysherdik undzer shprakh. S'iz nit veyniker shlekht vi a gezets--a gezetz kon men dokh a mol ignorirn in der praktik. Ober do in isroel hot men genumen zeyer ernst az men darf faynt hobn dem goles un di yidishe shprakh un az men muz dertsien di yugnt in a nayem gayst.

Haynt hot zikh di atmosfer geendert, vayl di bafelkerung un zeyere shtelungen hobn zikh geendert, nor dos heyst nokh nit az der matsev iz grintlekh gut. Absolut neyn. Far mir iz klor az men darf haynt tsu tog oykh farbindn di yidishe shprakh un kultur vertn mit der ashkenazisher identitet. A sakh mentshn hobn shtark moyre derfar, ober s'vakst di tsol mentshn vos farshteyn az dos iz a natirlekhe zakh. Ikh hof az dos vet geshen, nit bloyz in isroel nor iber.

A dank far ayer geduld mikh oystsuhern. Oyb ir hot frages, aderabe. Oyb emetser neytikt zikh in an englisher iberzetsung, muz er mir moykhl zayn--s'iz iber mayne koykhes.

Editor's note: Daniel lectured at the 11th IAYC Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. He was born in Argentina and immigrated to Israel. His M.A is from the University of Chicago Daniel is the Chairman of the Leivick House, the Association of Yiddish Writers and Journalists in Israel and on the Editorial Board of *Naye Vegn*.

12 Restored Yiddish Films Screened in Vienna, Austria, Nov. 16-27

Austrian Film Archive & Vienna Jewish Film Festival Retrospective of Yiddish Films from NCJF

Contact: Lisa Rivo 781-736-8600
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The National Center for Jewish Film announced the film retrospective of 12 Yiddish films mounted by Filmarchiv Austria and the Vienna Jewish Film Festival at three venues in Vienna, Austria, November 16 to 27, 2008.

Accompanying the retrospective, Sharon Pucker Rivo, Executive Director of The National Center for Jewish Film (NCJF) presented a lecture and media presentation "A Glimpse of Jewish Life" at the Metro Kino, the Filmarchiv Austria's main screening venue. The program features highlights from the holdings of The National Center for Jewish Film, the world's largest archive and distributor of Jewish-themed films.

The film retrospective, curated by Filmarchiv Austria, includes nine Yiddish feature films and three short Yiddish films produced by pioneering filmmakers Sidney M. Goldin and Joseph Seiden. All films have been preserved and completely restored with new English subtitles or intertitles by The National Center for Jewish Film, located at Brandeis University. (**East and West* was restored jointly with Filmarchiv Austria.)

Films from the NCJF collection screening in the retrospective:

East and West (Austria, 1923);
Yizkor (Austria, 1924);
His Wife's Lover (USA, 1931);
Uncle Moses (USA, 1932);
Love and Sacrifice (USA, 1936);
The Cantor's Son (USA, 1937);
My Son aka Living Orphan (USA, 1938);
Motl the Operator (USA, 1939);
God Man and Devil (USA, 1948); shorts films
A Cantor on Trial (USA, 1931),
Feast of Passover (USA, 1931), and
I Want to be a Boarder (USA, 1937).

The profound contributions of Yiddish cinema to both American and Jewish history and culture are discussed by J. Hoberman in his book based largely on NCJF's collection, *Bridge of Light: Yiddish Film Between Two Worlds* (1991): "Yiddish cinema is also novel in the history of cinema... This was not just a national cinema without a nation-state, but a national cinema that, with every presentation, created its own ephemeral nation-state... Yiddish cinema addressed the dislocation between the Old Country and the

New World, parent and child, folk community and industrial society, worker and *allrightnik*, that existed within each member of the audience."

About The National Center For Jewish Film

The National Center for Jewish Film is a unique, independent nonprofit film archive, distributor and resource center. Founded in 1976, NCJF houses the largest collection of Jewish-themed film and video in the world, outside of Israel. It is the exclusive owner of more than 10,000 reels of feature films, documentaries, home movies, newsreels and institutional films, dating from 1903 to the present from across the globe.

The Center's priority remains the preservation and restoration of endangered films with artistic and educational value relevant to the Jewish experience. NCJF is recognized as the world leader in the revival of Yiddish cinema, having restored 37 Yiddish feature films, as well as dozens of other "orphan" films that document the diversity and vibrancy of Jewish life, past and present.

In addition to its classic films, the Center distributes new films by 150 contemporary, independent filmmakers. In all, more than 300 films are available for public screenings and DVD purchase, making NCJF the largest distributor of Jewish films.

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Editor's note: The National Center for Jewish Film is an excellent source of material to be used at Yiddish club meetings or programs for your community.

The link is on *Der Bay's* website under Yiddish links along with over 100 other excellent sites.

Eric Goldman's Ergo Media is another excellent Yiddish film source, (also see Yiddish links in *Der Bay's* site.)

Helen Zaremba Writes

Dear Fish'l:

When I received *Der Bay* this week, I read a request to the readers to send a "special article, remembrances of a dear one, or your most memorable Yiddish mentor".

My Mama was "all of the above".

Last year, I sent you a note about her after reading one of your wonderful essays about your Mama. It was dated 3/6/07 I enclose a copy of that note which I sent to you just to remind you. You were so pleased with it that you published it in the next *Der Bay* and that warmed my heart.

Now, reading the request in your November issue of *Der Bay* issue, I am submitting for your consideration a poem I wrote about her just before her 85th birthday. I titled it, "My Mother will be 85 in November".

I hope you like it. As always Meyer sends his best regards to you and all your family as do I. The best New Year to you and yours.,

My Mother Will be 85 in November by Helen Zaremba

I'll tell you straight, mama; it's getting late, mama,
Yet even now, your pride's like none I ever saw.

You had much pain, mama; but through the rain,
Mama, you had more courage than I think I ever saw.

You showed no fears, mama; I saw no tears, mama,
YOU were the only strength my childhood ever saw.

Yes, you were strong, mama; and right or wrong,
mama, you did your very best the only way you saw.

You were alone, mama; so all alone, mama,
how ever did you do the many things I saw?

Now, as I age, mama; with each new page, mama,
I reach way back to touch the things that once I saw.

I'll tell you straight, mama; it's getting late, mama,
I wish you could know the love in your heart I saw.

Editor's note: Helen and her husband Meyer live in Del Ray Beach, Florida. Meyer has had articles published in *Der Bay*. He is a retired public school administrator, author of the hilarious *Freud & "Fargenign"* and a popular speaker on the southeast Florida Jewish circuit.

My Mama by Helen Zaremba

For most of my life, Mama was my only parent. She immigrated here from Austria, promising her parents back in Austria (Lvov) that she would return home to Lvov. She was just 18. But, once here, she met Papa while visiting her Uncle Jake in the Bronx, New York (her mother's brother) and Papa was visiting his cousin Jennie who was Jake's wife!

They married and had five children, the first of whom passed away just before her seventh birthday. I never knew her. She fell in the street, developed blood-poisoning from the resulting cut on her knee, and when Mama discovered it, it was too late to save her. During those years there was no Penicillin yet.

Papa was a milkman delivering milk early mornings with horse and wagon. One early morning in June 1929 it was raining and the horse slipped on the wet street, the wagon turned over with Papa and the milk bottles and we lost Papa forever.

Papa was 38; Mama was 34
David was 11, Leo was 7; I was 4; and Lillian was 2.

The strength of purpose and determination to raise us that my Mama exhibited overwhelms me. She had no family here. Her father whom she adored appealed to her (they were in constantly in contact by mail) to come "home" with the children but she told me that she told him that her children were American-born and she remained here with us.

With the small pension that Papa's union (?) gave her (The company was DAIRYLEA MILK) she raised us. She sewed our clothes (having worked in a garment-center factory but Papa had insisted that no wife of his should work, so she left and then the children came.)

After Papa's loss, Mama arranged scholarships for my brothers at the local Talmud Torah on the Lower East Side of Manhattan where we lived and on the occasion of each of their Bar Mitzvahs, Mama baked and cooked, the soda bottles were placed in the bathtub with ice, the neighbors were called in and that was the celebration!

I was never hungry and I was never cold! I cannot fathom how she managed to feed us, keep her home clean and Kosher, observe Jewish holidays, teach us right from wrong bring us to the Chupah, and instill in us the importance of being a *mentsh*.

JC of Teaneck Yiddish Club

At the last Jewish Center of Teaneck Yiddish Club Meeting held November 13 at the Center, we heard a report on the International Association of Yiddish Club's 12th Conference by Varda Grinspan, who presented a report at the conference on how the Teaneck and Paramus Yiddish Clubs are organized and what activities they engage in.

This year is the 100th birthday of the 1908 Yiddish Conference in Czernowitz. We studied and celebrated this event by learning about the original conference, recent commemorations in that city and former famous Yiddish writers active in Bukovina.

* We read I.L. Peretz's opening address to the 1908 Conference.

* We read from Itsik Manger and other Yiddish writers.

* We learned a few Yiddish words and a little grammar.

* We heard songs from *S'Iz Yontev Kinder Lomir Zingen!* This is the Yiddish Holiday Songbook and CD supplied by the IAYC.

Yearly dues are \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. For information contact Gregg Hudis at 201 833 4748 or GrHudis@optonline.net.

Let him know if you would like to receive email notices rather than mailings.

This year's Jewish Center of Teaneck's Yiddish Club Theater trip will be on Sunday, December 7, 2008. We shall see GIMPEL TAM the American premiere of a new musical based on the short story by Isaac Bashevis Singer written and directed by Moshe Yassur, music by Radu Captari and musical director, Zalmen Mlotek.

Gregg Hudis
755 George Street
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

Editor's note: Gregg Hudis and his wife, Stephanie, hosted the IAYC conference in Teaneck, NJ and his Yiddish club was the hosting club. Varda is the leader of the Fair Lawn Yiddish Club, and he was on the Yiddish Club programming panel at the La Jolla Conference moderated by Roz Baker (chair of the IAYC conference held in Minneapolis, MN).

The La Jolla conference of the IAYC was the 8th IAYC conference that Varda has attended. She and her late husband, Joseph z"l, attended the very first conference that was held on the University of Maryland campus.

The Voice of Piotrkow Survivors

Ben Giladi, founder and editor, publishes this bimonthly publication. His editorial board consists of first and second-generation members. Only 3 of the first generation are living. They are; Ambassador Naphtali Ben Levi, Israel Krakowski and Dr. William Samelson.

Second generation members include: Iris Giladi, Dr. Joseph Geliebter, Abby Henig Esq., Dr. Henry Jablonski, Dr. Irving Gomolin, Howard Desau and David Jacobowitz.

Like Fishl's mother, who was fluent in 6 languages, Ben is able to include articles in English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Polish, for he is knowledgeable in all of them.

Editor's note: Of the over 3,000 landsmanshaftn that existed in the U.S. only a small number are still active today. Many like the one to which my family belonged (Glovner Society), exist only as, burial societies.

Tsip Levitov Writes from N. O.

If you only knew what *Der Bay* means to me, most of all because you write so many wonderful articles. I would love to start another Yiddish class in transliteration "ober ikh hob nisht keyn koyakh".

As you know I've been struggling with the stroke on the right side that I had two months ago. Between going twice a week to water therapy and once a week to regular therapy that I call "Hell's Kitchen," bin ikh oysgematert nokh dem tog. I certainly am giving it everything I have to get better, and wonder whether I am crazy at 91. Where am I going? However, that has always been my way so I shall continue fighting till I die.

I do want you to know though that I actually went back to volunteering once a week at the Jewish Touro Hospital and they are very happy that I am back and of course so am I. I go once a week. I don't know whether I ever wrote you that I was made Volunteer of the Year this year and they had a special lovely party for me at the hospital with my children and many friends invited. I've been doing this since I came to New Orleans about 15 years ago.

Editor's note: Tsip took over the Yiddish group in New Orleans after Fanny Yoker moved to Atlanta after Hurricane Katrina.

When and How I Remember Mama

by Philip Fishl Kutner

Of all the family, friends, phone numbers and addresses, and those special dates, none compares with my remembering the memories of Mama.

As a teacher, I had to learn at the beginning of each school year the names of 150 students. Most of those five thousand have passed from my memory with few exceptions like a train in the night.

In elementary school we had to memorize the states and their capitals, the planets in their order in the solar system. Also we had to put to memory the presidents of the United States in their order.

We were taught tricks like using mnemonic techniques and memorized sentences where the first letter of each word was exactly like the first letter of the word we wanted to memorize.

My memories of Mama are different. There is no gimmick, no trick to make me remember her. She flashes by in many forms. Sometimes it is a mirage, sometimes it is a sound and sometimes I feel her touch my arm and I get goose pimples.

Mama, when I next really see you, will you be the young vibrant woman or that sick, old lady?

Mama, Are You Proud of Me?

by Philip Fishl Kutner

It is so important that I make you happy. Your sons were your whole life. Nothing was more valuable to you than your four boys. They all raised wonderful children. Bobby is with you and must have told you all about them.

If I were sure that you could see me, hear me and know what was going on, you would be pleased that your granddaughter is carrying on my work.

I still remember your unending prayer, "Got, shtrof nisht mayne kinder."

Der Bay

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Please make checks for chai, payable to *Der Bay*.

If you're blessed, Please send a LITTLE extra

Label date is when you LAST contributed.

Networking is having others help you get what **YOU** want. *Der Bay* is a great networking tool.

Send in a special note to honor a dear one for the chai—January issue. It will be special.