

Der Bay

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Thoughts on the Upcoming Ninth IAYC Conference in Minneapolis and Next Year's Tenth Conference

Lovers of Yiddish are in for a real treat at the upcoming Minneapolis conference of the IAYC in June 2 - 5, 2005. This should be the best conference.

There are many excellent reasons for going which include the great presentations and the wonderful entertainment. However, for your editor, the best reason is to meet so many other people who are excited about Yiddish.

It is a chance to meet dear friends we made at previous conferences and to make new ones whom we hope to see and hear from. There are always attendees who live in the same city of our children or other family members.

Your editor and Sally have made close friends in Arizona, southern California, Florida, the DC area New York, Louisiana, Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin—and especially the Canadian cities of Toronto and Winnipeg—whom we first met at an IAYC Conference.

Be sure you set aside time to introduce yourself to your editor, and let's share stories and become friends. To get even more out of these conferences be sure to increase the networking. If you are a performer, lecturer, translator, teacher, author or have a klezmer group, be sure to bring along at least 50 cards to distribute.

Mealtime is the best time to network. Most will sit with their group for dinner, but during the day mingle, mingle, mingle. Even time for a cup of tea is a time for networking.

Announcement will be made of the location of the next International Association of Yiddish Club Conference. Be sure to meet the next coordinator. It will be IAYC's 10th conference, and very special plans are being made to celebrate it in an innovative and novel way.

It marks a sign that IAYC is a major actor on the World Yiddish Scene. There are several ways to evaluate the degree of success or failure of any event. Besides the number of attendees, is the quality of the presenters/ workshops and the evening entertainment. The ability to not lose money is essential—even a non-profit must pay its bills. Each of the previous conferences has had a positive cash flow, albeit a small one.

If your club or city is interested in hosting a future conference, please contact the IAYC President, Paul Melrood, or the editor of *Der Bay*. Your questions will be answered, and you will be in a position to know if it is viable. It is a very gratifying experience.

After having gone through the selection of site and committee ten times, two facts have become very obvious. These two items are the most crucial decisions to be made.

- The right venue—location, location, location. It can be a college, hotel or a center, but it must have the facilities, and be easily accessible.
- The right date—avoiding Jewish holidays and conflicting with other major events is crucial.