



Volume 2 - Issue 3

Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture

Summer 2002

Fall and Winter Events

Yiddish Film Classics Series

Oct. 8-15-22-29, 1:00 PM
Michael Ann Russell JCC, NMB

Undying Flame: Ballads

& Songs of the Holocaust
Lecture & Musical Performance
November 7, 7:30 PM, Cuban
Hebrew Synagogue, MB

Yiddish - A Nation of Words

Lecture November 23/24, TBA
Miami Book Fair International

Common Threads:

Stories from Many Cultures
Oct 27, 1 PM - Alper JCC Book Fair

Yiddish Folklore, Theatre & Film

Lecture - Dec. 19, 7:30 PM
U.M. Hillel House, Coral Gables

Chagall & Dali Exhibit

Opening January 2003
FIU Theater Exhibition Hall - NMB

Der Yiddisher Mikhalo

January 16, 8:00 PM:
David Posnack JCC, Davie
January 19 - TBA, NMB
January 20 - 2:00 PM - OG:
U.M. Gusman Theatre

The Jewish World of Marc Chagall Lecture

January 23 - 7:30 PM
FIU, North Miami Beach

Artistic Influences of Marc Chagall Lecture, Slide Show, Reception

January 25 - 7:30 PM
FIU North Campus Theater

Lomir Redn Yiddish

Ongoing - Wednesdays
1:00-2:00 PM
Center for Yiddish Culture, OG

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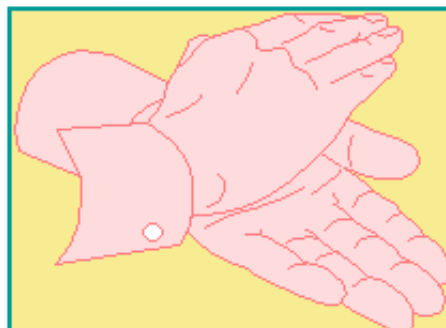
CENTER CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH ELECTRIFYING SEASON

Before her death, Dora Teitelboim, internationally acclaimed poet of America, France and Israel, put her dream into action by creating the Center for Yiddish Culture. On her tenth *yortsayt*, (anniversary of her death), the organization she founded strives to make Dora's dream a new reality, that touches all who wish to listen. In her memory, the Center has fashioned a scintillating cultural season which includes performing arts, literature, and visual art demonstrating the indelible mark that Yiddish culture has left on the world.

Teaming up

with leading scholars, musicians, performers and visual artists, the Center hopes to create an unforgettable year of song, laughter, and pride in the beauty and strength that enabled Yiddish culture to persevere against all odds. The Center's exciting season begins with the South Florida debut of one of the country's most outstanding folksingers, **Jerry Silverman**. He explores the world's musical response to the Holocaust through a lecture and performance of music he collected over decades of

research in two dozen nations in sixteen differ-



Center for Yiddish Culture's 10th Anniversary

ent languages.

One of the Center's mainstays is bringing in leading scholars to discuss Yiddish literature, culture, music, and history. "We strive to bring to South Florida and the nation more than 'yenta-tainment,' but an understanding of Yiddish's

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YIDDISH FOR YOUTH INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

by Michael Mendes

History was made on May 28th with the launching of the first *Yiddish for Youth* Com-

mittee meeting, held at the Center for Yiddish Culture. The committee members were representatives from South Florida temples, JCCs, Hebrew Day Schools, and Jewish educators. In addition to

Times and The Jewish Journal to record the significance of the occasion.

The Committee's

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Yiddish for Youth Committee meeting, held at the Dora Teitelboim Center, the first in a series of strategy sessions. Attending the confer-

Day Schools, and Jewish educators. In addition to committee members, two reporters were present from the Miami New

sion.

The Committee's goals, based on a position paper drafted by
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *SHRAYBTISH*

This may be one of the most important letters I ever write to you, our cherished supporters. Many of you are aware of the great difficulties



facing arts and cultural organizations throughout the world. As difficult as times have become, we know Yiddish has faced worse and still held strong. We began our ambitious existence as a cultural institution ten years ago with a growing number of people who believed that Yiddish culture deserved more than a silent burial either from neglect or the myriad of preservation projects that assume Yiddish is irrelevant. Dora's dream was continuance, hoping to foster a rebirth of Yiddish as a spoken language, not merely as a funny way to insult others.

In our first decade, we became the largest U.S. institution translating and publishing great works of Yiddish literature. We hosted key lecturers and performers from around the world including Itche Goldberg, Henry Sapoznik, Adrienne Cooper, Michael Wex, Curt Leviant, Avi Hoffman and many others. We launched the first college level Yiddish course teaching Yiddish at three levels, both live and on-line. We published some of the first and best Yiddish/English children's picture books. We sponsored a highly acclaimed writing contest that inspired increasing dialogue and writing about Jewish continuance. We are making his-

cial downturn. Yet, we never before seriously came to our supporters, members, and adherents to ask that they put their *gelt* where their heart is. In fact, we have gone out of our way to make most of our cultural programming free or at nominal fee. We fight publishers to keep down the price of our books. We offer Yiddish education at prices at or below our cost. Our rationale was that the more Yiddish programming we could offer the better, and that eventually our efforts would pay off. We may have been naïve. The lesson I learned is the importance of making it clear to our supporters us that we cannot continue without help.

Unfortunately, keeping a struggling culture and ailing language alive has NOT been an inexpensive enterprise. Our annual budget is over \$300,000, yet only a small portion of this money comes from those who attend our events, enjoy our books, take our classes, and appreciate our work. If we, like Yiddish, are to have a future we must have your involvement. Studies have shown that people who give live longer, happier lives, develop a keen appreciation of their heritage and feel more connected to their roots. In this vein, we evoke the memory of the great Yiddish writer, Sholem Aleichem, as we ask for your help. Sholem Aleichem touched millions with his *heymish* characters and his love for the little guy.

The **Sholem Aleichem Circle** is our way of offering opportunities to our Yiddish cultural supporters to pass on the wis-

The Sholem Aleichem Circle

who understand that Yiddish will be just a museum relic or a pile of old books unless revitalization happens immediately. By contributing \$1000 or more, Circle members will carry the torch of *yiddishkayt* to the next generation. Certainly, donations of all sizes are appreciated and endowments, legacies, and other types of estate planning are critical for us to build a future for our work. Circle members will have their names emblazoned on our cultural center and will receive VIP tickets to all major events. (See the ad form on Page 10 for additional benefits.)

How many times in life do we look back and say, "if only I had acted what I could have accomplished?" Today you have the chance to rescue a dying culture and proudly declare that our Jewish heritage is too important to lose such a vital link to our past . . . and our future. In essence, Yiddish is the *Undying Flame*, refusing to be extinguished after centuries of attempts on its life, from within and without. You, too, can become the keeper of the flame, keeping alive a dimension of Jewish culture with no equivalent, for our children's children's children. I offer you a hearty *sheynem dank* in advance for your support!

Mit hartsiken dank
(With heartfelt thanks),

David Weintraub

Yes, I want to help keep the Yiddish light burning for generations to come. I will join:

The Peretz Club – Gift of \$5000

continuance. We are making history through a documentary film about the last Yiddish speakers in Eastern Europe, but our work has only just begun.

Unfortunately, we are not immune to the vagaries of the market. On the contrary, our Center suffered serious, and possibly irreparable, damage from the finan-

supporters to pass on the wisdom and values of the Yiddish experience to our children and their children. The **Sholem Aleichem Circle** is simple. We need 125 people,

The Peretz Club – Gift of \$5000

The Mendele Club – Gift of \$2500

The Mitzva Club – Gift of \$1000

Other – I can donate \$ _____

— I am interested in special giving opportunities.

— Please make my gift in memory of _____

P.O. Box 14-0820, Coral Gables, FL 33114-0820

CENTER CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

value to Jewish culture, to American life and literature," comments the Center's Executive Director, David Weintraub. Leading the Center's lecture circuit this year is **Miriam Weinstein**, author of the acclaimed *Yiddish - A Nation of Words*. A featured speaker at the November 23 and 24, 2002 Miami Book Fair International, Weinstein discusses the rich history of linguistics, cultural achievement, and literary excellence that have been the cornerstone of Yiddish culture for a thousand years. In December, the Center proudly hosts leading Yiddish educator, Professor Miriam Hoffman of Columbia University, discussing **Yiddish Folklore, Theatre and Film**, highlighting such greats as Gordin, Ansky, and I.B. Singer. According to Hoffman, "From the early period of the Yiddish Purimshpil in the Middle Ages, to Avrom Goldfadn (the father of the Yiddish theatre in Rumania) through the first Yiddish theatre on the Lower East Side at the turn of the century, Yiddish theatre survived to see a glorious beginning in America." Other lec-

illustrator of numerous Yiddish poetry books. Yiddish poet and educator, Troim Handler, will discuss Chagall and *yiddishkayt* while art historian and curator, Dorit Arad, will lecture on the artistic influences on Chagall's work. A reception with refresh-

ments and music will follow.

Busy January also will see South Florida's first performances of **Der Yiddisher Mikado** by the celebrated Gilbert and Sulli-



Gilbert & Sullivan Light Yiddish Opera Company

van Light Yiddish Opera Company. For several years, this repertory company has sold out performances of *Di Yam Gazlonim* (*The Pirates of Penzance*) and *Der Yiddisher Pinafore* across the globe. Tickets for shows in Broward, North Miami Beach, and Coral Gables will be available shortly.

In March, **The Winter Evening of the Yiddish Arts** once again becomes the defining event in South Florida's cultural life. This year the **West Palm Yiddish**

without children's programming. **Common Threads, Stories from Many Cultures** strengthens community ties by teaching the value of not only "tolerating other people" but by developing respect and love of people from other cultures. By joining with the Haitian group, *Mondo Vibe*, and the native Cuban organization, the *Ciboney Tribe of South Florida*, the Center for Yiddish Culture teaches children of all ages about the beauty of the many cultures inhabiting South Florida and the universal connections that link us together. The program includes storytelling, performance art, dance, and music to tell a Yiddish fable, a Haitian folktale and a native Cuban story.

This cross-cultural respect is promoted further by this year's annual writing contests. The Center-sponsored essay contest, called **Immigration to America**, is based on their recently released book, *The New Country, Stories from the Yiddish About Life in America*. For its annual Jewish cultural writing contest, this year's topic will be **CROSSING THE CULTURAL DIVIDE: How Jewish Culture Can Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding**. According to Liz Weintraub, the contest coordinator and Program Director, "Valuing the uniqueness and contributions of Jewish culture is extremely important. But if we are to find some

ginning in America." Other lectures will include **Deborah Dash Moore** discussing **Women in Jewish Culture**, and **Dr. Joel Saxe** speaking on the **Jewish Progressive Movements in South Florida**.

January is **Marc Chagall Month** at the Center, featuring a month long art exhibition, lectures, and a slide show. In addition to being a cutting-edge artist, Chagall was a Yiddish poet and

South Florida's cultural life. This year the **West Palm Yiddish Choir** and actor and recording artist, **Avi Hoffman**, celebrate the life of the great Yiddish poet, Itzik Manger. Through song and poetry, audiences discover the joy and anguish of a man, who wrote during the best and worst of times. A month long Art Exhibit and Artists' Reception will complement the main performances.

No cultural year is complete

Jewish culture is extremely important. But if we are to find some way out of a world where hate grows to epidemic proportions, we must learn not only what makes us different, but also what common grounds connect us to people everywhere. We hope to encourage this type of thinking and writing with this year's contests."

Yiddish education will not take a backseat this year either. In addition.
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CENTER CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

ition to the **Center's Yiddish for Youth Initiative** that works with Day Schools, Temples, and JCCs to incorporate a Yiddish educational component in existing programs, the Center continues its Yiddish On-line college-level Yiddish program that should soon be

available through several major universities. Additionally, weekly Yiddish conversational classes on Wednesdays at the Center's Coral Gables office continue. For more information about this or other programs, please contact the Center at 305-774-9244 or at info@yiddishculture.org or

check out the Center's website: www.yiddishculture.org where updated calendar information always can be found.

ELLEN'S LADLE

Help! Supposedly, "saltinosis" is a dish of cheese kreplakh floated in a sort of milk soup of sour cream, pepper, butter, and salt. Possibly, some people bake it. Kovno Jews apparently made a similar dish from bowtie egg noodles simmered

in a mixture of milk, cottage cheese, sour cream, butter and pepper that they called 'lokshen and cream.'

Can anyone share with us the origins, ingredients, and recipe for this mystery dish? Email or call

the Center, please!

Not a cold nose or a disease
— a lost Jewish dairy dish!

Saltinosis

CHAGALL MEETS MIAMI



gall. "Everyone knows that Chagall's art was immersed in *yiddishkayt*," explains Handler, "but few realize that Chagall was an illustrator for many Yiddish books and was a Yiddish poet himself." Ms. Handler will discuss Yiddish culture's profound influence on his art. In addition, she will examine his life as a Jewish artist and will talk about the three important

by Amy Friedman

ments will follow her lecture and slide show.

Marc Chagall was born in 1887 and lived to 98 years old. Over the course of his long life, he had three wives and an illegitimate child. However, one thing that never changed was his deep passion for Jewish culture. Raised in the Russian *shtetl*, Vitebsk, he was the eldest of nine children



For the month of January 2003, the Center for Yiddish Culture features a dynamic art exhibit and lecture series on Marc Chagall at the Florida International University Biscayne Bay campus. The Center is pleased to host noted Yiddish poet and educator, Troim Handler on Thursday, January 23 to speak about the *Yiddish World of Marc Cha-*

talk about the three important women in his life. Ms. Handler is the author of a new book entitled *Simkhe*, which will be available for sale at a book signing following the lecture.

Later in the month, Dorit Arad, art historian and curator, will lecture on Saturday, January 25th on the themes and methods of Marc Chagall's work. With a Masters Degree in Art History, Ms. Arad, an expert on Chagall, lectures extensively on his work. A reception with music and refresh-

was the eldest of nine children brought up by a poor family. He started painting early in life, but not until 1910, after his move to Paris, did he find his identity as an artist. Although there only four years, Paris was a turning point in his artistic life; he was exposed to the most innovative art of the time — cubism, fauvism and surrealism. He developed unique character to his work through the use of bright bold colors and trademark childlike imagery. His

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YIDDISH FOR YOUTH INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

continued

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the Center's Executive Director, David Weintraub is to "re-inspire younger Jews to learn the Yiddish language, its literature, traditions, and music through specially targeted educational programs, cultural activities and initiatives to help foster Yiddish home learning once again. The key to continuing Yiddish is that it once again becomes a language spoken in the home and the depth of its cultural reach be available in a growing number of accessible medium."

For several years, the Center for Yiddish Culture has established programs seeking to inspire increasing interest in Yiddish programming. According to Marketing Director, Amy Friedman, "the challenges brought up by this initiative sometimes seem insurmountable. Modern pop culture is fast paced and takes no prisoners. It is very hard to overcome the blizzard of video games, Internet escapades, and satellite



ing a curriculum committee to oversee the production of educational programs to adding a Yiddish cultural dimension to Bar Mitzvah training. This capitalizes on reaching the youth at their height of curiosity. Another innovative idea was to teach Yiddish through cooking, learning the language as you prepare dishes of cultural significance. An additional initiative is to recruit Jewish students to write computer games with an educational twist. Attracting youth using technology, innovation, and multi-media. Nina Korman of the New Times suggested a market study of 3rd and 4th generation American Jews. Cultural planning for youth could include Yiddish karaoke, poetry slams, art education and dancing.

Some time-tested ideas were also re-visited. Miriam Hoffman, a major force in Yiddish education as professor of the acclaimed Columbia University Yiddish Program, offered using well-known books such as Dr. Seuss in

children. Also discussed were the successes of Jewish youth clubs at Day Schools and High Schools. Most of the committee members were concerned that although classes needed to be interesting, they should not become "yenta-tainment", a diminishment of Yiddish to nothing more than a collection of insults or humor.

Yiddish *shules* (schools) were discussed as an integral part of Jewish heritage continuity that has disappeared from the American Jewish society. David Weintraub explained the positive impact his Yiddish *shule* had on his life and how many of the teachings have stayed with him. The *shule* discussion concluded that the best way to perpetuate Yiddish culture in today's society is by creating and developing teachers. The committee was unanimous that teacher training was vital. The Center is currently reviewing the Yiddish educational work that YIVO is developing to establish a potential collaboration focusing on curriculum development and teacher training.

Lessons learned from past

Internet escapades, and satellite TV that pull people away from any connection to their heritage." According to Weintraub, "the challenge is how to make Yiddish culture relevant to younger people who have so many diversions. Just as important is incorporating Yiddish culture into existing Jewish educational programs that have wittingly or unwittingly banished its vibrant *shvester* (sister) from the Jewish cultural table for years."

Many new ideas were introduced and discussed at the session. Suggestions from committee members ranged from establish-

known books such as Dr. Seuss in Yiddish translation to teach the language. An innovative concept which the Dora Teitelboim Center bookstore has aggressively worked towards with children's titles including *dos shtibele* (The Little House), *fir babelekh* (The Four Butterflies), and *Yiddish Stories for Young People*, with more on the way. Cantor Mark Kula of Bet Shira explained that music is the easiest way to reach today's Jewish youth. Many attendees had personal experiences with Yiddish song and music as children; some recalled how their parents singing to them had influenced them as

Lessons learned from past experiences were also brought to the table. The *shule* movement did not evolve with the ever-changing Jewish American culture. They were no longer meeting the needs of the Yiddish community, which resulted in their demise, an important lesson for the reinstatement of a pilot Shule program in the United States. It must fill a need, whether it is spiritual, cultural, educational, or even entertainment. Yiddish entertainer, Avi Hoffman, discussed the importance of remaining relevant by explaining the parallels found in

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CHAGALL MEETS MIAMI CONTINUED

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child-like technique combined with his intellectual content provide a real strength to his work. It is as if the naive child within him was trying to understand the cataclysmic times in which he lived. His emotionally charged paintings

show uncompromising confidence while ignoring the ancient Jewish ban on image making. Although best known for his works about the Jewish *shtetl*, he also dealt with many themes including love for his religion and his homeland and severe poverty and loneliness.

Do join the Center's art exhibit and lecture programs to further your understanding of the life of this important figure in the ever-evolving history of Yiddish culture.

**WINTER EVENING
OF THE
YIDDISH ARTS**

featuring Avi Hoffman

March 6, 2003

7:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Shalom

Miami Beach

Save
the
Date

SPRING 2003

Through the Golden Door – Lecture

March 21, 2003

Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center, Beth Jacob
(in cooperation with FIU Religious Studies)

**Miami's History of Jewish
Progressive Activism Lecture**

April 3, 2003 – 7:30 PM

FIU, North Miami Beach

**Common Threads:
Stories from Many Cultures**

April 10, 2003 – 7:30 PM

YIDDISH FOR YOUTH INITIATIVE LAUNCHED continued

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Yiddish theatre. He described how Yiddish theatre remained focused on melodrama long after melodrama was acceptable. The theatre groups were comfortable in their successes and were hesitant to change. Whatever is done, it must be brought into the 3rd millennium.

The consensus of the attendees' is that great care must be taken not to harm Yiddish culture or language at this critical point in its life. *Shules* have great opportunities for reaching deep into the lives of today's youths, if the funding, promotion, teacher and curriculum challenges can be met.

This will be a long-term process and associations with every possible Jewish institution is vital. Finally, it was acknowledged that assistance would be required. The committee's focus this summer will be meeting with specific Jew-



ish institutions about taking a

lead role in establishing pilot educational and cultural programs. Finally, Professor Hoffman discussed how Yiddish education was integral to a comprehensive Jewish education. "By learning Yiddish, my students enrich their Jewish heritage. They learn not just Yiddish, but more about who they are, the importance of Hebrew, their culture, heritage and the meaning behind religious rituals." Hoffman's Columbia University program began with four students and grew to 70.

Anyone interested in further information or joining the committee may contact David Weintraub at (305) 774-9244.

YIDDISH IS ALIVE AND WELL ON LONG ISLAND . . .

by Lee Weintraub

For several years I have been running Yiddish-English poetry readings with Ron Kuriloff for the *Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture*. Recently we've added a musical element to our programs by singing Dora's poems from the Center's first book, **The Last Lullaby**. I was fortunate to have seen Dora Teitelboim read in public many years ago. Her dramatic flair and emotion was a profound influence in my readings. Over the past year, Ron and I have performed at bookstores, at the Oceanside Y center and at the Glen Cove Holocaust Center. The concerts have stirred sighs and memories of the past from audiences.

A very typical response occurred at my last performance when an audience member hugged and kissed me for bring-

we presented short stories from the Center's most recent book, **The New Country** with *frelekhe* songs, the audience roared with laughter at the stories and sang with us in a stirring rendition of "*shayne vie di levonah*."

The Yiddish songs, in particular, resonate to my past. My mother taught me these songs that I later performed with my uncle at weddings at the age of five and later on the *Sholom Secunda Children's Hour* on Yiddish radio each week. It has been a



Supporters of Yiddish culture on Long Island need not fret that they do not live near the Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture in Coral Gables. For over three years, the Center has run exciting Yiddish cultural programs throughout Long Island, headed up by board member Lee Weintraub. For updated programming information on Long Island, please see our Events Calendar at <http://www.yiddishculture.org>

pleasure for me to relive my Yiddish upbringing, the deep love for my mother and my commitment to spread the appreciation and assure the endurance of the irre-

hugged and kissed me for bringing back memories of her mother who died in the Holocaust. When



to speak the language and to ensure the endurance of the irreplaceable, irreplaceable Yiddish language.

NEWS FROM PRAGUE

by Mary C. Legg – *New Yiddish Times* Foreign Correspondent

BEJT SIMCHA

On Shavuot, Bejt Simcha officially welcomed five Jews into the community, who returned from a Bejt Din in England, after completing the final rites of conversion. Rabbi Alexandra Wright presided over the Bejt Din with two other rabbis, a man and a woman. Rabbi Wright is on the faculty of Leo Baeck College. Milan led some of the prayers as a cantor. Bejt Simcha meets in the basement of Manesova 8 just behind the State Theater in Vinohrady. Bejt Simcha is affiliated to the progressive movement. Rabbi Goldstein of

Northwood and Pinner Synagogue in London act as their rabbinic advisor. Bejt Simcha is supported locally by Wittmann Tours.

The chevra is extremely active throughout the year, celebrating not only Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday evening, but activities throughout the years. On June 7th, Bejt Simcha traveled to Kolin where it commemorated the last Nazi transport. On June 14th, Dr. Alfred Bader presented a scholarly lecture on the Messiah with interpretations from Jewish and Christian viewpoints. The room was overcrowded with about fifty people present, and although the

lecture was lengthy and presented in English, no one left early. Sylvia Wittmann acted as his translator.

If you are ever in Prague, please stop in to visit. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Most startling to visitors is that the active members of the group are young. There are several children in attendance. Judaism blooms again in Prague.

Bejt Simcha tel: 4202 2225 2472
Czech Liberal Chevra
at <chevra@bejtsimcha.cz>
Manesova 8 Prague 2

(Continued on page 8)

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA YIDDISHKEIT DOWN UNDER

by Celia Jones, *New Yiddish Times* Foreign Correspondent

I have lived in the Jewish community in Melbourne, in the Australian state of Victoria, since 1972 after emigrating from California. Most of the large Jewish population in Melbourne, about 50,000 people, live within six of the city's southeastern and bay-side suburbs. About fifty percent of the Jewish community are Holocaust survivors, their descendants or relatives, so there is a strong sense of Jewish identity. There is also much diversity with the thousands of Soviet Union immigrants, families from South Africa, along with many immigrants from the United Kingdom, Israel, Iraq, India and New Zealand.

The community bristles with synagogues—over thirty Ortho-

demically results. One school that readers would particularly be interested in is The Sholom Aleichem College with its emphasis on the Yiddish language and literature, "*veltlekhe yiddishkayt*." There is also a Jewish Museum, as well as a Holocaust Museum dedicated to the education of both Jewish and non-Jewish children about Jewish culture, religion and the Holocaust.

Melbourne's Jewish culture also includes a rabbinical college, several Mikvahs, a weekly Jewish newspaper, kosher butchers, Zionist and non-Zionist youth groups, even a group called "Yidden On Wheels Motorcycle Club". Up until late last year, a Rabbi—Joseph Gutnick—was President of the

community has had to deal with, often under the guise of being anti-Israel. However, the Melbourne Jewish community is active in lobbying against discrimination of all sorts, including that of Indigenous Australians, as well as vocal in its support of Israel.

When I really crave my roots, I get my non-Jewish husband to drive us down from the outer eastern suburbs to St. Kilda Beach, the 'bagel belt'. "Ah, *machaya*," I say to myself as I get my fix of Melbourne's *yiddishkayt*, partake of the delicious strudel from the European bakeries, see a Jewish film, browse in the religious bookshop and buy some yortsayt candles to remember my dear parents.

synagogues—over thirty Orthodox, Masorti and Reform, Ashkenazi and Sephardi. Most Jewish children attend one of the six private Jewish day schools, which are well known for their high aca-

Gutnick-was President of the Melbourne Football Club.

Australia is basically a tolerant society, though there have been some anti-Semitic incidents and hateful propaganda that the com-

ents.

NEWS FROM PRAGUE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 7)

<http://www.beitsimcha.cz>



After school Bejt Elend offers Judaic study and fun

BEJT ELEND

Bejt Elend, under the capable leadership of Andrea Ernyei, celebrated the close of another school year on Sunday, June 16th.

Andrea has led Bejt Elend as an independent Jewish afternoon school for children for three years now. Nearly forty children from the ages of 5-13 years are involved in the program. They come to the program after school, learning basic Hebrew, Jewish traditions and holidays and partake in various craft activities. The rooms are in the basement of Manesova 8 where Bejt Simcha is situated. The doors open out into an enclosed garden where the party was held on Sunday.

More than twenty Czech families became involved in the program

at Bejt Elend through word of mouth. The rooms are wondrously decorated with children's artwork and murals painted on the walls. Mobiles hang from the ceiling and paper sculptures greet you in the stairwell as you enter. Samil Malehova, who is a professional set designer for the local theaters, assists the children in art education. The school is in need of financial and other support as it receives no support from Czech government.

Please contact: *Andrea Ernyei* at elende@volny.cz

<http://www.beitsimcha.cz>

ELIEZER SHTAYNBARG AND THE YIDDISH FABULIST TRADITION

One of the greatest Yiddish literary figures of all time hardly appears in English. Eliezer Shtaynbarg's fables appeared in various English anthologies of Yiddish poetry, but never was a book devoted solely to his work. One leading critic, Eliezer Frenkel, stated that 20th century Yiddish creativity cannot be understood without Shtaynbarg. Professor Dov Sadan of the Hebrew University, Israel's prolific scholar of Yiddish and Hebrew literature, saw Shtaynbarg as the fourth great classic Yiddish literature figure after the three founding fathers.

The fable has a 3000-year-old tradition in Jewish literature, going back to short fables in the Bible

beasts ... fowl ... fishes". The Talmud cites a number of sages proficient in fables. One, Rabbi Meir, supposedly knew 300 fables. Other fable books abound in the long stream of Hebrew literature, but not until the advent of Eliezer Shtaynbarg was fable writing in Yiddish honed to perfection. His originality, narrative skill, deft characterizations, comic sensibility, and moral fervor placed him squarely in the artistic tradition of Aesop, La Fontaine and Krylov

The Dora Teitelboim
Center for Yiddish Culture
congratulates the winners of our
Fifth Annual
**Jewish Cultural
Writing Contest**

First Place

Jewish Dinner Music – Douglas Konecky

Second Place

Torah Studies – Susan Messer

Third Place

Norman in Yiddishland – Natalie Wexler

Honorable Mention

My Little Cup – Laura Wine Paster

My Mother's Eyes – Shirley Adelman

Winners receive cash awards plus publication in national & Canadian Jewish magazines.

To read the winning entries or find rules and application forms for 2003, go to: <http://www.beitsimcha.cz>

dition in Jewish literature, going back to short fables in the Bible, where Solomon speaks of "trees...

Aesop, La Fontaine and Krylov.

To read the winning entries or find rules and application forms for 2003, go to: <http://www.yiddishculture.org>

The Jewish Book of Fables, the Center's seventh book, should be released in late Fall 2002 or early Spring 2003 and can be purchased at bookstores or on-line at <http://www.yiddishculture.org>

THE BLOCKHEAD'S QUESTION

"I DECLARE,
IT'S HARD TO SATISFY TWO FOLKS,
FAIR AND SQUARE,
WHEN THIS ONE PULLS ME HERE,
THAT ONE YANKS ME THERE.
OH MY! THEY'VE GOT ME COMING,
GOT ME GOING,"
GAILY SINGS THE SAW,
PROUD AND GLOWING.

BUT THE WOODEN TWO-BY-FOUR
CRIES, WITH GROAN AND YELP,
"WOE'S ME! I'M BEING SLICED, I'M
BEING SAWN. HELP!
NU, LET THEM ARGUE, THEM TWO
GUYS. I WISH UP THEY'D SHUT.
THIS ONE PULLS, THAT ONE PUSHES,
BUT WHY
AM I --
HERE'S A RIDDLE --
STUCK IN THE MIDDLE?
WHILE THEY ARGUE, UP I'M BEING
CUT."

אַ קלאַך־קשיא

— הערט איר, יוצא זיין פאר צוויי איז טאקע שווער.
רייסט מיד דער אהין, שלעפט דער אהער!
וויימיר! מע צערייסט דאך מיד אויך שטיקלעך!
רעדט די זעג זיך גליקלעך
און מיט שטאלץ.
און דאס קלעצל האלץ
סע קרעכצט, סע שרייט:
— ווי! געוואלד! סע שמעכט, סע שנידט!
מילא — רייסן זיי זיך, יענע לייט,
דער אהין און דער צו זיך.
אבער איך?
איך, וואס טו איך דא אינמיטן
זיי דארט רייסן זיך, ווער איך צעשניטן!

(Excerpts from *THE JEWISH BOOK OF FABLES*, Syracuse Press, edited and translated by Curt Leviant)

HYMAN KAPLAN — 1908-2002

by Lisa Better

The Yiddish cultural world has just lost a very dear man, a lifetime Workmen's Circle volunteer, and friend and supporter of the Dora Teitelboim Center for Yiddish Culture. Hyman Kaplan, 94, died peacefully at home in Forest Trace Plantation on June 14, 2002. I had the good fortune of interviewing Mr. Kaplan three weeks prior to his death for an exhibit, which is being organized by the Center for Yiddish Culture regarding Miami Beach. Hy was a lifelong dedicated activist, and executive board member

growth into the second century.

One might think a man of 94 would be sleeping, reading, or waiting by the phone for a call from loved ones. Not this 94-year-old! Hy's daily schedule included teaching classes on Yiddish, exercising daily, taking dance/folk lessons, playing Yiddish Bingo, and organizing the next annual Yiddish cultural event which takes place each year in March.

Hy came to Broward County with his wife as snowbirds beginning in 1971 and soon after relocated here permanently. The Florida Work-

son River) where Hy began attending since 1936. Hy's father went to his first Workmen's Circle meeting in 1908. Hy's first meeting was at the age of 2, on the lap of his dad. Since then he and his family have dedicated their lives to the Circle and Yiddish culture.

Hy inspired us all to look on the bright side, to always remain active in the world around us, and



Hy was a lifelong dedicated activist, and executive board member of the Workmen's Circle in New York and Florida. Hy dedicated his life to the vitality of Eastern Jewish heritage and to enriching the lives of others. His tireless devotion to these goals and ideals paved the way for the continued

1911 and soon after relocated here permanently. The Florida Workmen's Circle was formed in 1973. Hy's entire family is involved with Yiddish causes and The Workmen's Circle. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attend Camp Kinder Ring (located on Sylvan Lake east of the Hud-

the world around us, and most importantly to pass on to the *kinderkh*, the wisdom of our ancestors, and our rich culture.



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For one thousand years, Yiddish culture has survived pogroms, holocausts and assimilation...



But reversing the sands of time to inspire a Yiddish cultural rebirth requires fast work by many dedicated people. By joining the Center for Yiddish Culture's Sholem Aleichem Circle, you carve into stone a promise to future generations to insure that Jewish culture does not lose its *mame-loshn*.

Circle members will receive special bonuses including VIP tickets to all major performances, personally autographed newly released books and special benefits not available to the general public.

Yes! I want to support Yiddish Culture's continuance for another thousand years.

Joining the Sholem Aleichem Circle is simple. Just make a donation of \$1000 or more to keep our cultural programs alive and thriving. The Center faces the same battle Yiddish has struggled with -- to continue to be a dynamic force in Jewish life. Please help us continue what we've started. Join today. Please fill out the card below or contact the Center at (305) 774-9244 or at info@yiddishculture.org.

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