

THE BRIDGE

April/May/June 2009

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Children in Purim Costumes in Jerusalem. Photo by Jack Hazut. www.israelimage.com



Editor's Note

Spring is in the air and it makes me want to run outside and hug a tree. Although I would prefer to dwell on pleasant things, such as spring's arrival and nature's splendors, instead I begin by addressing a misunderstanding that came about as a result of my editor's note in the last issue of *The Bridge*.

In this past issue, I had indicated that President Bush and his administration entourage's departure from the White House "was a good thing". This was interpreted by some of our members as a political comment about Israel and Bush. I was admonished soundly by a number of members, but, in fact, I never mentioned Israel when I wrote that piece. I had the United States economy in mind, as did most Americans, then and now. The fact that our lame-duck president was not in a position to act on something that required immediate attention made me, among many Democrats and Republicans, eager for his term to end. Read how some of our members reacted to my comment in the The Letters To The Editor section in this issue.

Not wishing to belabor this, I want to say the following to my critics. American politics and the American President do not always add up to "Israel". To my knowledge, political issues that apply to our American way of life have never been verboten as a subject of discussion in PNAI, as they should not be. I am as passionate about Israel as any PNAI member, but I won't allow emotion or tunnel vision to cloud my sense of reason. As American citizens we share many mutual concerns in this country, issues seldom discussed at our meetings but that are definitely important facets of our lives, and there is no better example than our economy and its worldwide impact. Any other inferences drawn from my Editor's Note are erroneous. To those who jumped to the wrong conclusions, I hope this clarifies my comment.

The January/February/March issue also received some commendations. I heard from one member who said it was the best issue ever, because all the articles were written by PNAI members. Not every month do I receive enough material from our members to do that, but when I do, most of you enjoy *The Bridge* more. Please, don't think you haven't anything to tell us. Whatever you do or experience with your Israeli family interests all PNAI-niks. Also, please send me your favorite Jewish-style recipe and any nostalgic story connected with it, and/or current news and related updates for our Items of Interest column, photos with captions identifying your loved ones accompanied by an article, or not. Send me an unusual scene that you captured on camera while visiting Israel (example: we received a photo of snow in Jerusalem). Please know our appetite for news of Israel from our members is insatiable!

As I close this message, I leave you with best wishes for a happy Passover and one more thought ... inhale deeply, it's spring.

L'hitraot,

Gloria

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(215) 557-9585

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.” So begins a

famous story. No one would say that these are the best of times, and let's hope this is the worst things will get.

Individuals, organizations, and governments are facing problems they hoped never to see (again). Many of us fear the futures our children and grand-children may have to face. Our time of complacency has come to a shattering end.

PNAI has not been immune. We have been experiencing a dwindling membership. We lost many members when El Al rescinded the third-bag privilege. We have not had a significant number of new members in the past few years.

We also have an aging membership. Younger parents no longer think they need an organization such as ours. In this modern world, they can find other resources to meet their needs.

Our aging membership has also made it difficult for some of our chapters to continue. In some cases, the current leaders feel they can no longer fulfill the duties of leadership, while other members have not been willing to take over.

The world is different from when PNAI began. The Internet, Skype, more telephones in Israel and cheaper phone plans have eliminated many of the problems and issues faced by parents when PNAI began.

These are some of the issues the International Executive Board (IEB) and Council of Representatives (COR) (one representative from each chapter) will discuss when they meet in June 2009.

There is no substitute for the human factor. PNAI members form an informal network offering support, advice, and direct assistance to other members and to their children.

Many lasting friendships have been made by our members. It is often easier to talk with someone who understands where you are coming from without your needing to explain. Then that initial bond grows into something stronger.

PNAI members often serve a special function in their Jewish, and sometimes general, communities as informal liaisons for Israel.

The IEB and COR will be discussing several options for the future of PNAI. They include, but are not limited to, trying to continue as we are, exploring merger with another organization, and disbanding and donating our remaining funds to an Israeli program/charity.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? I would like to hear from you, the members. We represent you and do not want to make these decisions in a vacuum.

What does PNAI mean to you? Is there still a need for PNAI? What purpose do you see us filling? Do you think we should try to continue? Do you think we should merge or fold up shop? What other

suggestions do you have?

Please share your ideas with us.

In order for me to compile and share them with the other IEB and COR members, I must have your comments by May 15, 2009. You may reach me at:

Email: renafred@sbcglobal.net

Mail: 2510 W. Brantwood Ave.
Glendale, WI 53209.

My best wishes to you and all your loved ones, wherever they may be, for a joyful Passover. Remember that freedom is not a gift, it is a hard-won treasure that we must work to retain.

Rena Safer

renafred@sbcglobal.net

(414) 351-0161



TRAVELING TO ISRAEL?

Your passport must be valid for at least six months after your departure date.

Check it now!

**RECEIVE
PNAI
NEWS!**

**All members should
receive PNAI news.**

**Members who are on the
Internet may go to the
PNAI website at
www.pnai.org
and click on PNAInews
newsletter.**

**For those who cannot get
on the Internet,
send an email to Jim
Churgin at:
jchurgin@verizon.net**

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

When submitting material to *The Bridge* or forwarding another author's previously unpublished material, include the following information:

1. author's name
2. author's email address
3. author's phone number
4. author's snail mail address
5. author's chapter affiliation (or parent's/grandparent's affiliation)
6. a one- or two-line author's bio (view the bios in this issue for ideas; omit for the letter column)
7. photograph(s) with caption(s) (see below)

ALL TEXT (NON-PHOTOGRAPHIC) SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN THE BODY OF THE EMAIL - ATTACHMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED

Emailed Submission – **PUT THE ARTICLE NAME OR TOPIC IN A CLEARLY WRITTEN SUBJECT LINE** to ensure your email will not be automatically deleted. If forwarding material from another author, numbers 1 through 6 above must still be included.

Previously Published Submission – Include author, full publication name, date published, publication issue number (if applicable), and publication/author contact information (publication editor's name, email and snail mail address, phone number). If a PNAI member or their family is either mentioned in the article or wrote the article, also include a short bio on them. An electronic submittal is preferable, but a copy of the published article is also acceptable.

Photograph Submission – Digital photographs **MUST BE AT LEAST 300 dpi (website photos ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE)** and **MUST BE EMAILED AS AN ATTACHMENT** (not in the body of the email) or sent on CD in JPEG format only (TIFF or PDF submissions will not be accepted). Prints may be mailed, but will *not* be returned. Include a legible caption for each photograph, done with the written submission it should accompany.

More specific submission information on software programs, photographs, deadlines, etc. is on page 8.

DEADLINE FOR EDITORIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE NEXT ISSUE IS MAY 15, 2009.



THE BRIDGE

SHOCKED BY COMMENTARY

I just finished reading the latest edition of *The Bridge*, and although I have never written to an editor before, I felt compelled to respond to your "Editor's Note." Referring to your comments on the New Year 2009, you wrote, "I would say the best part of this one is that George W. Bush and his entourage will no longer occupy the White House, and that's a good thing."

I must confess I was shocked by your commentary. It was my understanding, as members of the Chicago chapter, that PNAI did not get involved with or discuss issues of religion or politics, either in Israel or the United States. I feel that your comments were irresponsible and partisan and do not belong in *The Bridge* magazine.

History will be the ultimate judge of President George W. Bush. But let us, the parents of children and grandchildren living in Israel, not forget what a friend the former president has been. A faithful ally and compassionate voice in an otherwise hostile world. As well, he has kept us and our children living in the United States safe and secure for the past seven years.

I hope our new president succeeds in his efforts. However, I do not think it is the place of PNAI to judge where George W. Bush will be placed in the history books. Let's wait and see, and not use editorial platforms to give personal opinions. I don't think that is the message or the position of PNAI, nor should it be.

Freyda Fredman
FreydaandYos@cs.com

DEMANDING APOLOGY

When did PNAI adopt a political stand? If you have political leanings, they are a personal matter. The "Editor's Note" stated: "I would say the best part of this one is that George W. Bush and his entourage will no longer occupy the White House...." Some of us think that former President Bush has been the best friend to Israel and that the toppling of the Iraqi regime removed a mortal danger to Israel.

Veteran members of PNAI, we demand an apology for the misuse of your office.

Helen and Arnold Sullum
ahsullum@aol.com

THE BRIDGE IS VALUABLE

Years ago, our two sons were in Israel. At that time, we were active members of PNAI (Baltimore, Maryland chapter; in several capacities). Even though we no longer have children in Israel, we have continued paying our PNAI dues because I find *The Bridge* interesting. I read the October/November/December 2008 "Editor's Note," and I couldn't believe that a member indicated that *The Bridge* held no interest for him. Did you inquire about "his interests?"

Just want you to know that I think that the publication is of interest. Of course, if children have been in Israel for many years, some parents are well informed by now. I think that *The Bridge* serves a purpose and should be of value to parents of Israelis, regardless of how many years their children made aliyah! Keep up the good work!

Irene Siegel
bisiegel@comcast.net

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that Israel's population is today comprised of:

Jews	76.2%
Muslims	16.4%
Christians, mostly Arabs	2.1%
Druze	1.6%
not classified by religion	3.7%

The Bridge is unable to answer or print all letters, and letters may be edited. For submission requirements, see pages 5 & 8.

CHAPTER NEWS: INFORMATION AND UPDATES FROM PNAI CHAPTERS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia chapter was privy to a sneak preview of the Israeli elections at its January 2009 meeting thanks to the efforts of the office of the Consulate General of Israel. The Director of Academic Affairs, Lou Balcher, arranged the meeting. He is responsible for promoting Israel on college campuses and heads the Speakers Bureau. In this capacity, he has been most helpful to this chapter.

He shared with the members present the activities he has promoted in the eastern area on behalf of Israel. He was profuse in his thanks to PNAI for its work on behalf of their children in Israel.

Following PNAI's request for information on the forthcoming election in Israel, Lou brought with him Oren German, an LLM candidate at the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of two Israeli law firms, a member of the Israeli Bar Association, and served in the Israel Defense Force. In his presentation, German made his debut before an American audience, speaking with great clarity and authority about the Israeli elections.

Regarding the election process, there are three main offices: prime minister; defense minister; and president. One hundred-twenty Knesset members choose the party, with no direct elections. The president decides who will construct the new government.

Stating that the elections were not typical this year, he first focused on ethics of various party leaders and proceeded to share his views of the parties and issues involved. He presented a cogent and thorough analysis of the many parties seeking votes.

In discussing the vagaries of the Israeli election problems, he mentioned many problems in the elections process and added, upon questioning, that the young are disillusioned with the system for many reasons, among them being the problems of corruption involving Israel's leaders. His talk illuminated one obvious problem – the divisive profusion of so many political parties.

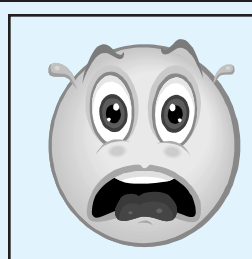
TUCSON

The Tucson chapter has news on two former shaliachs. Danny Bobman (shaliach from 2004-2006) was part of the team working for the election of Nir Barkat,

the new mayor of Jerusalem. Yizhar Hess, shaliach from 2001-2003), the CEO and Executive Director of the Masorti movement – the Israeli branch of the Conservative Judaism – spoke in December 2008 at the Tucson Jewish Community Center and a local synagogue.

At the February 1, 2009 breakfast meeting, Greg Gadarian, an estate-planning lawyer, spoke about estate planning and tax consequences when there is a child overseas, and particularly when there is family in Israel. Gadarian is an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. He has been to Israel, and has been an active community leader with the Jewish Community Foundation and the local Jewish Community Center.

The chapter voted to give to \$500 from the treasury plus \$40 donated from member Sharon Arkin to the Tucson-Seattle program of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona that supports the Hof Ashkelon-Kiryat Malachi area along the southeast coast of Israel.



**YOUR CHAPTER
WAS
DISSOLVED?**

**DO YOU WANT TO
CONTINUE
RECEIVING *THE BRIDGE*?**

If there is no nearby chapter to transfer to, become a member-at-large (MAL). You will receive all important PNAI mailings, including quarterly issues of *The Bridge*. ***Do it now before you miss another issue!***

Contact Judy Eglash, MAL chairperson
Email: judyeg@yahoo.com
Mailing address: 6821 W. Acacia Street
Milwaukee, WI 53223
Tel: (414) 353-3479

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Unsolicited written or photographic material is welcome and will be considered for publication. Submit copy in the body of an email. Typed or legibly hand-written material will also be considered. Submit print-quality photographs via hard copy, or JPEG format via email attachment, or on CD at 300 dpi. All submissions become the property of *The Bridge* and will not be returned. Do not submit "one of a kind" manuscripts or photographs. Editor has sole discretion for acceptance and issue placement. Articles may be edited for clarity, space, or other reasons. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of February, May, August, and November.

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or write to her at:
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33484

Thanks!

Have a good vacation and enjoy *The Bridge* upon your return — we cannot make short-term address changes.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE NAFTALI IDF BASE



PNAI President Rena Safer, left, with volunteers at the Shimson IDF base near Tiberias.



Yousef, a Bedouin, was a scout for the IDF. Now a retiree, he is a regular volunteer at the Naftali IDF base. One of his sons is now an IDF scout. In this picture, he has just awarded Rena Safer her corporal's stripes (not official, of course).

Both of these pictures were taken in November 2008 when Rena Safer was on a volunteer program in the area near Tiberias through her Federation.

A MODEST PROPOSAL

by Daniel Gordis

Reprinted from the Jerusalem Post online edition, January 18, 2009, www.jpost.com

Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End, will be published in March 2009. Some of the ideas explored below, such as the ways in which American Jews must begin to think about Israel and Zionism differently, are explored in much greater detail there.

When we lived in the United States, periods like this were agonizing for me, providing, as they did, massive overdoses of cognitive dissonance. I was thinking about only one place, but I'd chosen to live in another. I was concerned about one group of people more than anyone else, but I'd elected not to live with them. The gap between what I felt and where I made my home felt unbearable.

Yes, we sought to compensate. In those pre-Internet days, we read the paper voraciously. We listened to the radio incessantly, and when things were truly tense, we found ways of rigging up televisions in our offices. But still, it was vicarious participation, and at times, the pain of that dissonance was more than I could bear.

That's probably how we ended up living here.

But not everyone can make that move. Not everyone wants to. Yet since the Gaza operation began, my inbox has been filled with people abroad asking "What can we do from here?" Some of my friends belittle the question. "They don't really mean it," they tell me. "Let them move here and have their kids go to Gaza," they say. But I'm not so quick to judge. There are a host of good reasons that keep people from coming here to live. For those, is there really nothing they can do?

In the tradition of Jonathan Swift, I herewith offer a "modest proposal" that would permit many more Diaspora Jews to be part of our angst and our joy, the tears and the celebrations of Israeli life. They'd understand us better than they can from either their perches in suburban America or the luxury hotels in which



Old woman of Israel, by Jack Hazut

they park themselves when they come for visits, and inevitably, they'd then make our case in ways that they simply can't right now.

Imagine a world in which every synagogue, every federation, and every Jewish Community Center purchased an apartment in Israel for its members to use on their visits. Not some million dollar apartment in Baka or the German Colony, or an apartment in one of those tourist neighborhoods that turns into a ghost town between Succot and Hanukka, and then again until Pessah. The kind of apartment that I'm suggesting would cost substantially less than that. It wouldn't have to be palatial. It could be in Tel Aviv, or Haifa, or Kfar Saba.

[In my Israeli neighborhood} I'd see white Jews and black Jews, religious Jews and secular Jews, immigrants and natives. Jews in my American suburban neighborhood all look pretty much the same.

Forget the contribution to the country's economy that this would make. Infinitely more important is the impact that this would have on Diaspora Jews. Were I a member of a synagogue in Dayton or Denver, the mere fact of my membership would mean that I also have an address in Israel. When I wanted to go there, I would just call the synagogue or the Jewish Community Center, and sign up for dates that are free. No more hotels for me.

I'd live in "real" neighborhoods. Sitting not in the

Inbal's dining room, but at some sidewalk café, I'd feel the tension on days when thousands of young men are sent into Gaza. I'd see, perhaps for the first time, how an entire restaurant grows almost silent when those hourly beeps herald the reading of the news. There's a world of difference between CNN's depiction of Israel as a massive military machine and a room full of soldiers' parents with worry etched on their faces. For the first time, I'd get it, and so would my teenage kids, too often confused and troubled by the news purveyed by CNN and the BBC.

And on days when nothing dramatic transpires, as I stood on line at the local grocery in the morning to pick up bread, milk, and juice, I'd see white Jews and black Jews, religious Jews and secular Jews, immigrants and natives. Jews in my American suburban neighborhood all look pretty much the same. In "my" Israeli neighborhood, though, they wouldn't. Now, some of the divisiveness of Israeli society that from afar makes no sense to me would pale relative to the country's accomplishments in immigrant absorption. I'd begin to understand why policy-making here is an often Sisyphean challenge.

When I occasionally go back to the town where I went to college, I feel a sense of belonging, warmth that comes from knowing the landscape and the "vibe" of the community, no matter how much it's changed in the interim. It feels like I've "come home." Now, my kids would begin to feel that sense of belonging, not only at their college campus, but in the country to which they, and too many of their friends, don't feel the attachment that I wish they did. That apartment would change my kids' lives, too.



Jews taking a walk in Israel, by Jack Hazut



Ethiopian and non-ethiopian Jews in Israel, by Jack Hazut

Would I understand everything happening around me? No, I wouldn't. Israel has an annoying habit of conducting its life in Hebrew, a language I never really learned. I'd feel a bit like an outsider. And I'd be reminded that in abandoning a serious commitment to Hebrew, American Judaism made an error of historic dimensions. If I worked at it, I might eventually understand Israel's movies, papers and radio, and feel its soul even more intimately.

None of this would make my life simpler. It would confuse me and frustrate me. It would delight me and anger me. It would, in a word, give me a glimpse of the complexity of Israeli life. I'd be a better advocate. Were I really ambitious, I could make sure that in a large synagogue, we made a point ensuring that the apartment was never empty — that year-round, we had someone on the ground in the only permanent home the Jews have.

Would this save Israel? Probably not. But it would change my life and my family. It would connect me to the country in ways that I can now not even begin to imagine. And perhaps most importantly, it would give me a chance to test how serious I was about really wanting to make a difference.

*Daniel Gordis (www.danielgordis.org) is Senior Vice President of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. He is the author of *Coming Together, Coming Apart: A Memoir of Heartbreak and Promise in Israel* (John Wiley & Sons, 2006) and *if Israel Didn't Survive* (John Wiley & Sons, 2008).*

WHO WE ARE . . . FOR SOON-TO-BE MEMBERS ONLY

We are thousands of families in several chapters in many states and provinces. We are an all volunteer, nonprofit, nonfundraising organization. We welcome as members children, siblings, grandparents, and other close relatives of North American Israelis.

We come from diverse backgrounds and political orientations, but are bound together by a common hope and concern for our children's and grandchildren's future in Israel. Our mission: to strengthen the bonds to our Israeli families by deepening our understanding, broadening our knowledge, and supporting our children and one another as we take this journey together, and to build a strong bridge across the seas, keeping open our connection with those we love.

PNAI Application for Membership

Detach and Return to

Judy Baker
309 Florence Avenue, Apt. #614N
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Make checks payable to PNAI in the amount of _____ U.S. \$30

Family Name _____ Wife _____ Husband _____

Street _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Occupation/Special Interests or expertise (wife) _____
(husband) _____

Date _____ Signature _____



DID THE GRINCH STEAL YIDDISH?

by Gloria Schlosberg

The Grinch, who is not of the Jewish faith, was once accused of stealing Christmas. Obviously, he's returned it, but now I fear he has stolen Yiddish.

Why is that, you ask? Well, have you noticed that Yiddish words are now frequently spoken by Christians? I think the Grinch stole Yiddish and gave it to "them" because he owed "them" . . .you know, for the Christmas thing.

Since few Jews I know speak the language of our Eastern European ancestors any more, except for those from New York and some on the Saturday Night Live TV comedy show, I'm surprised when I hear Yiddish words peppered throughout the commentaries of some non-Jewish prime-time TV personalities and occasionally some of my Christian friends. They use words like *mensch*, *shlep*, *chutzpa*, *nosh*, *shmutz*, and one of their faves, *faclempt*.

Newscaster Brian Williams was a guest on Ellen Degeneres' talk show when I heard him say "chutzpa" and "faclempt" in the same sentence. What does "faclempt" mean anyway? Ellen seemed to know.

Non-Jews even adopted what I refer to as our Anglo-yiddishisms, like "go know" and "where is it written?" For me, these expressions are nostalgic, comforting, like chicken soup, but what do they do for "them"?

Which reminds me, since medical science has given a thumbs up to chicken soup as the cure-all for the things your Jewish grandmother claimed, we can't even call that ours anymore. The American Medical Association is taking credit for it. First, Madonna adopted the Kabbalah, which now has a cult following. Then, our bagels were confiscated by gentile foodies, our chicken soup for the cure, and now our right to call Yiddish ours is under threat. Today, they say ethnicity rules, but potato latkes the new French fries? C'mon!

What is really at the basis of my diatribe? I am acutely aware that anti-semitism is flourishing once again, and it's not just the Arab extremists. This is the thing. Bigots speaking the lingo of our Ashkenazi forebearers is a bit over the top for people who revile us, and I'd like to know, since they hate Jews, why usurp our ethnicity, our food, Judaism's mysticism? While not

Oy, the chutzpa
of that mensch.

a perfect people, obviously, we have a lot going for us if those who ostensibly hate us want to claim what is ours as their own.

Psychologists explain hate as envy of sorts. It serves a need to put someone down so as to feel better about oneself. It's all so confusing, especially when you are the object of their displeasure. I mean they hate us 'cause they want to be us?

But hark, there's help afoot. The following article from one of our California members, Norman Sarkin, informs us of a counterforce at work. He says many Jews are now flocking to Yiddish clubs, which are springing up everywhere, including Israel. In fact, he is one of the leaders.

Uh-huh. It would seem some of our fellow/sister Jews got the picture, too, and are eager to reclaim our language. Perhaps soon the rest of us will overcome our reluctance to say *faclempt* and some other choice Yiddish gems in mixed company . . . because we can!

Maybe the Grinch did us a favor. Maybe he's really Jewish! Oy vey . . . go know.

Gloria Schlosberg is The Bridge executive editor and former president of the Philadelphia chapter. Email her at gshlosberg@msn.com.

YIDDISH CONFERENCE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

by Norman Sarkin

Amazing as it may sound to those of you who know La Jolla, California located near the Mexican border, fifty years ago there wasn't a shul in the town, and now Got tzu danken, we have six shuls.

More importantly, La Jolla recently hosted the one hundredth anniversary of the first-ever Yiddish conference, which was held in Czernowitz in Eastern Europe. We had a superb meeting of which I was the chairman and my co-chairman was the outstanding Bella Suchet.



Registration table: (left to right): Norma Kaufmann, Judy Rieke, Bella Suchet, Heather Sarkin, Norman Sarkin, Eleanor Krut

The conference centerpiece was the award acceptance speech by Lilke Majzner (Miss Yiddish of Los Angeles) and the introduction by Sabell Bender. We were fortunate to have conference attendees who were born in Czernowitz, namely Professors Julius Scherezer, Meinhard Mayer, and Josif Vaisman.

For the conference, I put together a series of panels of photographs of Czernowitz from one hundred years ago, a few of which are shown here. These photographs wowed participants.

Interested in the Yiddish program? Go to the Internet site of www.derbay.org where you will find a huge amount of Yiddishkeit, including a dictionary. Der Bay is the brainchild of a super gentleman, Fishl Kutner, who is the driving force behind the International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC). He

publishes a monthly newsletter primarily written in English..

Due to circumstances that he could not control, Kutner was unable to attend the conference. This was a great misfortune for me, as he knows everything and everybody. Fortunately, his daughter Debbie Herman came from her home in Florida and temporarily stepped into his shoes to fill the gap. She was absolutely a lifesaver.

Yiddish is a very fast-growing language, particularly in Israel where there are many clubs and associations that promote its study. Many courses are taught in all Israeli universities. Contact me (see below) when visiting Israel, and I will be happy to make introductions.

The one hundred-first club that joined the IAYC is the Sirkin Club in Tel Aviv. Meetings are every Monday at 10:00 a.m. at 93 Arlozorov Street and are conducted entirely in Yiddish.

When the State of Israel was first established, the first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, did not want Yiddish spoken at all. Every newspaper and all teaching of Yiddish was banned. Today, we have a whole new ball game with a thriving growing language and clubs that promote it.

The La Jolla Conference was the second time that a IAYC conference was held on the West Coast; another meeting was held 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. The future is bright for Yiddish clubs.



Committee Members: (left to right): Judy Rieke (Norman Sarkin's secretary), Bella Suchet (Co-Chair), Barry Berelowitz (Treasurer), Norman Sarkin (Chairman)

The La Jolla conference was held for nearly four full days from Friday to Monday. Each day started with breakfast and then a plenary session with wonderful speakers. After the plenary session, the conference broke into five smaller groups.



Left to right: Judy Rieke, Bella Suchet, Barry Berelowiz, Norman Sarkin

The formation of the International Association of Yiddish Teachers (IAYT) was successfully carried out. The moderators and presenting teachers were in four

panels. The start of a website at www.iaoyt.org lists the four panels and the thirty-five Yiddish teachers who attended the conference.

Every evening featured superb entertainment. Fanny Krasner Lebovits, (who visits her in sister in Florida each year), brought tears to the eyes of the audience with her rendition of “Eli Eli” and the famous old song “Vu Ahin Zol Ikh Geyn.” Elizabeth Schwartz and Yale Strom of the Hot Pstromi Klezmer Group were given outstanding ratings. Heather Klein and Adrienne Cooper also played pivotal roles. Peter Lewis spoke of the Jews of South Africa to an overflowing-capacity crowd.

Get in touch with your ancestors, rekindle family memories, and come to a meeting to further your knowledge of the richness that is the Yiddish language.

Norman Sarkin is a member of the California chapter. Contact him at normansarkin@yahoo.com or 858-731-3116.

ISRAEL IS MORE THAN SEEING FAMILY

by Judy Eglash

From December 16, 2008 to January 9, 2009 my husband Norb and I made our fourteenth trip to Israel. Our past trips included a lot of time spent with our children, Mike and Ruth Eglash, and their children Ben (8), Gefen (6) and Ela (3). We



Eglash family celebrates Chanukah in Mevaseret Zion. Back row (left to right): Mike, Brian, Norb, Judy and Rachel; Front row: Ela, Ruth, Daniella, Ben, Yoni and Gefen.

have done lots of sightseeing, visiting with friends and family and, of course, two fantastic PNAI conventions.

BAT MITZVAH AT THE HULDA GATE

On this trip we experienced something different and extraordinary. First, our Pittsburgh family, son Brian, wife Rachel and children Daniella (12) and Yoni (10) arrived for nine days as Daniella celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at the Hulda Gate, Southern Wall of the Kotel. We were honored to have family from Milwaukee, San Francisco, and London join us for this wonderful simcha. The officiating rabbi was Nir Barkin of Modi'in who served as a shaliach in Milwaukee for four years. Upon returning to Israel, he became a Reform rabbi.

HAZAN YESHAYA HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

Following the thrilling experience of the Bat Mitzvah and having so many of our family there, Norb and I were looking for something different to do since we had two weeks left in Israel. Our daughter-in-law Ruth, who writes for the *Jerusalem Post* suggested that we might want to volunteer for the Hazan Yeshaya Humanitarian Network founded by Rabbi Avraham Israel. Hazon Yeshaya operates soup kitchens and many other services throughout Israel. They have been in operation for eleven years. Services other than the

soup kitchens include dental care, vocational training courses, daycare, and free clothing. The facility Norb and I volunteered at was off of Jaffa Road in Jerusalem.

We arrived at 10:00 a.m., viewed an informational video, and then proceeded to peel potatoes alongside about twenty other volunteers (including a birthright group from Brazil). At noon we served close to three hundred people — mostly elderly and Russian — a lunch tray of vegetable soup, salad, couscous, humus, fruit, fish paddies, pita, and a large pretzel (bagale).



Judy and Norb Eglash at Hazan Yeshaya Soup Kitchen, Jerusalem

Those being served must show identification and proof that they need the food. For further information on this worthy program, view their website www.hazanyeshaya.org or email volunteers@hazanyeshaya.org.

YAD SARAH

The following week, our daughter Ruth had to go to Yad Sarah, a social welfare organization where she conducted interviews for a *Jerusalem Post* article. Norb and I tagged along to see if we could help. Unfortunately, only Hebrew speakers were needed that day; most of the effort furnished was support and services to people living in the south (within rocket/kassam range) so we were offered a wonderful tour of the



David Rathner, Judy and Norb Eglash outside Yad Sarah headquarters, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem facility by David Rathner, spokesperson for Yad Sarah.

HADASSAH HOSPITAL-EIN KEREN

In addition, we had a special tour of Hadassah Hospital-Ein Kerem where we met with the dynamic Dr. Avi Rivkin, world renown head trauma surgeon in the Center for Emergency Medicine (Hadassah Ein Kerem).

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Other highlights included tea at the King David Hotel, Shabbat Dinner at the Inbal (far too much food!) and some sightseeing, which included Jaffo, Tel Aviv, Caesaria, Dalit al Carmel, Ayalon Institute, Knesset, Biblical Zoo, walking and picnicking in the JNF Jerusalem Forest and taking our grandchildren to see the movie Madagascar 2.

Operation Cast Lead began on December 27, 2008. Although we were far enough away from the action, our thoughts and prayers went out to everyone who was in the area and to the soldiers who were fighting. We met friends of our children who had family members who were called up and learned from our grandchildren how the war was discussed in school. Even the 3-year old knew exactly what was happening.

Judy Eglash is past president of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin chapter and currently Vice President of Members-at-Large. She can be reached at Judyeg@yahoo.com or 414-353-3479

JEWISH BOOK LOVER'S REVIEW

SOME YIDDISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

compiled by Elizabeth R. Elstien

GENERAL REFERENCES

English/Yiddish dictionary, activities, links, newsletter, Hebrew words in Yiddish, and more, www.derbay.org

Harkavy English/Yiddish word lists www.cs.engr.uky.edu/~raphael/yiddish/harkavy/index.utf8.html

DOCUMENTARIES/VIDEOS

Yiddish PBS Documentary

"A Yiddish World Remembered" Order the DVD at www.amazon.com

BOOKS

The nonprofit National Yiddish Book Center offers online access to the full texts of nearly 11,000 out-of-print Yiddish titles to read, download, or print at no charge. These titles were

scanned under the auspices of our Steven Spielberg Digital Yiddish Library, and have been made available online through the Internet Archive. The collection may be searched online by author, title, or subject. Original, used copies and new, print-on-demand hardcover reprints of most titles in our collection are available at nominal cost. To check availability, please contact us by email at orders@bikher.org, or by phone at 413.256.4900 x196.

www.yiddishbookcenter.org

Books in Yiddish, transliterated Yiddish, bilingual Yiddish/English, and more www.ibiblio.org/yiddish

Books on Yiddish language and culture, poems, proverbs, etc.

www.yiddishstore.com

In 1996, a collection of 395 Yiddish books owned by the celebrated Yiddishist — journalist, poet, essayist — S. L. Shneiderman was donated to the University of Maryland's

McKeldin Library by his wife and collaborator, Eileen Shneiderman. Nearly half of these books bear the autographs of prominent Yiddish writers from Russia and France, Israel, Canada, and the United States dating back as far as 1910. www.lib.umd.edu/SLSSES/

TEXTBOOKS & DICTIONARIES

New and used Yiddish textbooks at Alibris, www.alibris.com

A Yiddish Dictionary in Transliteration by Harry Coldoff

The Yiddish Dictionary Sourcebook by Galvin and Tamarkin

NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

Jewish Daily Forward online Yiddish edition of the newspaper <http://yiddish.forward.com>

Online newspaper from Paris and can subscribe to printed version-
www.yiddishweb.com/tamtam.htm

PRESERVED RECORDINGS OF YIDDISH CLASSICS BROUGHT TO CD

The National Yiddish Book Center released in 2005 the first installment of the Sami Rohr Library of Recorded Yiddish Books, offering digitally remastered, unabridged recordings of great works of Yiddish literature read by native Yiddish speakers.

Undertaken in cooperation with the Jewish Public Library in Montreal, the Rohr Library preserves and distributes as multi-CD sets the best of the library's collection of audio-cassette tapes, previously available only to library patrons in analog form. Sixteen unabridged titles are available now from the National Yiddish Book Center, including: *Tevey der milkhiger* (*Tevey the Milkman*), by Sholem Aleichem,

the book upon which Fiddler on the Roof is based; *Gimpl Tam* (*Gimpel the Fool*), by I.B. Singer and *Roman fun a ferd ganev* (*Romance of a Horse Thief*), by Joseph Opatoshu. Fifteen titles are still to come, including: *A shtetl*, a novel by Sholem Asch, and *Di kliatshe* (*The Nag*), an early classic by one of the first Yiddish novelists, Mendele Moykher Sforim.

This historic compilation was initiated, created, and recorded by native Yiddish speakers at Montreal's Jewish Public Library, who worked on the project on a strictly volunteer basis for more than ten years. The original readers represent a wonderfully diverse array of authentic Yiddish voices, and the Rohr collection improves on the sound quality of the original recordings. It also includes readings of missing or damaged sections, as well as an all-new reading of *Di brider Ashkenazi*, I.J. Singer's famous novel of Jewish life in Poland.

This project was made possible by a generous grant from the Rohr Family of Miami, FL, which has funded numerous Jewish communal causes worldwide, most notably in the former Soviet Union, and is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Perla Gelbard Rohr.

The Rohr Library will be of special interest to libraries and to teachers and students of Yiddish, who have few opportunities to hear native spoken Yiddish. As the population of Yiddish-speaking immigrants wanes, the Rohr Library will serve as a rare resource for the authentic sounds of mame-loshn (the mother tongue).

For a complete list of these CDs, visit

www.yiddishbookcenter.org/rohrlibrary, or send orders to Aaron Rubinstein at orders@bikher.org, 413-256-4900 x154.

STANDWITHUS.ORG

by Elizabeth R. Elstien

In December 2008 the founder of StandWithUs was in Tucson, Arizona to collect an award. This organization exists to “help Israel win the media war.”

StandWithUs is an international education organization that ensures that Israel's side of the story is told in communities, campuses, libraries, the media and churches through brochures, speakers, conferences, missions to Israel, and thousands of pages of Internet resources.

Indeed, their website boasts updated audio and video news from Israel and the world. In addition, a variety of online material is available, such as signs, posters and even booklets and brochures about Israel. Print copies can be ordered, too. With titles such as *Israel @ 60: Humanitarian Aid* or *The Nazi Roots of Middle Eastern Anti-Semitism: A Shared Legacy of Hatred (Know The Facts)*, you can educate yourself, shul members, and non-Jewish friends.

StandWithUs even has teaching tools such as the booklet, video, and lesson plans for *Israel 101*. The booklet can be viewed online or teachers can order multiple copies for the classroom. What a fun way to educate kids about Israel.

StandWithUs was founded in 2001 in response to the misinformation that often surrounds the Middle

East conflict, and the inappropriate often anti-Semitic language used about Israel and/or the Jewish people worldwide. StandWithUs has offices and chapters in Los Angeles, New York (Buffalo and New York City), Denver, Michigan, Chicago, Seattle, Orange County, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, the UK, Australia, and Israel.

Get involved! Contact StandWithUs at:

P.O. Box 341069
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Email: info@standwithus.com

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TO YOUR DOORSTEP

For article and photographic submissions for *The Bridge*, refer to pages 5 and 8. It is important that these submission requirements be followed to speed each issue to your doorstep.

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Food Restaurant Review



This recipe, unlike the ones I hoped we would collect for *The Bridge*, is not from my past.

It was sent to me from an Israeli man, who we've known for many years, who loves food. It was tried by my "foodie" cousin, who is from New Orleans (which makes her a food maven), as soon as I emailed it to her, and she gave it raves. Try it if you dare.

-- Gloria Schlosberg

5-MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
- a small splash of good vanilla
- 1 large coffee mug

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips (optional) and vanilla, and mix again.



Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes on high. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!

Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.

EAT! (this can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous).

And why is this a most dangerous cake recipe?



Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!



Jewish Communities Quiz

Here is a little quiz to test your knowledge of Jewish communities around the world.

1. In 1984, members of this Jewish community were airlifted to Israel in a secret mission known as “Operation Moses”. Which African country was their home?

- Sudan Libya Egypt Ethiopia

2. The B’nai Menashe claim they are descended from the biblical tribe of Menashe. Where are they from?

- Cochin, India The states of Manipur and Mizoram in India
 Nepal Kashmir, India

3. The Jews of Djerba, an island off the coast of Tunisia, have a special legend concerning the origin of their community. What is it?

- The community was founded by members of the tribe of Dan
 The community was settled by *cohanim* following the destruction of the first Temple
 The community was founded by the Rambam after he left Spain
 A local prince invited the Jews to settle during the Middle Ages

4. In the 1930s a Jewish engineer working in Iberia was astonished to discover a community of “anusim”, or crypto-Jews, in a mountain town near where he was working. What is the name of the town?

- Coimbra, Portugal Belmonte, Portugal
 Granada, Spain Gerona, Spain

5. This congregation prays in the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Western Hemisphere. Where is it?

- Lima, Peru Newport, Rhode Island
 Willemstad, Curaçao Havana, Cuba

6. This ancient Jewish community makes its home in the capital of another important world religion. Which city is it?

- Mecca Rome Salt Lake City Canterbury

7. In what Jewish community is the Torah read in both Hebrew and Aramaic?

- Bukharian Syrian Yemenite Iraqi

Answers to Jewish Communities questions: 1. Ethiopia. 2. The states of Manipur and Mizoram in India. 3. The community was settled by *cohanim* following the destruction of the first Temple. 4. Belmonte, Portugal. 5. Willemstad, Curaçao. 6. Rome. 7. Yemenite.

Reprinted from Tucson PNAI Chapter newsletter, February 2009

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