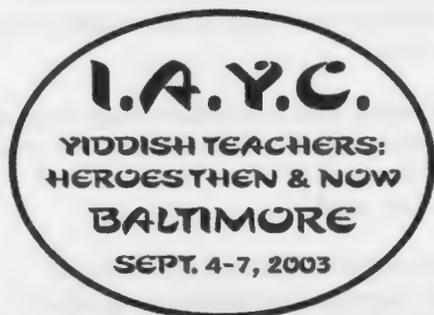


יידישע לערערס: העלדן
אמאל און היינט

Yiddish Teachers: Heroes Then and Now
International Association of Yiddish Clubs IAYC - 2003 Conference
September 4, 5, 6, 7, 2003 Pikesville Hilton, Baltimore, MD



**PROGRAM BOOK - 8th WORLD
CONFERENCE - International
Association of Yiddish Clubs**

PROCLAMATION

BY

MAYOR MARTIN O'MALLEY
DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2003

AS

"YIDDISH MONTH"
IN BALTIMORE

- WHEREAS,** for nearly a thousand years, Yiddish was the primary, sometimes the only language that Ashkenazi Jews spoke, and Yiddish was spoken by millions of Jews of different nationalities all over the globe; and
- WHEREAS,** beginning in the tenth century, Jews from France and Northern Italy began to establish large Communities in Germany where small communities had existed and spoken German, but the new residents along the Rhine river arrived speaking a Jewish-French dialect know as Laaz; and
- WHEREAS,** in the thirteenth century, the Jews tended to migrate eastward to escape persecution, thus, Yiddish arrived in eastern Germany, Poland, and other European territories for the first time, and the exposure of Yiddish to the Slavic languages prevalent in the east changed it from a Germanic dialect to a language in its own right; and
- WHEREAS,** by the sixteenth century, eastern Europe, had become the center world Jewry, and during this period Yiddish became a written language, using Hebrew characters, in addition to a spoken one; and
- WHEREAS,** the mid-twentieth century marked the decline of Yiddish as a widely spoken language, and although some groups continue use Yiddish as their primary language, Yiddish is enjoying resurgence, with Yiddish words and expressions enriching many languages, including English.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE, do hereby proclaim September 2003 as "YIDDISH MONTH" IN BALTIMORE, and do urge all citizens to join in this celebration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set the Great Seal of the City of Baltimore to be affixed this first day of May, two thousand three.





Mayor

Origins of the Mame Loshn מאמע לװשן

Yiddish, the mother tongue of Ashkenazi Jews, is an Indo-European language comprised of two branches: Western Yiddish and Eastern Yiddish. It spans four historical eras: Earliest Yiddish — 9th Cent.-1250; Old Yiddish — 1250-1500; Middle Yiddish — 1500-1700; and Modern Yiddish — 1700-present.

Most scholars believe that Western Yiddish developed first. Jews derived it from Medieval High German in the 9th and 10th Centuries primarily in the middle Rhine region and less so in Bavaria. By the 1600s, the language of the Jews in those areas was distinctively Yiddish. Western Yiddish continued to evolve with influences of Modern German in the 1800s and 1900s in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Alsace (France), Czechoslovakia and Western Hungary. Western Yiddish is the minority branch of the language.

Eastern Yiddish originated east of the Oder River through Poland, covering Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Rumania and Ukraine, and in pre-state British Mandate Israel in Jerusalem and Safed. It began developing as Jews fled Western and Central Europe from the 11th to 13th Centuries, escaping massacres as they became scapegoats for the Black Plague. These migrating Jews brought Western Yiddish in contact with Slavic Languages. Eastern Yiddish, the major branch of the language, contains many loan words from Hebrew-Aramaic as well as from Slavic Languages.

The use of Hebrew script for Yiddish and other Jewish non-Hebrew languages is a Judeo-linguistic practice. Written Yiddish has two recognized phases. The First Literary Standard, based on Western and Central European Yiddish dialects, predominated until its decline in the 18th century and near-disappearance in the 19th Century. The Modern Literary Standard, or Modern Standard Yiddish, rose quickly in its place and continues strong today.

The standardization of Yiddish orthography has rapidly increased in the last 11 decades. Thus, a standard written Yiddish exists, but a standard Yiddish pronunciation rests on a variety of non-formal dialects.

The Eastern Yiddish dialect is divided into the Northeastern Dialect (Lithuania and Latvia), Central Dialect (Poland and Western Galicia) and Southern/Southeastern Dialect (Western Russia and Ukraine). In formal usage, the Northeastern Dialect is considered the standard.

Modern Literary Yiddish employs a majority of the Northeastern Dialect's vowel features, leading credence to its ownership as the standard pronunciation. The Southern Dialect, however, adds the most grammatical features, the consonant system as well as the gender-neutral feature for many words.

In America, the Northeastern Dialect is prevalent in expository prose, especially in New York. The Central Dialect became well known in the belles-lettres. The Southern Dialect was prominent in the Yiddish Theater.

At the height of Yiddish usage in Europe in 1939, 11 million people spoke the language. Due to the Holocaust, millions of Jews whose mother tongue was Yiddish were massacred. The center for Yiddish became the United States.

While the decline of the U.S. Yiddish-speaking population dates back to 1940, a more rapid decline commenced around 1950. Today, Israel has slightly more Yiddish speakers than the United States. Yiddish is reviving in Israel, particularly in the universities. It also is gaining strength in the Diaspora, as Klezmer music regains international popularity and Yiddish is taught at American and European universities and in local Yiddish clubs.

*Blake Gentry
Tucson, AZ*

Sources: "Ethnologue: Yiddish Eastern, Yiddish Western," <http://www.Ethnologue.com>; "Encyclopedic Dictionary of Judaica," 1974.

ברוכים הבאים צו דער 2003 קאָנפֿערענץ פֿון דער אינטערנאַציאָנאַלער
אַסאָסיאַציע פֿון ייִדישע קלובן (IAYC) - באַלטימאָר, סעפטעמבער 7-4, 2003.

די טעמע -- "זישע לעווערס: העלפן אַמאָל און היינט.

בעת די פֿיר טעג וועלן פֿאַרקומען בערך 28 וואַרשטאַטן מיט באַרימטע שרייבער,
פעדאָגאָגן, און אַנדערע שטערן פֿון דער ייִדישער גאַס, 3 קאָנצערטן, און עפֿן־רעדע
פֿון פעדאָגאָג געלאַ שווייד־פֿישמאַן, ווי אויך פּלענאַרע סעסיעס מיט הענעך סאַפֿאָזניק,
יאיל סטראָם, קאַליע באַראַדיאָלין, און שעלבי שאַפֿיראַ.

אונדזער קאָנפֿערענץ קומט פֿאַר אין הילטאָן פּינקסוויל אין סאַמע האַרץ פֿון דער
ייִדישער קהילה אין באַלטימאָר, וואָס ווערט היום באַרעכנט פֿאַר דער נייער 'ירושלים
דאַמעריקה'.

ביי דער געלעגנהייט קומען זיך צונויף אַמאָליקע תּלמידים פֿון פּל מיני שולעס,
אַרבעטער רינג, שלום עליכם, פֿאַרבאַנד און אָרדן, ווי אויך פֿון פּרץ און ביאָליק
שולעס אָפּגעבן פֿבֿוד זייערע באַליבסטע לערערס, און אַנדערע וואָס האָבן געלערנט
מאַמע לשון פֿון די עלטערן אליין. מע וועט אָפּגעבן אַ ספּעציעלן פֿבֿוד דעם
מוזיק־לערער, כאָר דיריגענט און קאָמפּאָזיטאָר מיכל געלבאַרט, פֿאַרפֿאַסער פֿון
באַליבטן 'איד בין אַ קליינער דריידל'.

אַ רייכער אָפּקלייב פֿון טעמעס איז אַזוי אַראַנזשירט אַז יעדער איינער וועט געפֿינען
וואָס איז שייך, צוגיינגלעך און אינטערעסאַנט - אויף אַלע מדרגות, פֿאַר סאַמע
אַנהייבערס ביז באַמת אַוואַנסירטע, טעמעס וואָס זיינען לייכטע און פֿאַרוויילנדיקע, ווי
אויך טעמעס וואָס זיינען גאָר ערנסטע און ממשתיקע.

מוזיק וועט אויך ניט פֿעלן - קלעזמער, טעאַטער, פֿאַלקסלידער און קונסט לידער,
הסידות, שולע און זומער קעמפּ לידער, אפֿילו ייִדישע טאַנגאָ לידער וואָס האָבן אַזוי
באַרייכערט דעם ייִדישן מוזיק רעפּערטואַר.

פֿרייטיק באַנאַכט, קומט פֿאַר אַ קאַבאַרעט מיטן יונגן מיטש סמאָלקין וואָס האָט אַזוי
איבערגענומען ביים מילוואַקי עולם.

זייט אַלע האַרציק באַגריסט צום יום־טובֿ פֿון דער ייִדישער שפּראַך.

סילווע סיגל שילדט, פֿאַרזיץ פֿון קאָנפֿערענץ

Aims and Purposes of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs

Historical background: The first international conference of Yiddish clubs took place in Washington, D.C., May 29-June 3, 1993, hosted by Yiddish of Greater Washington. It was a great success and gave rise to the thought that it could be an ongoing event every year-and-a-half or two years. A nucleus of several delegates — Dr. Harold Black, Dr. Allan Blair and Fishl Kutner. — was asked to investigate holding another conference, but where? Toronto was suggested because of a very active Yiddish club and an interested Yiddish community. The Friends of Yiddish accepted the challenge, and the second conference took place in Toronto, Oct. 7-10, 1994.

Again a small group, mainly editors of club newsletters, formed an ad hoc committee to consult about venues for the next conference. They represented: Yiddish of Greater Washington; Der Bay, San Francisco Bay Area; Dos Bletl, Toronto; and the Circle of Yiddish Clubs, Florida. At the third conference in Miami, March 1-4, 1996, a more formal meeting of delegates was held. Harold Black was appointed to head a committee to incorporate this loosely knit group into a more formal organization, to find a venue for the next conference, and to lay the groundwork for a board that would be elected and thus would formalize the status of the organization.

At the fourth conference, held May 24-27, 1997, in Fairfield, CT., a board was established with Harold Black as its chair. The name International Association of Yiddish Clubs was adopted, and subsequently the organization was incorporated in the State of Maryland. The fifth IAYC conference was held at UCLA in Los Angeles, August 27-30, 1998. It firmly established the organization with an elected board of nine, representing different geographical regions of North America, and it was given a strong endorsement by the 250 delegates to continue to work together as an international force for Yiddish. This was followed by the sixth conference at the International 4H Headquarters in Chevy Chase, MD.

IAYC Mission: To provide a global perspective and network for Yiddish groups — large or small. To exchange educational and cultural materials. To experience a sense of unity while striving to keep our language, literature, and culture alive and well into the new millennium.

IAYC Vision: To access all groups, be they *leyenkrayzn*, *shmoos-grupes*, *shtudir*, choral, choirs, large or small clubs or classes from kindergarten, elementary, secondary, post-secondary to adult, to make them aware of their rich heritage. To become a clearinghouse for educational and program materials. To encourage and initiate research of existing or new material, be it educational, music, art or literature, and make it available to the clubs. To encourage new writers by giving them a forum in our newsletters or local papers that have a Yiddish column. To encourage the formation of new groups wherever possible, be they large or small. To keep in touch with all groups through e-mail, a Web site, telephone, postal mail and newsletters. To encourage groups to issue newsletters even if only once a year. To lobby to include Yiddish in local Holocaust memorial programs.

To encourage younger people to take Yiddish classes, wherever available, or to form them. To encourage those who are already learning the language to explore their Ashkenazic roots through history, music and literature — the history and literature in translation, if necessary. To lobby Jewish schools to include Yiddish classes in their curriculum. To lobby universities to include Yiddish in their Jewish Studies Program.

Benefits of belonging to IAYC: To take Yiddish out of isolation and give it a strong international voice. The IAYC conferences has been and will continue to be a source of interaction for groups and their members, from meeting like-minded people to hearing and meeting the best resource people, be they writers, scholars, teachers, musicians, actors, singers or organizers. To access and arrange inter-city touring groups, speakers, singers, theatre groups etc., through existing newsletters or the electronic media.

To have Yiddish benefit from such alliances.

If your interest is in keeping Yiddish alive and growing, join us in our effort to march forward in a united effort.

Meet our Keynote Speaker

Gella Schweid Fishman (Conference Keynote Speaker)

The Secular Yiddish Schools in America Collection was established at Stanford University (California) in 1994 by Gella Schweid Fishman, by turns a student, parent, board member and teacher in a secular Yiddish school system (Sholom Aleichem Shuln) in New York. Gella has taught Yiddish language and culture courses from kindergarten to university for more than 50 years in both secular and modern Orthodox educational settings.

The need for the Collection grew out of an oral history project that Gella Fishman began in the early 1990s. She conducted extensive interviews with former students, parents, board members and teachers from the Sholem Aleichem, Arbeter Ring, Farband and Ordn school systems in various North American cities (New York, Montreal, Detroit, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, etc.).

Gella became aware of a double sense of urgency in their stories and voices. First, they were unanimous in considering their secular Yiddish school education (it did not matter which school it was) a fundamental formative experience that had been a keystone of their lives. They were delighted that someone had recognized the importance of this experience to the point of basing an oral history project upon it, and emphatically declared that such a project had been necessary for a long time.

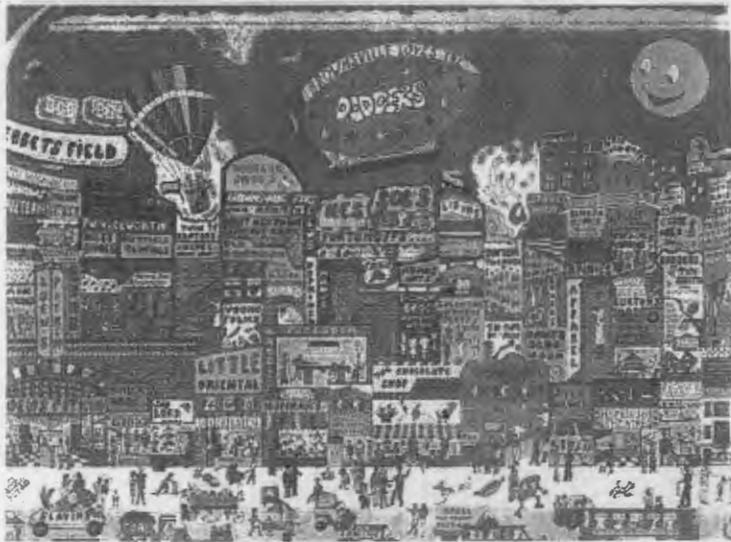
Gella negotiated the establishment of the Secular Yiddish Schools in America Collection with Margaret J. Kimball, the head of Special Collections at Stanford University and inaugurated the Collection by donating a substantial number of her own items.



IAYC Conference Book Launch

סיין שטעטעלע בראַנזוויל

פֿון סילװיע סיאָל שילדט



REMEMBERING BROWNSVILLE

by SYLVIA SIEGEL SCHILDT

Published by the International Association of Yiddish Clubs, May, 2003

Sylvia Schildt

Conference chair Sylvia Schildt is proud of her credentials as a bona fide Yiddish teacher, having graduated from the Yiddish Teacher's Seminary before she was barely seventeen. A native Yiddish speaker, the Brooklyn-born Sylvia, eldest of 5 siblings, completed Arbeter Ring shule and mitl shul. A writer since she was 7 years old, she recently published a book of Yiddish poems, Tzaytvaylike Lider. A new book, "Mayn Shtetele Bronzvil/ Remembering Brownsville" is her first work of prose and captures the experience of a child growing up in this unique, all-but vanished environment .

Conference Film Debut

"L'Chaim, Comrade Stalin"



Yale Strom was born in Detroit and moved to San Diego at the age of twelve. He is the oldest of nine children (eight surviving). He was about to start Law School, when he attended a klezmer dance and fell in love with Klezmer music. Goodbye Law School. He bought a one-way ticket to Eastern Europe, looking for unknown, unrecorded klezmer melodies among the remnant Jewish communities. During the last 16 years, Yale has been researching the Jewish and Rom (Gypsy) communities and his work has resulted in a number of documentary books and films. His latest documentary film about the Yiddish experiment in Birobidjan "L'Chaim, Comrade Stalin" will be screened at the Conference. He has also recorded six music CD's with his two bands – Zmiros in San Diego and Hot Pstromi in New York.

Meet Our Conference Performers



Avi Albrecht

Avi is the Cantor of the well-known Beth Tfiloh Congregation in Baltimore, Maryland, the largest Modern Orthodox Synagogue in America. He appears in every major city in the United States, Canada, and world-wide, New York City's 5,000 seat Radio City Music Hall to intimate cabarets. His repertoire is extensive and varied, standard symphonic music to Yiddish. Avi appears as guest soloist with some of the major symphony orchestras such as the Prague Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Queens Symphony, Jerusalem Symphony and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. One of his most memorable guest appearances was with the Israel Philharmonic in Israel for the 50th year anniversary of the State of Israel. A 5th generation Israeli, Avi considers Yiddish as his mame-loshn.



Baltimore Klezmer Orchestra

The Baltimore Klezmer Orchestra has been this town's community klezmer group, faithfully practicing every week at the Baltimore Hebrew University Orchestra, bringing its energetic traditional sound to occasions large and small, official and private. Its rich repertoire of Yiddish favorites, instrumental and vocal, will set toes tapping and fill hearts with joy. The 10-person orchestra prides itself on being a historical repository of 20th Century popular Jewish music, which it performs in the original period versions as much as possible. Concerts have included performances at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Baltimore, Annapolis and Columbia Jewish Festivals and many other community events. Ed Berman is currently the leader of the group.

Special Honored Guest

Zalmen Mlotek – Executive Director of the Folksbiene



Zalmen Mlotek, an internationally recognized authority on Yiddish folk and theater music, is a leading figure in the Jewish theatre and concert worlds. Raised in a prominent Yiddish-speaking family renowned for their Jewish songbook collections, he has been an innovative force in bringing contemporary musical theater pieces about the Jewish-American experience to Broadway and to communities nationwide.

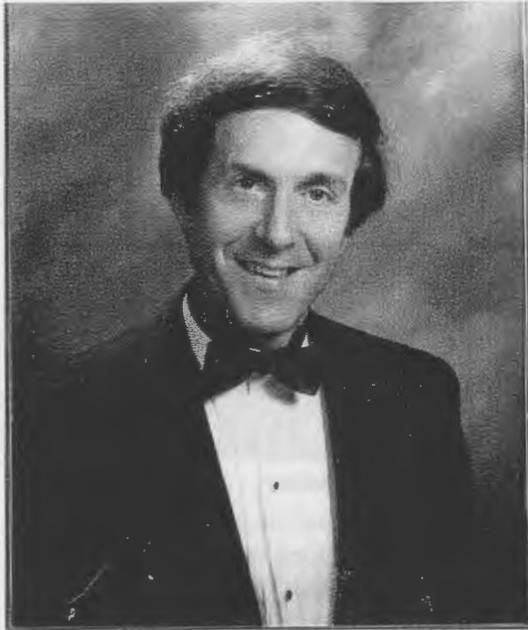
Mr. Mlotek brought Yiddish-Klezmer music to Broadway and off-Broadway stages as co-creator, music director, and conductor of *Those Were the Days*, the first bilingual musical honored with a Drama Desk Award and nominated for two Tony Awards. In addition, he was co-creator, music director and conductor for the production of *The Golden Land*, an off-Broadway hit that toured nationally and which was brought to Italy by Leonard Bernstein. Mr. Mlotek was also the arranger and music director for Isaac Bashevis Singer and Robert Brustein's acclaimed production of *Shlemiel the First* at Lincoln Center's Serious Fun Festival. Mr. Mlotek conceived and was musical director for the first All Star Klezmer Extravaganza at Lincoln Center, which was filmed by PBS for Great Performances and later released on CD and video as the best selling *In the Fiddler's House* with Itzhak Perlman. New productions include an international tour of *Ghetto Tango*, his groundbreaking collaboration with Adrienne Cooper on music theater of World War II.

In 1998 Mr. Mlotek took over the co-artistic directorship of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater in New York City; the longest continuously operating Yiddish theater company in the world. This past year he became the Executive Director. In the past five years, Folksbiene has presented a mix of new presentations as well as classics from the Yiddish theater repertoire.

In addition the Folksbiene presents entertainment specifically for families with children. *Kids and Yiddish*, an interactive musical presentation, is aimed at giving children an introduction to Yiddish language and culture in a fun setting. It has been a regular addition to the Folksbiene season ever since with noted Yiddish actors, storytellers, musicians and puppeteers joined together to bring an appreciation of Yiddish to that most important audience, the new generation. Folksbiene has also initiated a Spring Reading Series, where classics from the Yiddish theater repertory have been heard often for the first time in many years, all with simultaneous English translation.

Zalmen Mlotek is the music director of The New Yiddish Chorale, a vocal ensemble established in 1995 to present sophisticated Yiddish choral repertoire. This group's annual performances have been received with critical acclaim in the Jewish music community. His Yiddish choral work can also be heard on Mandy Patinkin's recent Yiddish language CD, *Mameloshen*, on Nonesuch Records.

For the past five years he has been invited to the former Soviet Union, specifically, St. Petersburg and Kiev, the Ukraine to work with Russian musicians to help foster the reawakening of Yiddish culture..



Cantor Allan Berman

A lyric tenor, Cantor Alan Berman's cantorial experience spans over two decades, and his vocal talents have taken him all over the United States and other parts of the world. He has been the cantor at Baltimore's Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah Hebrew Congregation of Baltimore since 1988. People come from everywhere to hear his moving renditions of liturgical classics from the cantorial giants including Moishe Koussevitsky and Yosele Rosenblatt to the Chasidic melodies of Reb Shlomo Carlebach. He will be gracing our Shabes meal with his authentic zmiros and conduct traditional services on Saturday morning.



Sender Botwinik

Sherm Labovitz

Marvin Weinberger "Mayn Oytser"

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik teamed with Sherm Labovitz and Marvin Weinberger to produce a lovely CD recording "Mayn Oytser" under the auspices of the Philadelphia Sholem Aleichem Club. It is a treasury of gems of Yiddish Art and Folk Songs, including a few you may never have heard before. The Cd is nestled in a very easy-to-read songbook in transliterated Yiddish with English translation. Sender is also involved in teaching Yiddish at the University of Pennsylvania. He comes from a family of Yiddishists including a brother in Israel, who was instrumental in the legalization of the status of Yiddish by the Israeli Knesset.



Lori Cahan-Simon Trio

Lori teaches Yiddish culture and language at the Workmen's Circle in Cleveland. She sings with the W.C. Klezmer Orchestra. She recently recorded the highly praised CD: "Songs My Bubbe Should Have Taught Me: Vol. One, Passover". She also runs an e-mail list for Yiddish teachers from around the world. Klezmer violinist **Steve Greenman** is an acknowledged virtuoso, and co-founded Khevrisa with Michael Alpert. He also played with Klezmatiks members in the Tony Kushner adaptation of Anski's "Dybbuk" **Walt Mahovlitch** got his start playing accordion at Croatian and Macedonian weddings, but discovered Klezmer music in 1973. He also performed in "Dybbuk" at the N.Y. Public Theatre.



Charm City Klezmer

Charm City Klezmer is a Jewish soul band based in Baltimore, Maryland. They sing in Yiddish, Ladino & Hebrew, playing guitar, piano, clarinet, trumpet, bass & drums. They've written their very own Karols Villitzyaner Tantz (Charles Village Dance) in honor of the neighborhood where they live! Vocalist and keyboardist is Judith Geller, husband Michael Raitzyk handles the guitar and their son, 4-year old Jaob is beginning to muscle in on his own set of drums. Father Max Geller plays a mean clarinet while Christopher Lerch, Eric Heavner and Chick Young round out the ensemble.



Fish Street Klezmer Duo

This appealing and talented twosome, also a twosome in real life, is one of the jewels of the new Klezmer revolution, since it is focused strongly on presenting Yiddish song. Ken Richmond and Shira Shazeer of Klezmaniaks fame, were initially part of a youth orchestra founded by Ken, who is a cantor in New York City. They founded this duet in order to be able to perform lesser known works in Yiddish. Shira recently interned at the YIVO Sound Archives where she was able to listen to rare archival material. They have both learned Yiddish and are accomplished musicians, she on the accordion and Ken on the fiddle.



Jerry Lapidés & Jil Ice

Jerry Lapidés successfully re-invented himself from retired social worker to

Klezmer musician. He is the regular male vocalist with the Baltimore Klezmer Orchestra and has become a pioneer, adapting the harmonica to Klezmer music, for which he is receiving increasing recognition. He recently teamed up with keyboardist and accordion player Jil Ice, also a member of the Orchestra, and the pair perform for private and community functions around town. Their first CD as a duo is in the works.

Mitch Smolkin (MC of Cabaret)

Mitchell Leonard Smolkin is 24 years old and has lived his whole life in Toronto, Canada. He has been studying the art of the voice and drama for eleven years. He presently studies voice with Cornelius Reid in New York City and his protégé David Dunbar in Toronto. After graduating from Unionville High School for the arts, where he completed a diploma in theatre studies, he went on to do a degree in Theatre at the University of Toronto where he studied under Ken Gass, Artistic Director of the Factory theatre. Previous to his exposure to the Yiddish and klezmer world, Mitch had sung classically, in musical theatre, jazz, and had worked as a cantor in various synagogues. In 2001, Mitch went to Columbia University on scholarship and studied Yiddish and Jewish Cultural studies. This led him to continue the study of Yiddish at the University of Toronto. Mitch recently directed the highly successful ASHKENAZ Yiddish Festival, which draws over 70,000 visitors annually.

Meet Our Conference Presenters

Roz Baker

Michael Baker and his wife, **Rosalyn Baker**, are the founders of the very successful Minneapolis JCC Yiddish Vinkl. Mike has taught Yiddish to adults at the Minneapolis Talmud Torah for many years. His father, Samuel A. Baker, was a well-known Yiddish teacher. Roz will be chairing an important panel discussion about Yiddish Clubs, sharing their experiences with other groups.

Ruth Barlas

Yiddish teacher, lecturer, actress – is there no end to her talents? **Ruth Barlas**, who chaired the Third International Conference of Yiddish Clubs and Friends of Yiddish, back in 1996 in Miami, possesses deep insights into the life and culture of European Jewry. She has taught Yiddish Language, Literature and Theatre at Palm Beach Community College, and served as lecturer-in-residence at the Charlotte Yiddish Institute. She also travels the lecture circuit including Elderhostels, Distinguished Lecture Series, and for organizations such as the Workman's Circle, the Jewish Federation and the American Jewish Congress. She also serves as American Liaison to YIDDISHPIEL, the official Yiddish Theatre of Israel.

Miriam Beckerman

Miriam Beckerman is a prize-winning Yiddish-English translator whose work has appeared in *Lifestyles International Magazine*, *Pakn Treger*, *The Canadian Jewish News*, *Der Onheib*, *Parchment*, the *Yiddish Forward* and on the website www.jewishgen.org. Her translation of Rivka Lozansky Bogomolnaya's book, "Wartime Experiences in Lithuania" (Vallentine Mitchell Press) was published in 2000 as part of the Library of Holocaust Testimonies series. She studied Yiddish at the Farband Folk Shul in her native Toronto and with Professors Dovid Katz and Dov-Ber Kerler.

Dr. Solon (Sholem) Beinfeld

Solon Beinfeld was born in New York City. His father, Benjamin, was a teacher in the Workmen's Circle schools. Solon, known as Sholem, grew up in a Yiddish-speaking culturally and politically active family, and attended the Workmen's Circle *elementar shul, mitlshul* (where he was a classmate of Sylvia Schildt) and Teacher's Seminary. He taught History and Jewish Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. He has written extensively on modern Jewish History, with emphasis on the wartime ghettos of Lithuania. He was (with the late Abba Kovner) chief consultant for the film "Partisans of Vilna" and was a consultant to the US Memorial Holocaust Museum for its recent exhibition "The Hidden History of the Kovno Ghetto". He currently resides in the Boston area, where he is on the board of the Boston Workmen's Circle. He frequently travels to France where he is associated with the Medem Library/Paris Center for Yiddish Culture.

Sholem Berger

Sholem Berger was born in 1973 in Washington, DC, and grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, in an English-speaking, Jewishly knowledgeable home. He is a poet and translator in Yiddish and English, an occasional contributor to the Yiddish Forward, and the co-founder and editor of the Internet journal *Der Bavebter Yid*. He is also a Yiddish teacher and an active member of the executive board of Yugntruf Youth for Yiddish. He and his wife, **Celeste Sollod**, recently formed Twenty-Fourth Street Books, a publisher specializing in Yiddish translations of children's classics. Their first publication, *Di Kats der Payats* (The Cat in the Hat in Yiddish) is available for purchase <<http://www.yiddishcat.com>>). Sholem is a student in the MD-PhD program at New York University, and lives in Manhattan.,

Morrie Feller

Secretary of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs, **Morrie Feller** leads the Phoenix Leyenkrayz, for which he provides reading materials, many of them gleaned from the Internet..He has been involved in the Onkelos project which has transferred classic Yiddish stories to the Internet, and has taught Yiddish for the Phoenix Bureau of Jewish Education in the high school and adult studies program.

Troim Katz Handler

Troim, whose name means dream, is a dream of a writer, who began her career as a Yiddish poet as recently as 1991. Her poetry collection, *Simkhe*, was published last year by IAYC. Both her parents were writers, her father being the Yiddish poet **Menke Katz** and her brother, **Dr. Dovid Katz**, professor of

Yiddish at Vilnius University and Academic Director of the Vilnius Yiddish Institute. She has been widely published in the Yiddish press. She has taught Yiddish conversation at Oxford in 1988 and 89 and runs two layenkrayzn (reading circles). She is on the Board of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs and on the Board of the Yiddish Culture Club in West Palm Beach. Troim and her husband Frank deliver about 100 lectures per year on Yiddish literature and Jewish history.

Eve Jochnowitz

Eve Jochnowitz, Yiddish instructor at Rutgers University and The Workman's Circle Arbeter Ring, is cooking and foodways teacher at Living Traditions Klezkamp. She worked for several years as a cook and baker in New York and is currently working on a doctoral dissertation on the subject of Jewish culinary ethnography in the department of Performance Studies at New York University. She has lectured both in the United States and abroad on food in Jewish tradition, religion, and ritual as well as food in Yiddish performance and popular culture

Jim Kapplin

Jim Kapplin, a retired printer, owned the only Yiddish printing press in Baltimore. For years now he has been an avid gatherer of books for Aaron Lansky's National Yiddish Book Center. He shares his experiences of the people and books he has collected to date.

Marcia Gruss Levinsohn

Marcia Gruss Levinsohn (Bubbe Mashe) is founder/director of the Jewish Educational Workshop, which offers a Yiddish Family Fun group program, and produces and publishes Yiddish

children's books. The Silver Spring, MD resident is chair of the Yiddish Network of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. She has presented programs for CAJE, the IAYC, the *mameloshn conference*, the Jewish Librarians Association, B'nai Brith and numerous ethnic festivals.

Motl Rosenbush

Motl Rosenbush is such a devoted patriot of Yiddish that his activities span two continents. He is a founder of the concept of the Yidishe svive, the Yiddish-speaking environment, in which lovers of mame loshn actually seek to live in close proximity with one another, thereby creating more opportunities to speak the language and gain fluency. Motl is also a talented comedic performer, who will share with us his love and appreciation of the unique humor of Dzhigan & Schumacher.

Hilda Rubin

Fifteen years ago, **Hilda Rubin** co-founded *Di Shpilars*, the only Yiddish performing troupe in the Greater Washington area. Today she serves as its artistic director, producer, adapter, writer and chief *fleshl vasher* (bottle washer). She is a board member and vice president of Yiddish of Greater Washington and has been chair of Café Kasrilevke, its monthly cultural program. She leads a Yiddish conversation group at the Jewish Community Center of Rockville, MD and has taught Yiddish at synagogues and religious schools.

Henry Sapoznik

Our Friday plenary session will feature **Henry Sapoznik** on Yiddish Education and the KlezKamp Phenomenon. KlezKamp has become a nursery of

Yiddish culture going far beyond the music alone. He was the co-producer with MacArthur Fellow David Isay of the Peabody Award-winning 10-week radio series the Yiddish Radio Project on the history of Yiddish radio for National Public Radio's All Things Considered. He founded the Archives of Recorded Sound at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. His book "Klezmer! Jewish Music from Old World to Our World" (Schirmer Books), the first book on the history of klezmer music in English, was the winner of the 2000 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for Excellence in Music Scholarship.

Judith Seid

Another voice in the vast cultural spectrum of Jewish life today, **Judith Seid** is ordained by the Leadership Conference of Secular and Humanistic Jews. She is a graduate of the Cantorial program of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, leader of the Baltimore Jewish Cultural Chavurah and a member of the executive committee of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations. Her recent book, "God-Optional Judaism" has been critically acclaimed. Together with **Rivke Feinstein**, Executive Director of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, she will present this alternative and growing point of view.

Shelby Shapiro

How many Jews do you know from Guam? If you know **Shelby Shapiro**, you know at least one. Shelby is an ardent Yiddishist. Shelby's academic interest include Ethnic Studies & Immigration, in particular the Yiddish press. For the past several years he has

done research on two Yiddish middle-class women's magazines published in New York City, one from 1913-14, the other from 1922-23. He has lectured on Jewish gangsterism in the U. S., as well as Jazz & Blues diversity. He has been active on the national Yiddish scene, and is now English editor of Tzum Punkt, the much-lauded newsletter-magazine of Yiddish of Greater Washington. He has also taught as part of the Yiddish Program Yiddish Culture to young people at the Charles E. Smith Day School.

Sylwia Szymanska Smolkin

Sylwia, wife of Mitch Smolkin, just published two books in Poland, one on the liquidation of the Otwock ghetto and the other in which she spent one year translating and editing Yiddish relations from the War. She is a Historian and was the Yiddish professor at Warsaw University until she immigrated to Canada a short time ago. She lectured at the Ashkenaz festival in Toronto and her lecture was entitled "Yiddish, alive and well in 21st century Poland?"

Herman Taube

A grand gentleman of letters, Herman Taube has written for a number of newspapers including the Forward, the Jewish Week and the Algemeiner Journal. He has published a number of books of poetry and prose and lectures widely on Yiddish Literature, World War II and the Holocaust. He is a graduate of American University with an MA in Literature-Creative Writing. He has taught at the University of Maryland and the American University and served as faculty member of the College of Jewish Studies – Board of Jewish Education. Taube also serves on the board of the Days of Remembrance

Committee of the U.S., Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Betty Tepper

Buenos-Aires born **Betty Tepper** studied Yiddish in her native Argentina. She has taught Yiddish here in Baltimore at Baltimore County Community College. An aficionada of Yiddish tango, she and her husband, **Dr. Marcos Tepper**, recently shared their knowledge and love of these haunting melodies, along with rare film footage and slides at a program presented by Yiddish of Greater Baltimore. It is being presented at the conference in a "farbesert un fargresert" format.

Prof. Max Ticktin

Associate chair of the Judaic Studies Program at George Washington University in Washington, DC, **Max D. Ticktin** is an assistant professor of Hebrew language and literature. His courses include Hebrew language, contemporary Israeli literature, history of modern Hebrew literature, modern Jewish literature and Yiddish language. He is a member of the National Association of Professors of Yiddish and formerly served on the Publication Committee of the Jewish Publication Society of America. His nearly 60-year career in academia includes serving as director of the Hillel Foundation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1948-64.

Iosif Vaisman

Scientist, educator, artist, **Iosif Vaisman** is a man of many talents. He created the much-lauded Virtual Shtetl website and for years has also been moderator of the beloved Mendele e-mail list. Bioth projects have contributed largely to the creation of a "Yidishe Gas", connecting lovers of mame loshn worldwide. He lectures frequently on a variety of subjects, including ways to teach Yiddish via the Internet, a subject in which he is an expert. He will also introduce the works of poet Hersh Segal.

Fanny Yokor

Fanny teaches the well-attended weekly *Lomir Lernen Yiddish* class at a local synagogue. And if that's not enough, she's also a dynamic Yiddish club leader and writes a monthly column. She has deftly created a systematic series of Yiddish dialogues to help facilitate Yiddish conversation and she will be sharing these at her session.

Dr. Sheva Zucker

Sheva Zucker holds an M.A. in Yiddish Language, Literature and Folklore from Columbia University, and a Ph.D in Comparative Literature with a specialty in Yiddish literature from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She has taught and lectured on Yiddish culture and Jewish literature on four continents, and at major universities including Columbia, Bar-Ilan, and Russian State Humanities University. She recently published the long awaited Volume II of "Yiddish: An Introduction to the Language, Literature & Culture" a text which has become the mainstay of Yiddish courses in the universities and adult education venues.

Yiddish Teachers: Heroes Then and Now

*International Association of Yiddish Clubs IAYC –8th World Conference
September 4, 5, 6, 7, 2003 Pikesville Hilton, Baltimore, MD www.derbay.org*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Check in and registration time: from 3:00 Check in to a tuneful welcome by local klezmer duo **Jerry Lapid**, vocals and harmonica, **Jil Ice**, vocals and accordion. (Lobby)

Sign up with **Mitch Smolkin** for Talent Cabaret before Friday Night Dinner. Space limited. (Sing, dance, read poetry or prose, declaim, do your stuff)

To arrange for Secular Shabat service on site, contact Judith Seid or Rivke Feinstein before Friday evening.

5th floor Hospitality Suite - Shule Show and Tell (informal, optional)

Dinner (for hotel guests) (kosher option available)
6:00-7:15 Preakness Ballroom

8:00-10:00 pm Harry V. Lerner Memorial Opening Ceremonies and Evening Program at the Preakness Ballroom

Welcome by IAYC and Yiddish of Greater Baltimore
Mayor's Proclamation of Yiddish Month in Baltimore – Councilwoman Rikki Spector

Our keynote speaker will be noted teacher, activist **Gella Schweid Fishman** who established the Secular Schools in America Collection at Stanford University (California). She will speak on the topic:

The Secular Yiddish Schools in North America: An Archival Collection as a Living Source of Jewish Creativity

WORLD PREMIERE OF THEIR NEW CD

- A musical salute to **Mikhl Gelbart** with teacher/klezmer **Lori Cahan Simon** trio with violin virtuoso **Steven Greenman**, **Walt Mahovlitch** and a Shule/Summer Camp Song singalong.
- The big band sounds of the **Baltimore Klezmer Orchestra**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

7:45-8:45 am Kosher Bagel Continental Breakfast (Special Corridor set-up)
(hotel guests only)

9:15-10:30am Period A Breakout Sessions

Morrie Feller – Yiddish Kompyuteray: Getting It Write In Yiddish (E/Y) – (Whirlaway)
Troim Katz Handler – “Simche” Love and Sex, Jewish Style” (E/Y) – (Citation)
Eve Jochnowitz – Traditional Shabes Meals (Y/E) (Secretariat)
Iosif Vaisman - Internet as a tool for teaching Yiddish (E/Y) - (Pimlico/Laurel)

10:45-12:00 noon Period B Breakout Sessions

Lori Cahan-Simon – Researching Mikhl Gelbart (Yiddish through song) (Y/E) –
(Whirlaway)
Sylvia Schildt – Remembering Brownsville/Mayn Shtetele Bronzvil –
Launch of her new book published by IAYC (Y/E) - (Citation)
Prof. Max Ticktin – Abraham Joshua Heschel & Yiddish - (Y) - (Secretariat)
Iosif Vaisman - Hersh Segal, his friends, pupils, and flourishing of Yiddish culture in
Czernowitz between the World Wars.” (Y) - (Pimlico/Laurel)

12:15-1:30 PM Lunch on Your Own

IAYC BOARD MEETING (Board Room)

1:45-3:00 pm Period C Breakout Sessions

Betty Tepper – Yiddish Tango: Buenos Aires to the World (E/Y/S) - (Whirlaway)
Mitch Smolkin -- Yiddish Program in Vilnius (E/Y) (Secretariat)
Sholem Berger – Vos Fara Yid Redt Yidish? – (Y) - (Citation)
Shelby Shapiro - Continues his fascinating exploration of the Yidishe Ganovim – (E)
(Pimlico/Laurel)

3:00-3:15 PM – KOSHER PASTRY BREAK

3:15- -4:30 pm Period D
PLENARY SESSION & IAYC ELECTIONS

Plenary Session in honor of long time Yiddish teacher and activist Itche Goldberg (Y/E)
Preakness Ballroom (Panel discussion)

Henry Sapoznik creator of the Peabody Award winning Yiddish Radio Project and Director of Living Traditions, will hold a very important plenary session on **Yiddish Education and the KlezKamp Phenomenon**. KlezKamp, now in its 18th year, has been a major force in producing a new generation of enthusiasts of Yiddish music, language, literature and culture and there is much we can learn from its phenomenal success.

Followed by IAYC ELECTIONS 4:30-5:00***

5:00-5:45 5th floor Hospitality Suite - Shule Show and Tell (informal)

6:30-7:45 pm KOSHER SHABES DINNER* (for hotel guests, special passes) with zmiros by **Cantor Allan Berman**– Preakness Ballroom

8:30 until 11:00-

Preakness Ballroom

GIGANTIC TALENT CABARET (Mitch Smolkin MC)

Cookie Blattman

Elsa Dragon

(Sign up with Mitch anytime Friday before Shabes Dinner)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - GUT SHABES!

7:45-8:45 am Kosher Bagel Continental Breakfast (Special Corridor set-up) (hotel guests only)

SHABES (SHABBAT) SERVICES

Orthodox Shakhres Musaf services (optional) (E/H) with **Cantor Allan Berman** – Churchill Downs

(Nearby Conservative & Reform services available, Secular services upon request)

9:15-10:30 am Period A Breakout Sessions

Dr. Sheva Zucker – Teaching Intermediate Yiddish – (Y/E) - (Whirlaway)

Jim Kapplin – My Life As a Zamler (E) - (Secretariat)

Ruth Barlas – Yitskhok Leybush Peretz: Romantic Realist and Rebel with a Cause – (E/Y) (Citation)

Hilda Rubin - Yiddish theatre as a means of teaching language – (Y/E)
(Pimlico/Laurel)

10:45-12:00 noon Period B Breakout Sessions

- Motl Rosenbush** – How to Start a Yiddish “Svive” in Your Town (Y) (Whirlaway)
Judith Seid - Secular Options in Yiddish-kayt with **Rivke Feinstein** - Exec. Director, Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations,(E/Y) - (Citation)
Roz Baker, Panel leader – Giving Your Programs A Lift: A Panel of Program Ideas with Seymour Graiver, Fanny Yokor, Cyrelle Simon, Hilda Rubin (E/Y) (Pimlico/Laurel)
Sylwia Szymanska Smolkin -- Yiddish in Poland in the 21st Century (Y/E) – (Secretariat)

12:15-1:30 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN (Sabbath Observers Take Away Lunch included with Kosher Option)

1:45-3:00 pm Period C Breakout Sessions

- Dr. Solon Beinfeld** – New Yiddish Center in Paris, its cultural activities and goals, the work of Prof. Yitskhok Niborski and others. (Y/E) – (Whirlaway)
Herman Taube -- Yidishe Zhurnaln in Lodz & Varshe Tsvishn di 2 Velt Milkhomes – (Y) - (Citation)
Motl Rosenbush – “Abi Me Zeyt Zakh” Vegn Humor fun “Dzhigan un Schumacher” mit skitses (Y) (Secretariat)
Yale Strom – Klezmer history as found in Yizkor books (E/Y) -- (Pimlico/Laurel)

3:00-3:15 pm - KOSHER PASTRY BREAK

3:15-4:45 pm Period D

PLENARY SESSION & FILM SHOWING – (Preakness Ballroom)
Filmmaker **Yale Strom** screens and discusses his film “**L’Chaim, Comrade Stalin**” ---- audience Q&A.

4:45-5:45 5th floor Hospitality Suite - Shule Show and Tell (informal)

6:30-7:45 pm DINNER (for hotel guests, special passes) Preakness Ballroom
(Kosher option by pre-arrangement only)

8:30-10:00 PM GALA EVENING CONCERT - PREAKNESS BALLROOM

Presented by Henrietta Wexler

A special in-person **musical greeting** from the YIDDISH THEATER by **Zalmen Mlotek**, Executive Director of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, only and oldest continuous running Yiddish theater in America – in honor of his parents, also great Yiddish educators, writers and collectors of Yiddish cultural treasures – the late Yosl Mlotek (z’l”) and Chane Gordon Mlotek.

Plus ...

- The unique music of Baltimore's wildly popular **Charm City Klezmer**
- **Shira Shazeer and Ken Richmond, Fish Street Klezmer Duo**, of Klezmaniacs fame in a program of Yiddish song – old favorites, new discoveries
- **World Class khazn AVI ALBRECHT sings Yiddish**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

7:45-8:45 am Kosher Bagel Continental Breakfast (Special Corridor set-up)
(hotel guests only)

9:15-10:15 am Period A Final Breakout Sessions

Miriam Beckerman -- Mayn Lerer Dovid Katz (Y) (Whirlaway)

Rabbi Reuven Poupko -- Yidish Tsvishn di Khsidim(Y) (Secretariat)

Marcia Gross Levinsohn – Model children's class (E/Y) (Pimlico/Laurel)

Fanny Yokor -- Dialogues for Yiddish Conversation - (Y) – (Citation)

10:30-12:00 noon Period B CLOSING PLENARY SESSION & CONCERT

. Shelby Shapiro – JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS & THE FUTURE OF YIDDISH
(Y/E)

(Preakness Ballroom)

CONCLUDING SOULFUL SUNDAY CONCERT with a host of favorites new and old Mayn Oytser -- Concert of Yiddish Art and Folk Songs with **Sender Botwinik, Sherm Labovitz and Marvin Weinberger** from their CD published by the **Sholom Aleichem Club** of Philadelphia.

12:00 noon –box lunch (for hotel guests) (kosher option available)

CHECKOUT (Those going on the guided tour can leave luggage in designated area – see concierge)

GUIDED TOUR - AN ADVENTURE NOT TO BE MISSED

Bus departs 12:15 for guided tour of Jewish Baltimore with **Aaron Seiden** (Pre-registration only)

Books, videos, CDs, tapes and more Yiddish goodies by our own Sal Kluger in the Bowie Room

* (This is the only meal under Star K supervision.)

We reserve the right to make schedule changes in response to unforeseen circumstances.
A mentsh trakht un G-t lakht.

Meet the Committee Behind the 8th IAYC Conference

It takes a lot of work to realize a conference from the original vision to the on-the-ground event. And the Baltimore conference scheduled for September 4th through 7th is no exception.

SYLVIA SCHILDT, coordinator and chair, took the original theme and ran with it. She recognized its potential because of her ten years studying with great Yiddish teachers of the Arbeter Ring and saw in it not only a celebration of glories past, but a challenge to Yiddish teachers and Yiddish lovers to carve out a new role for Mame Loshn as one of the pillars of Jewish education today. Aiding her was her personal acquaintance with a who's who of the world of Yiddish through the Internet and personal attendance at a variety of conferences here and in Israel. She was also guided by the input of founder **HAROLD BLACK**, along with **FISHL KUTNER**, **HILDA RUBIN** and **MORRIE FELLER**. Her search for the key post of treasurer brought her a true treasure, an "oytser" in the person of **TED (Tevye) CHASKELSON**, who continues to bring order and sanity to the business management of the conference, but also has expanded his role to promotion of the event to local synagogues and other Baltimore groups.

Co-Chair **ERIKA GREENBLUM** will be overseeing the running of the events at the Conference to be sure everything goes as smoothly as planned. **AARON SEIDEN** helped plan the tour of Jewish Baltimore and is just the man for the job, since he is already an experienced docent and guide with the Jewish Historical Museum.

We thank **Paul Melrood**, Past Chair, for his unstinting sharing of advice and past experience.

At a series of meetings, attended by committee at large members, **Charlotte Geller**, **Betty Tepper**, **Al Karchem**, **Jim Kapplin**, **David Fishman**, **Gilbert Ruddie**, **Jean Pindrik** and **Sue Tyberg**, details of the program were hammered out. Beautiful pocket folders were prepared and stuffed with careful attention to detail.

Baltimore Councilwoman **RIKKI SPECTOR** aided in liaison with the city authority. Thanks also to Dr. **SONAT HART**, **DEBORAH MARGOLIS** and **ELAINE ECKSTEIN** of co-host Baltimore Hebrew University for their assistance. And to co-host JCC's **RABBI NINA CARDIN** and **EILEEN BERMAN** for their generous counsel and support.

Other committee members **Mark Hart** assisted in providing for religious services needs and **Rukhl Eissenstadt** helped with hospitality.

A hartsikn dank alemen.

The Hilton Pikesville Hotel

*welcomes the
8th world conference of the
International Association of Yiddish Clubs*

*We invite you to enjoy our amenities and
the delicious food at our two eateries*

*The San Marco
and*

Gabby's Sports Bar