The Great Yiddish Writers Festival

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Festival 1:00 - 5:15 PM
Klezmer Kafé 5:15 - 6:15 PM

“Have we got some Yiddishe stories, poetry, music and food for you!”

Presentations, Music, Dancing, Food & Fun!
Schedule of Events

1:00 pm  Registration

1:15 pm  Music with members of the Fabrangen Fiddlers

1:30 pm  Welcome—David Shneyer

1:40 pm  Keynote—Lauren Strauss
          In memory of Max Ticktin, z'l

2:15—3:15 pm  First Session

1.  The Zeydes—Founding Fathers of Yiddish Literature
    Lauren Strauss,  Dweck Sanctuary
    In memory of Khai Berman and Shmuel Jankelowitch

2.  An Introduction to American Yiddish Poetry
    Diana Zurer,  Faranoff 1
    In memory of Ida and Sam Jacobson

3.  Our Women Poets—Rachel Korn and Kadia Molodowsky
    Miriam Isaacs & Myra Sklarew,  Faranoff 2
    In memory of Lisa Kapin

4.  The Sensual, Provocative Work of Blume Lempel
    Ellen Cassedy & Yermiyahu Ahron Taub,  Pavilion
    In memory of Pauline and Ed Wagner

5.  Di Mishpokhe Zinger - the Singer Family
    Hilda Rubin,  Hayman Chapel
    In memory of Pessel Fortgang and Elkhanan Wagner

6.  Mordechai Gebirtig—Jewish Troubadour
    Maurice Singer,  Blumberg/Zavis Library

3:15—3:40pm  Drinks, Nosh and Bookstore

3:45—4:45 pm  Second Session

1.  The Outrageous World of Izik Manger,
    Merrill Leffler,  Dweck Sanctuary
    In memory of Herman Taube

2.  The Songs of Mark Warshawsky
    Maurice Singer,  Faranoff Pavilion

3.  A Yiddish Modernist—Moyshe Leyb Halpern
    David Kaufmann,  Faranoff 1
    In memory of Kate Puretz

4.  A Reading by an English and Yiddish-language Poet
    Yermiyahu Ahron Taub,  Faranoff 2

5.  The Yiddish Poetry Card Game, an Intergenerational Activity,
    Zahara Heckscher,  Blumberg/Zavis Library

6.  Songs of Struggle and Resistance
    David Shneyer,  Hayman Chapel
    In memory of Sue Roemer

5:00 - 5:15  pm  Lomir Ale Zingen

5:15 - 6:15  pm  Klezmer Kafé—Shnappes, Food,
                  The Machaye Klezmer Band, Dancing
                  Gudelsky Hall
Lauren Strauss
*The Zeydes—Founding Fathers of Yiddish Literature*
*Dweck Sanctuary—First Session, 2:15 pm*

Lauren is a professor of modern Jewish history, specializing in American Jewish cultural and political history, who has taught for 20 years at universities in the Washington DC area. She holds a PhD in Modern Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, an MA in International Relations from Yale University, and a BA from Brandeis University. Lauren teaches courses on American Jewish politics, popular culture, women’s history as well as Yiddish culture, post-Emanicipation Jewish history, and modern Jewish travel. She frequently lectures and teaches adult education classes in the DC area. She also served as director of the Foundation for Jewish Studies.

Diana Zurer
*An Introduction to American Yiddish Poetry*
*Faranoff 1—First Session, 2:15 pm*

Diana is a product of Sholem Aleichem Folk Shul 45 in the Bronx and the Fareynikte Di Mlentshul. After serving in the Peace Corps in Thailand, she and her husband Jim came to DC in 1968. She was a long-time member of the Yiddish Afikomen Shabbos troupe at Tifereth Israel in DC, that presented Yiddish themed programs. Diana is a member of the Leyenkrayt which reads Yiddish texts together. She worked for DC Public Schools in Curriculum and Instruction and was Deputy Director of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute.

Miri Isaacs and Myra Sklarew
*Our Women Poets—Rachel Korn & Kadia Molodowsky*
*Faranoff 2—First Session, 2:15 pm*

Miri was a professor of Yiddish language and culture at the University of MD, College Park, for 16 years. She has published widely on aspects of Yiddish among Hasidim in Israel and America, as well as on language function and loyalty in the postwar Displaced Persons Camps. In her research, she has specialized in sociolinguistics. She is a native speaker of Yiddish, born in a German DP camp and raised in multi-ethnic Montreal and Brooklyn. Dr. Isaacs is presently working on two projects, a memoir of her father’s wartime experiences and on the Stonehill archive and postwar Yiddish culture.

Myra was born in Baltimore. Educated at Tufts University, she earned a BS in biology, and later, an MA in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University. Her honors as an author and poet include the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award and the National Jewish Book Council Award in Poetry. She is the former president of the Yaddo artist community and is professor emerita in the Department of Literature at American University.

Ellen Cassedy and Yermiyahu Ahron Taub
*The Sensual & Provocative Work of Blume Lempel*
*Pavillon—First Session, 2:15 pm*

Ellen has explored the world of the Lithuanian Holocaust for more than ten years. Her translations and articles have appeared in Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal, Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies, Forward, and Hadassah. Her books include *We Are Here: Memories of the Lithuanian Holocaust, We Are Here, 9 to 5; The Working Woman’s Guide to Office Survival*. Most recently she published *Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories*, a translation of the short stories of the Blume Lempel, co-translated by Yermiyahu Ahron Taub

Yermiyahu Ahron Taub is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *The Education of a Daffodil/Di bildung fun a geltn nartstis* (2017). *Preparing to Dance: New Yiddish Songs*, a CD of nine of his Yiddish poems set to music, was released in 2014. He was honored by the Museum of Jewish Heritage as one of New York’s best emerging Jewish artists. With Ellen Cassedy, he was the winner of the 2012 Yiddish Book Center Translation Prize for *Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories by Blume Lempel* (Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press, 2016). Please visit his website at www.yataub.net.

Hilda Rubin
*Di Mishpokhe Zinger—the Singer Family*
*Hayman Chapel—First Session, 2:15 pm*

Hilda was nurtured in the Yiddishist atmosphere of the Sholem Aleichem Hayzer in the Bronx, New York. A retired Reading Specialist, she has served as Vice President of Yiddish of Greater Washington and as the chair of Cafe Kasrilevke. Hilda has also served as the artistic director of Di Shpilers, a performing group at the Bender JCC in Rockville. Presently, she leads a Yiddish class and conversation group there, too.

Maurice Singer
*Mordechai Gebirtig—Jewish Troubadour*
*Blumberg/Zavis Library—First Session, 2:15 pm*

Maurice was born in Antwerp, Belgium, arriving in America in 1948. He attended Yeshivas, continuing his education and graduated from City College. He then studied music and graduated from the cantorial school of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Maurice has been a Yiddishist and Jewish educator for all these years.
Merrill Leffler
The Outrageous World of Izik Manger
Dweck Sanctuary—Second Session, 3:45 pm

Merrill is the author of three books of poems: *Mark the Music* (2012), *Take Hold* (1997), and *Partly Pandemonium, Partly Love* (1984). He is editor of Dryad Press and has published numerous volumes including works by the beloved late Herman Taube. Most recently he published *Oedipus in Brooklyn*. He has taught literature at the University of Maryland and US Naval Academy, and was a senior science writer at the University of Maryland Sea Grant Program.

Maurice Singer
The Songs of Mark Warshawsky
Faranoff Pavilion—Second Session, 3:45 pm

Maurice was born in Antwerp, Belgium, arriving in America in 1948. He attended Yeshivas, continuing his education and graduated from City College. He then studied music and graduated from the cantorial school of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Maurice has been a Yiddishist and Jewish educator for all these years.

David Kaufmann
A Yiddish Modernist: Moyshe Leyb Halpern
Faranoff 1—Second Session, 3:45 pm

David attended Princeton and Yale Universities, and has been a professor in the English Department at George Mason University since 1989. He is the author of *The Business of Common Life* (Johns Hopkins, UP, 1995) and *Telling Stories: Philip Guston’s Later Works* (U of California Press, 2010) as well as a number of articles on the Frankfurt School and on poetry. A contributing writer to *Tikkun* Magazine, David is a lover of Yiddish poets.

Yermiyahu Ahron Taub
A Reading by an English- and Yiddish-language Poet
Faranoff 2—Second Session, 3:45 pm

Yermiyahu Ahron is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *The Education of a Daffodil/Di bildung fun a geln nartstis* (2017). *Preparing to Dance: New Yiddish songs*, a CD of nine of his Yiddish poems set to music, was released in 2014. He was honored by the Museum of Jewish Heritage as one of New York’s best emerging Jewish artists. With Ellen Cassidy, he was the winner of the 2012 Yiddish Book Center Translation Prize for *Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories by Blume Lempel* (Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press, 2016). Please visit his website at [www.yataub.net](http://www.yataub.net).

Zahara Heckscher
The Yiddish Poetry Card Game: An Intergenerational Activity
Blumberg/Zavis Library—Second Session, 3:45 pm

Zahara has been a workshop facilitator and keynote speaker for conferences and events around the country and in the UK lecturing on topics relating to international volunteering and careers. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Zahara earned an MA in International Development from the American University School of International Service in Washington, D.C., where she lives today with her son and husband. A breast cancer survivor she has been arrested several times protesting for access to medicines on behalf of cancer patients. She has created an innovative game, the Poetry Game, that brings people together and makes it easy for anyone to write a poem.

David Shneyer
Songs of Struggle and Resistance
Hayman Chapel—Second Session, 3:45 pm

Reb David, raised on a New Jersey egg farm, is Founder and Director of Am Kolel and spiritual leader of Kehila Chadasha. He studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary and in Israel, earning degrees in Judaic studies from Rutgers University and Baltimore Hebrew College. He received his "semicha" ordination from the Aleph Seminary founded by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. Reb David, also an accomplished musician, leads the Fabrangen Fiddlers. A founder of the Jewish Folk Arts Festival, he also composes new liturgical music. Reb David is devoted to social activism.

Join us in the
Klezmer Kafé!

Light Meal/Dessert/Coffee or Tea $10
Just Dessert & Coffee or Tea $5

♫ The Machaya Klezmer Band ♫