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ARTS & CULTURE

What the Use of Yiddish Phrases Tells Us About American Jewry

By Marissa Brostoff

NEW YORK (Tablet) — The results are in: the words “shpiel” and “klutz” have been thoroughly absorbed into the American vernacular, while “mensch” and “kvetch” remain primarily in the linguistic domain of Jews. A third of Jewish Americans who did not grow up in New York have nonetheless been told that they sound like they’re from that city. Sixty-eight percent of Reform Jews pronounce the word for the annual Jewish harvest festival “soo-COAT,” as Israelis do, while only 34 percent use the Yiddish pronunciation “SUK-kiss;” among the fervently Orthodox, those numbers are basically reversed. And gay non-Jews use more Yiddish than straight non-Jews, though gay Jews and straight

Jews use about the same amount.

These are just a few findings of the Survey of American Jewish Language and Identity, the results of which were published online late last month by linguist Sarah Bunin Benor and sociologist Steven M. Cohen. (The researchers are publishing a more academic version of their report in a linguistics journal later this year.) Dozens of surveys about American Jews have come out the past few decades – most famously, perhaps, the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey that caused alarm in some quarters with its claim that 52 percent of Jews were intermarried – but this is a rare one that shows rather than tells. Instead of asking

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SHALOMA HADASSAH MEETING AND BOOK REVIEW was held at the home of Mona Trocki-Ozlek. From left are Program Vice President Lenore Slatkin, President Robin Aiscowitz, and guest speaker Stella Maser who led the discussion. (More photos on Page 18)

Community Chanukah Celebration

The Milton & Betty Katz JCC will host the fifth annual Community Chanukah Celebration – including a Chanukah candle lighting – Sunday, Dec. 13, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The large scale event will include a performance of Chanukah Songs with our Community Cantors & Choirs, Israeli Dancing plus lots of crafts and activities for children.

Latkes will be served and those in attendance will have the opportunity to make their own jelly donuts. The Chanukah candle lighting will take place at 5 p.m.

The event is only \$1 per person – or free with one canned or non-perishable food item for the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry. Free transportation will be available to and

from the condos in Ventnor and Atlantic City. Call to reserve a bus spot by Dec. 8.

For more information or to volunteer for this event, contact Josh Cutler, program director at 822-1167 ext. 138 or email JCutler@jccatlantic.org. This community event is sponsored by The Milton & Betty Katz JCC, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Judah, Congregation Beth El, Emeth Shalom, The Board of Jewish Education, The Jewish Federation of Atlantic & Cape May Counties, Chabad of Atlantic County, Trocki Jewish Community Day School, Jewish Family Service and Young Israel of Margate.



Seashore Gardens Hosts Speaker on Early Stage Coordination of Alzheimer's

Kerry Brown, Early Stage Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter, will speak on the topic of Early Stage Alzheimer's at Seashore Gardens Living Center in Galloway Township on Dec. 3.

Seashore Gardens Living Center and the Richard Simon Center for Alzheimer's, both located at 22 W. Jimmie Leeds Road, Galloway Township, are hosting the program in an effort to educate the community about early stage Alzheimer's. Ms. Brown's presentation will include information on how the disease is diagnosed and best practices for those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease.

In addition, she will introduce the early stage services offered by the Delaware Valley Chapter, which

include community education, dual support groups, and volunteer opportunities in the Atlantic County area. Jan Golembiski, coordinator of The Richard Simon Center, will also be available to answer questions and provide support for area families dealing with the affects of Alzheimer's disease.

This program is open to both caregivers and persons with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. More than 5.3 million people suffer from Alzheimer's disease in the United States and every 70 seconds someone in the United States develops the disease.

Seashore Gardens Living Center features an array of services and accommodations that include assisted living short and long term nursing

see **SPEAKER** page 17 ▶

Task Force

Some find Jewish support for Israeli-Arab cause irksome.



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Maturity

Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb.



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Health & Nutrition

Area resources for health care.



PAGE 11-15

Federations of America support World ORT's hospital education program in Israel, which provides help for patients ages 6-21 in 100 pediatric departments in 27 hospitals.

