

**ASK YOUR
JEWISH
FAIRY
GODMOTHER**



Dear Jewish Fairy Godmother:

Aaarghhh! What does one do with visitors who change their schedule and arrive early? I'm not talking about the guest to a party who show up while you're still making hors d'oeuvres. But out-of-town guests who announce that their schedule has changed and they'll be showing up on a Thursday instead of a Friday? To top it off it was for Labor Day weekend. Yes I know this is past, but we have other guests coming for the fall holidays. These particular folks were people who had given us a place in Maui for a few nights earlier in the year, and whose hospitality we would like to enjoy again. I really like them but I was nowhere near ready to see them, and the house was, to put it mildly, in frat-boy condition because my son had had his college buddies over and had not cleaned up as promised. Do you have a plan I can put into place?

Hassled Hostess

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International Yiddish Conference coming to town

**BY RANDALL P.
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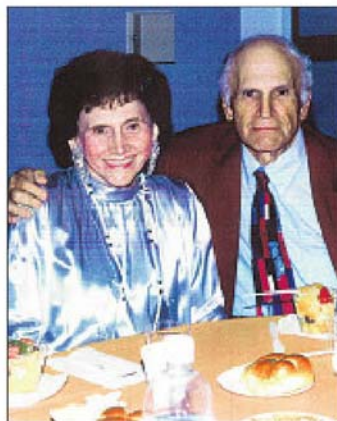
Rukhl "Cookie" Blattman, of Tamarac, is a popular local Yiddish entertainer and a former board member of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC), an organization of Yiddish clubs that have affiliated to promote Yiddish language and culture.

Blattman is excited that the IAYC's 16th International Conference will be held this year at the Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center (5150 Town Center Circle) from Nov. 14-17. In fact, Blattman will be the opening act for Saturday night's entertainment.

Blattman said: "I, as well as the IAYC, do all we can to nurture and perpetuate the Yiddish language. With this conference, those who love the Yiddish language will be treated to a fabulous weekend of lectures and entertainment."

The conference is a celebration for Yiddish enthusiasts of Yiddish language, culture, literature/poetry, art, history and music. The conference is chock full of rich and juicy programs, with local, national and internationally-recognized luminaries as presenters.

Said IAYC president Isosif Vaisman: "For dozens and dozens of generations, our ancestors



Troim Katz Bliacher Handler, and her husband, Frank "Fayvl" Handler. Troim will be given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 16th International Conference of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs in Boca Raton from Nov. 14-17. Submitted photo

spoke Yiddish — a language that to a great degree shaped our culture, traditions, mentality and worldview. Why should it stop on us? It is hard to predict the future, and we don't know what role Yiddish will play in 50 or 100 years. But if we try to preserve what we can of this rich heritage today, it will have much better chances in the future. And that is exactly what IAYC is doing."

The theme of the conference is "Yiddish Heroes," which dovetails well with the theme ("Heroes, Villains, Saints and Fools: People in the Book") of the Nov. 16 Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County "Global Day of Jewish Learning" — of which the conference is officially a part.

Troim Katz Bliacher Handler, of West Palm

Beach — an author of Yiddish poems and short stories, a Yiddish teacher extraordinaire, a lecturer on Yiddish literature and Jewish history, and a co-author of two books in Yiddish and Japanese — will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Troim's husband, Frank "Fayvl" Handler, also a teacher and lecturer, will be one of the many hour-long, break-out session presenters. Frank Handler will present a session in English titled "The Heroism of Mendel Beylis and the Jews of the Ukraine." Break-out sessions will include lectures, discussions and workshops and will be in either Yiddish or English or a mixture of the two.

Other break-out session presenters from Florida include Dr. Dror Abend-David, director of

the Yiddish language program at the University of Florida; Riva Ginsburg, teacher, translator and speaker for NEXT GENERATIONS; Etta Gold, speaker and officer of the Association of Jewish Libraries; Ruth Glasberg Gold, Holocaust survivor and inspirational writer and speaker; Marlis Humphrey, president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies; Genia Kutner, Holocaust survivor and community teacher/volunteer; Caren Schnur Neile, folklorist and storyteller; and Leon Weissberg, Jewish education leader.

Keynote speakers addressing the whole conference include Sarah Bunin Benor, Hasia Diner, Gennady Estrakh, Mikhail Krutikov and Maxine Schackman. Schackman, the director of Judaica Sound Archives at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, will speak about "Yiddish Music and Song: The Heartbeat of Immigrant Jews."

Entertainers include a ventriloquist, comedians, dramatic readers, dancers and cabaret performers, as well as practitioners of Cantorial, Yiddish, Klezmer, Roma, Contemporary, Folk, Jazz and Broadway music.

Florida entertainers performing are Blattman, Alejandra Czarny,

Cantor David and Shira Presler and Eddie Shraybman.

There also will be a special "Bring and Brag" program for conference attendees to display and share their own publications and works of art (not necessarily Yiddish!) and a vendor area with Judaica items, books and music for sale.

Those attending the full conference will have the rare opportunity to attend dine-in discussions with a number of presenters and distinguished guests.

Summed up IAYC member Baila Pransky: "It is a labor of love to give voice to our Yiddish language and culture for the enjoyment of so many."

Early-bird conference rates have been extended in Florida for people who mail in their registration forms and payment checks no later than Sept. 30. Payment for the conference is by check only. No credit cards accepted.

For more information about the conference, including the different registration options and costs, contact IAYC Corresponding Secretary Barbara Goldstein at iayc2014@gmail.com or 713-723-1895. Local information numbers are 561-900-0434 and 561-498-5961. Visit the IAYC website at www.yiddishclubs.org.