

International Yiddish Conference taking place in Boca

By RANDALL P. LIEBERMAN
STAFF WRITER

According to Rukhl “Cookie” Blattman, of Tamarac, the International Association of Yiddish Clubs (IAYC) exists to perpetuate the Yiddish language and to bring happiness and nostalgia to those who hunger for its stories and songs.

Blattman, a popular local Yiddish entertainer and a former board member of the IAYC — a worldwide organization of Yiddish clubs that have affiliated to promote Yiddish language and culture — will be the opening act for Saturday night’s entertainment when the IAYC’s 16th International Confer-

ence takes place at the Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center (5150 Town Center Circle) from Nov. 14-17.

Blattman said: “Yearning to hear Yiddish? Come to the Boca Raton Marriott for the Yiddish weekend run by the IAYC for all the lectures and entertainment in both Yiddish and English. Mama, Papa, Bubbie and Zeydie will come back in memory to all of us through the most beautiful language in the world — Yiddish!”

Blattman — who grew up speaking Yiddish with her family (the Privins) in Boro Park, Brooklyn — began speaking Yiddish again after 35 years of not speaking the language



Rukhl “Cookie” Blattman, of Tamarac, will be the opening act for Saturday night’s entertainment for the International Association of Yiddish Clubs’ 16th International Conference to take place at the Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center from Nov. 14-17.

Submitted photo

when she and her husband, Lenny, retired to Florida.

Once in Florida, Blatt-

man found two Yiddish organizations, the now-defunct Circle of Yiddish Clubs and the IAYC. She

also started her own Yiddish club in Kings Point-Tamarac where she lives, and performed 11 concerts with a klezmer orchestra for JAFCO (Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options) as a volunteer.

Blattman is also a volunteer at the Daniel Cantor Senior Center in Sunrise for more than 20 years — bringing joy, laughter and nostalgia to its clients. She has published a CD called “Cookie Sings Yiddish,” runs Yiddish hours at various independent and assisted-living facilities, and also is a paid Yiddish performer.

The IAYC conference, which has a theme of “Yiddish Heroes,” will be a celebration for Yiddish

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

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.



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