

## **Reprinted from the May Issue of the Jewish Journal of WNY**

**All are Welcome: Community Celebration of Yiddish Music, May 12-13**

Congregations Beth Abraham and Shir Shalom, Temples Beth Tzedek and Beth Zion, and Havurah have partnered on an exciting and unique Yiddish Shabbaton from Friday, May 12 through Saturday evening, May 13. The Shabbaton will feature Yiddish singer and scholar Yosl Kurland (and friends) for a weekend of song and prayer with a distinctively Eastern European flavor. The event is the brainchild of Marty Kerker and Irwin Gelman, leaders of Congregation Beth Abraham. The weekend was originally slated for last fall but was cancelled due to inclement weather. Called "West Meets East" it was designed to be a celebration to honor the 100th anniversary of Beth Abraham. In early January, Marty reached out to other congregational leaders across Buffalo with the idea of rescheduling the event and making it a community-wide celebration.

Yosl (Joe) Kurland is the founding member of The Wholesale Klezmer Band and comes to Buffalo from his home in Massachusetts. An accomplished musician and educator, Yosl has been playing Klezmer music and leading workshops on Jewish Life and Culture for over four decades.

The Shabbaton begins on May 12 at 7:00 pm at Congregation Beth Abraham (1073 Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo) featuring Yosl and Cantor Irwin Gelman. Following services, a festive Oneg Shabbat will be sponsored by Congregation Havurah. Note that this service will feature musical accompaniment.

On Saturday morning May 13, services will be held at Temple Beth Tzedek (1641 North Forest Road in Williamsville) and will be led jointly by Yosl and Cantor Mark Spindler with participation from members of Beth Tzedek and other congregations. Note that there will be no instrumental accompaniment. Following services, a luncheon and Zmirot sponsored by Buffalo Jewish Federation will be held in Beth Tzedek's newly renovated social hall.

On Saturday evening beginning at 8:30 pm, the community is invited to a program hosted by Temple Beth Zion and Congregation Shir Shalom at Temple Beth Zion (805 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo). At 9:15 pm following Havdalah, Yosl will join Rabbi Brent Gutmann in a special concert in the congregation's meeting hall.

For more information on the Shabbaton, contact [info@congregationbethabraham.net](mailto:info@congregationbethabraham.net).