

Dear KlezKamp family and friends,

With mixed emotions, we at Living Traditions want to let you know that KlezKamp 2014: the 30th annual Yiddish Folk Arts Program, will be the last gathering in its current configuration in the Catskills. We hope all of you can join us on Dec. 23-29, 2014 in Kerhonkson, NY for this historic celebration and commemoration.

But at the same time, we're excited to see our role shifting to respond to a new set of needs—and venues—for the 21st century. The springboard for this new direction is our partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. From this unequalled perch, we see a thrilling new vista of outreach and uplift to a new generation of seekers of Yiddish culture. The university's educational focus on music training, language, literature and culture is a custom fit with our own long-standing goals.

We see our mission as offering a regional presence in the upper Midwest, holding classes, conferences, and public programming, including our popular, free one-day event, *A Biselle KlezKamp*. At the same time, we'll hone our KlezKamp Road Show model to bring our staff of expert teachers to other campuses and communities around the country.

We also plan to catalog online and make available to the public our massive collection of 30 years of KlezKamp recordings, videos, and materials. This collection documents decades of our advanced Yiddish literacy programs so that the invaluable gifts of KlezKamp's teachers can reach students in various locales.

We will also continue to have national and international exposure through our massive and unequalled collection of 9,000 rare Yiddish 78-rpm recordings. These will be made available to the public on the Mayrent Institute's website, and in future, on a major national site that receives 200,000 "hits" daily. As you probably know, these endangered recordings have been collected by Sherry Mayrent and donated to UW-Madison's Mills Music Library.

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Back in 1985, when an active Yiddish culture was fading in most communities, KlezKamp was the first to launch a visionary annual gathering that reinvigorated Yiddish literacy and jump-started a renaissance of klezmer music and Yiddish cultural activities. KlezKamp was a visionary and critical force in re-invigorating an interest in Yiddish culture at a community level. As a result, in the 30 years since then, klezmer bands, Yiddish festivals, university courses, community events and regional programming have blossomed around the world.

While the end of our 30-year run of KlezKamp in the Catskills frames a bittersweet moment, we see it as a uniquely successful model that has brought a remote and retreating culture back to life for tens of thousands around the world. We look forward to reaching new generations in the upper Midwest and nationwide, and to creating new models for the future.

Hoping to see you at KlezKamp's 30th Anniversary celebration,
Henry Sapoznik and Sherry Mayrent