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Workmen's Circle Embraces Yiddish Language Renaissance with Online Education Program

--- Adult Yiddish Language Program Enrollment Soars as Enthusiasts Flock to Online Courses ---

New York, N.Y. – Yiddish is making a comeback, and the Workmen's Circle is at the forefront of the new *yiddishkayt* (*Yiddish-ness*) movement--fulfilling the need for those interested in reading, speaking, writing, and acting in the language of Eastern European Jewry. While the Workmen's Circle has been providing adult Yiddish instruction for more than 30 years, program enrollment has tripled since introducing real-time online classes in 2014. The nonprofit organization is New York's leading center for Yiddish language instruction and the largest provider of Yiddish language classes in the United States outside of academic institutions.

The Workmen's Circle Yiddish language program has served hundreds of language enthusiasts throughout the country and abroad in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Russia, and Ukraine. Students range in age from 15 to over 80 years old and share a passion for *yiddishkayt*— which they can pursue anytime, anywhere, thanks to the flexibility of online learning.

Courses range in proficiency level: beginners learn the basics of conversational Yiddish, while experts explore Yiddish literature and theater. At the heart of the program are the instructors: world-renowned scholars with decades of experience teaching Yiddish language and culture.

"Language is the bridge that connects past, present, and future generations," said Kolya Borodulin, Associate Director for Yiddish Programming at the Workmen's Circle. "We're working to ensure this vital piece of Jewish identity, the Yiddish language, continues to contribute to our culture for generations to come."

"We believe language really is key to understanding one's history and heritage," said Ann Toback, Executive Director of the Workmen's Circle. "For over a thousand years Yiddish was the prevailing language of the Jewish people. We have a millennium of great literature, speeches, journalism, and arts created in Yiddish. Learning more about the language and culture of our heritage is one way to reconnect with our roots. That's why we deeply value our online learning option which allows us to reach *Yiddishists* around the globe who might be searching for this unique key to their culture."

This year, the Yiddish program is offering nearly 20 courses online and in-person. The physical classrooms are located at Workmen's Circle headquarters in midtown Manhattan. All courses are enrolling for the fall, winter, and spring sessions. Details about the 2016 Yiddish courses can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1G0mFyS>.

About The Workmen's Circle

At the Workmen's Circle, Jewish identity is not defined by or confined by religious beliefs. For us, identity and belonging are found in our heritage, values, ideals, language, cultural traditions and celebrations. We have been cultivating a proudly progressive, diverse, and inclusive community rooted in Jewish culture and social action for more than a century.

Since our founding, the needs and priorities of our community have evolved and today's Workmen's Circle is responding in new and exciting ways. We seed and support vibrant Jewish learning communities, create opportunities to connect to Jewish culture, celebrate our rich heritage, and take action for social and economic justice. Together, as we always have, we are working to build a *shenere un besere velt far ale* – a better and more beautiful world for all.

Learn more at www.circle.org.

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