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Through these various activities we continue to explore the Yiddish language in the context of Jewish culture and history, and include music, poetry, song and theatre, where possible, thus building on, and sharing, cultural knowledge and awareness.

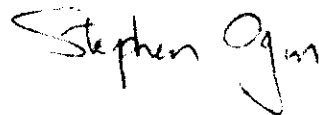
### **THE FUTURE**

We continue to try to gradually increase the range of activities that come under our umbrella, but this is a slow, organic process. In this regard, it is particularly pleasing to see the gradual development of the Yiddish theatre activities.


### **CONCLUSION**

The twelve-month period covered by this report has been a successful time for the Trust. We grow in confidence and in financial stability. We look forward to 2025/26.

Steve Ogin (Chair)



Phil Tomlinson (Treasurer)



5, including the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Trust, organises the Theatre troupe activities.

## **STRUCTURE:**

The Trust is set up as a CIO, and has its full complement of ten Trustees. At this point, the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are the same as when the Trust was set up. The Trustees meet on-line exclusively, being located widely across the country, and are all actively involved in the discussions to manage the Trust. There are separate Committees, each meeting on a regular basis, which manage the Sof-Vokh, the YOMC, and the Yiddish Theatre troupe activities.

## **FINANCE:**

The Sof-Vokh Bookings process is managed each year by a Trustee working closely with the Treasurer. Ticket transactions are processed through Ticket Tailor, with payments going through PayPal and thence to the Charity's Bank Account. As a result, all financial transactions have a simple trail, and at the same time personal data is kept secure within these systems.

The Annual turnover is under £25,000 per year. We aim to operate at cost, except that we build in a contingency factor to either absorb any unexpected expenses or allow us to slowly grow our reserves. We aim to have sufficient reserves to prevent any financial risk and, as we have no employees or physical assets, the main financial risk is of any cancellations, or other booking problems, that are not covered in our arrangements with the venue. Our current reserve target is a quarter of the hotel costs for the Sof-Vokh. Following the success of the Sof-Vokh in the summers of 2023, 2024 and 2025, we managed a small increase in reserves. The Yiddish Theatre activities are earmarked as a separate activity within the YCT accounting.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT:**

The YOMC continues to provide a real opportunity for participation whether as performer or audience, a fluent Yiddish speaker, or a beginner. For Sof-Vokh 2024 and 2025, we were able to provide about 15 bursaries out of the approximately 60 places. The programme is always designed to support the attendance of families with children. An interesting development over the past two years has been the

theme is suggested for the Open Mic presentations, and a Special Guest, either from the UK, or from around the world, is given a longer “guest-slot” to present something related to the theme, or from their wider interests in the Yiddish world. There are typically 6 to 8 presentations, with an audience of 20-30 people, with many regulars and also new faces. Currently there is no income or expenditure involved in the YOMC, other than using the website which is financially supported by the Trust.

- 2) The Annual Yiddish Sof-Vokh is a residential weekend where only Yiddish is spoken. The Sof-Vokh accounts for most of the income and expenditure of the organisation. We receive some money in donations mostly through the website and booking processes, and this is earmarked for the provision of bursaries to promote access, especially for under 35s (most beneficiaries are actually under 25). The Yiddish Sof-Vokh events in summer 2024 and 2025 were again at capacity (in summer 2025: 60 attendees, including 3 children under 10). The bursaries for summer 2025 were (as in 2024) also supported by the proceeds from a benefit. Hillscourt has again been booked for summer 2026 (26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June 2026), and a team of some 12 people are on the Organising Committee.

Yiddish Theatre troupe – In line with our aim to promote the use of the Yiddish language, we are helping to facilitate the establishment of a Yiddish Theatre troupe. Following the success of the “Season of Yiddish Theatre” at JW3 in spring 2024, the Trust collaborated with the Yiddish writer/actor Tamara Micner in obtaining small grants from the Shores Trust to support building a Yiddish Theatre troupe (grants of just under £2000 in 2024, and just under £3000 in 2025, have been received). Using this funding, Yiddish-theatre workshops/rehearsals have been held regularly, under the direction of David Schneider, the writer/director/actor whose family played a very active role as theatre professionals in the Yiddish theatre in London in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The troupe, currently about 20 people, consists of both professionals and amateurs, fluent Yiddish speakers and those with little Yiddish. An Open Rehearsal for friends and family was held in summer 2024 and the plan is to hold two full-scale performances in summer 2025. A group of

# TRUSTEES REPORT for YIDDISH CAFÉ TRUST for the PERIOD

15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Charity Number: 1200053.

## INTRODUCTION:

This report covers the period August 2024 to August 2025. During this period, in addition to the monthly Yiddish Open Mic Café and the annual Yiddish Sof-Vokh, the Trust has been actively involved in continuing to help foster a Yiddish Theatre troupe.

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## ACTIVITIES

The Yiddish Café Trust continues to be a charity which focusses its energies into three main activities: the Yiddish Open Mic Café; the Yiddish Sof-Vokh; the Yiddish Theatre troupe.

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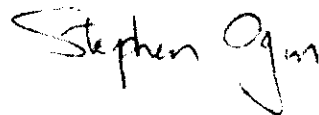
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