

Editorial

What's been going on, mostly at the AGM.

The Annual General Meeting of CSMT took place in Ottawa last November. This is not intended to be a full-fledged report on the AGM; I'm simply going to hit some high spots of particular interest to **Bulletin** readers. (The minutes are available to any member who requests them from the Secretary.)

Most individual readers will not be affected by the change in membership dues, as individual memberships remain at \$20. Institutional memberships have increased to \$25. The former "student/senior" category has decreased to \$15, and has been renamed "underemployed" in order to encompass folks on fixed or low income and so on; we'll take you at your word if you feel you belong in this category. And, of course, wealthy students and seniors now have the option of paying the full rate....

Also, most current members will not be affected by changes to the membership year. Memberships no longer will run with the calendar year, but will begin with the next issue of the **Bulletin** when the person joins. As time goes by, the expiry dates of members will spread out more evenly throughout the year, making for a more regular cashflow situation as well as avoiding the yearend crunch — a benefit for all of us volunteers. It also means that we have been able to shorten the grace period for people who neglect to renew their subscriptions — but of course none of you would be so forgetful, would you...?

The question of the name of the organization, raised in these pages in 27:2, p. 3, was inconclusive as to both procedure and substance, with the result that a notice of motion was made to reconsider the question at the 1994 AGM.

The 1994 Annual General Meeting, by the way, will be held in Calgary the first weekend in June, to correspond with the meetings of the Learned Societies. Details will be made available with

future issues as they are firmed up.

You'll want to know about your new board. A complete listing of directors, with addresses and phone numbers, will be included next issue. Your new executive are:

President: Judith Cohen, 751 Euclid Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6G 2V3.

Vice-Presidents: Monique Desroches, Faculté de Musique, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, succ. A, Montréal, QC H3C 3J7; George W. Lyon, 4444 16A St. SW, Calgary, Alta. T2T 4L5.

Secretary: Paula Conlon, 1476 Farnsworth Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1H 7C3.

Treasurer: Gordon Smith, School of Music, Kingston, Ont. K7L 3N6.

Past President: Bill Sarjeant, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0. (Bill Sarjeant fills this post as he is the most recent elected former president still residing in Canada, although there have been one elected and two acting presidents in the meantime.)

In general, we left the AGM feeling much optimism for the future of CSMT, as lots of enthusiasm and fresh ideas were generated, some of which are already translating into **Bulletin** contributions. There was lots of good music, too!

I want to add my personal thanks to Jay Rahn for taking on the task of Acting President and shepherding the CSMT through a difficult period in its history. We're now back on track, with renewed vigour, thanks in large part to Jay's timely shouldering of the burden.

Another **Bulletin** milestone, not connected with the AGM, is the addition of Judith Cohen to the staff as an Associate Editor. Last issue Judith replaced Howard Kaplan as songs editor; however, as both Judith and Michael Pollock have

wider areas of expertise than merely "songs" or "instrumental music," we decided to abolish the constricting categories and call them simply "Associate Editors." You already know Judith through her many contributions in the past; it's good to have her on board on an official basis. Welcome, Judith!

Lastly, this issue is late, due to an unexpected swamped period at work on my part, followed by an illness on George's. I'm afraid our punctuality streak is broken already! These things happen in a

purely volunteer organization run by unpaid workers in their available avocational time. However, our sights are set on breaking our existing winning streak, starting next issue.

Please don't hesitate to let us know any concerns you have about the **Bulletin**, and shower us with letters, songs, articles, reviews, volunteers for French Canada Editor, etc.

[La version française paraîtra dans le prochain numéro.]

John Leeder



What's a nice (?) Texas-Canadian boy doing, writing about Yiddish culture? Trying to be very careful, that's what! Acknowledging, for starters, that I know very little about it. What little I do know, however, has moved me deeply, from the early Sixties, when I saw Zero Mostel as Tevye in a telefilm of the play **The World of Sholem Aleichem**, a performance which sent me to Samuel French for a copy of the script and to the Modern Library for a collection of Aleichem's stories. I also discovered that "sholem aleichem" is Hebrew for the same thing as "salaam aleikum," and therein of course lies the familiar tale (retold in so many lands, among so many different dualities) that breaks our hearts. When will Peace ever be with us? Or Justice?

The genesis of this issue is purely serendipitous: Ghitta's songs and commentary and the Flying Bulgar Klezmer discs came over the transom. I grabbed the latter for myself, with the idea of joining an extended review to my photos of the group from Calgary's Stephen Avenue Mall during the city's Jazz Festival in 1991. I later found the most recent offering from Finjan in my favorite record store, which is, in Calgary, The Record Store. I wish I could say I took the project on to make sure it got done properly; I really did it only because I wanted to have the discs for myself. I wanted the discs because I love the music. Special thanks are due to Rona Altrows and Nomi Kaston for adding the insider's point of view, which I clearly cannot provide.

Klezmer music, like the blues and Irish music, speaks to us of much that goes on in our worlds and lives, sometimes politely asking that we think about some matters that may trouble us. I'd like to point out that this issue is put together in Alberta, whose massive Reform Party representation in Parliament may or may not prove to justify our fears that their agenda covers lurking racism; however that works out, there is a best to the province as well as a worst. In one of their handouts, the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band notes that the group was put together initially for a few *ad hoc* performances, "...but the wildly enthusiastic response we received ... convinced us that people wanted (and needed) to hear this music." This music *is* needed, for the same reason that M.T. Kelly, accepting the Governor General's Award for his novel **A Dream Like Mine** during the turbulent 1988 Olympic season, observed that we need the Lubicon Cree as much as they need a square deal from us: that the human cultural ecology requires diversity for its health, just as the biological ecology does.

I'd like to dedicate this issue to the memory of L.S.: as the man from Austin said, "Anything worth crying can be smiled...."

George W. Lyon