

PAYSON R. STEVENS AND CHARLES M. LEVINE

Edited by Sol Steinmetz

MESHUGGENARY

CELEBRATING THE WORLD OF YIDDISH

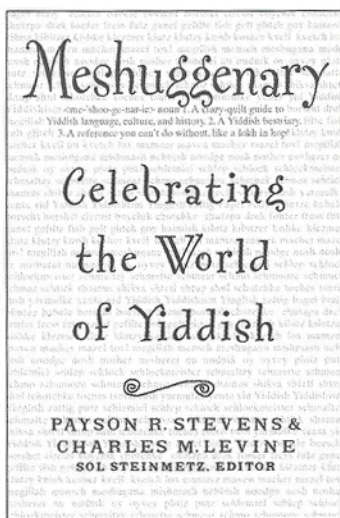
Oy, vey! A highly entertaining and informative introduction to the Yiddish language and its 100-year-old culture in America.

The Yiddish language and culture are alive and well. *The Random House Dictionary* and *Oxford English Dictionary* both contain almost 100 Yiddish words. The impact of the Yiddish culture is strongly felt in comedy routines that draw on the comic headliners of the Catskills, the literary art of Isaac Bashevis Singer and Art Spiegelman, the culinary arts of myriad delicatessens, and the renewed popularity of klezmer music. Now for anyone who has ever *noshed* on a bagel or yelled at the *schmuck* who had the *chutzpah* to cut someone off at the traffic light, comes a richly researched and eclectic introduction to the "oys" and joys of Yiddishkeit.

Beautifully designed and illustrated, *Meshuggenary* explores the basics of Yiddish grammar and vocabulary; blessings, curses, and insults; proverbs and sayings; and the difference between Yiddish and Yinglish. Beyond the language, the authors offer captivating glimpses at the role of women in Yiddish culture, Yiddish literature and art, music and theater, and of course, food. There's also important information on Yiddish organizations, schools, and libraries; events and festivals; and websites.

Perfect for language mavens, those of Jewish descent who are discovering or rediscovering their heritage, or anyone interested in pop culture, *Meshuggenary* is a must-have guide to everything necessary to *schmooze* in or about Yiddish.

Payson R. Stevens has worked as an artist, designer, and writer for thirty years. He and his wife live in Del Mar, California. Charles M. Levine is a former publishing executive who lives in Forest Hills, New York. Sol Steinmetz has edited more than thirty dictionaries and many reference books, among them *Yiddish and English: The Story of English in America* and the *Dictionary of Jewish Usage*. He and his wife live in New Rochelle, New York.



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