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To: daroskies@JTSA.EDU  
Cc: JAShandler@aol.com  
Subject: a panel at the SA conference

Dear David,

First, a gut un zis yor to you and yours; we've just gotten tht (or partly without) our twin daughters and only children, who are now in their first year of college, and it's been surprisingly disorienting, but always very interesting.

Jeffrey Shandler wrote me as follows: "David already has you in mind to lead a group discussion on translating SA; we're hoping to invite some published translators to participate as well. I suggest you write to David (and if you like, cc your letter/email to me) as to what you'd like to present, if you have thoughts re participants, format, etc., and between the two of you work out what you think would make sense for such a session."

So that's what I'm doing here. I don't have any fixed ideas about this, but I do have some tentative ones - 1) I'd like to give a sort of field report on extant SA translation, along the lines that have been sketched out in the notes I've sent you (I'll send you another batch, on the Wolf version of the tailor story, the Freidlin excerpts from Motl Peysi, and the Shevrin versions of the children's stories, which I've just ordered). I would strive to keep this from being bad-mannered; I might quote passages that seem to me good examples of practices I'd argue against, but I wouldn't argue - and don't feel - that what's at issue is incompetence or irresponsibility, but would suggest, I think, that it's time for a re-examination of principles in this matter. Then, I think, it's a question of whether you want other talks on the panel to be given by translators or scholars (that's a false distinction - what I mean is the difference between translators who are speaking with reference to their own translations, and scholars who are speaking without making such reference, or for that matter who haven't published their own translations). Kenneth Wishnia might be one person to ask, given that he's written on this subject; I don't know him personally, though. Leonard Wolf would be another (I admired his translation a lot, I should say), Freidlin and Shevrin would be other possibilities. Someone who might be touched to be asked would be Saki Bercovitch, whose translation of "The Pot" I very much admire, and who I know is eager to enter, or re-enter, the Yiddishist community. Or maybe you'd want someone like Kathryn Hellerstein, who's obviously active as a translator, but whose sense of SA translations is derived from her own work in that area but from her teaching of his texts in the classroom - certainly an important space to think of in connection with this enterprise. I'd say, ideally, myself and three others. You might well have other names to suggest, or other lines along which to organize all this - as I said, my thoughts about the matter at this point are tentative.

I hope all's well with you - al dos guts, Larry Rosenwald

P.S. - I was thinking of coming to the party on the 26th - will you be there? Do you know who's likely to come? LR