ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE AT LEHMAN COLLEGE THIS FALL

BRONX, NY – This fall, Lehman College will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer with a series of movie screenings, lectures, discussions and exhibitions, as well as a musical lecture by the world-famous Yiddish folk music authority, Zalmen Mlotek.

The centennial program, entitled “Becoming an American Writer: The Life and Works of Isaac Bashevis Singer,” is free and open to the public, though some events require pre-registration. Lehman is one of 60 libraries and institutions across the country to be awarded a grant from the Library of America and the American Library Association, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, to host this program.

Singer, born in the poor Jewish quarter of Leoncin, Poland, migrated to New York City in 1935 and has written numerous novels and short stories. Most of his writing deals with the Eastern European Jewish experience and Jewish immigration and assimilation in America. "The universality of his characters' grappling with issues of immigration and assimilation transcend ethnic boundaries and speak to all immigrants, regardless of their country of origin," says Professor Rona Ostrow, Chief Librarian and one of the organizers of this event.

Professor Ostrow, along with Professor Zelda Kahan Newman, a noted scholar in the field of Yiddish language and literature, will moderate a six-session book and film discussion series during the fall semester. Some of Singer’s most famous works will be discussed, including Yentl the Yeshiva Boy, Gimpel The Fool, Short Friday and The Spinoza of Market Street.

Zalmen Mlotek, Executive Director of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, will also be giving a free musical theater performance as part of the program, entitled “Becoming American: A Musical Journey.” The concert is also free to the public but tickets are required. The celebration will also feature a host of other events that are free to the public (see calendar below).
Calendar of Events:

- Book and Film Discussion groups, led by Professor Zelda Kahan Newman and assisted by Professor Rona Ostrow. All groups meet at 2 pm in the Library Conference Room. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis with ten seats reserved for the Lehman College community and ten seats for community residents. Pre-registration is required. Contact the Lehman College Library office at 718-960-8577. Copies of Singer’s Collected Stories will be available (for purchase) in the College Bookstore, with additional copies on hand at the Library Reserve Desk (for reading in the Library).

  - **October 4th**: “Gimpel the Fool”
  - **October 18th**: “Short Friday”
  - **October 25th**: “Yentl the Yeshiva Boy”
  - **November 1st**: *Yentl* (film)
  - **November 8th**: “The Spinoza of Market Street”
  - **November 15th**: *Enemies: A Love Story* (film)

- **October 20th**, 2:30 pm, Lovinger Theater. Musical lecture by Zalmen Mlotek, Executive Director of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, on “Becoming American: A Musical Journey.” Free, but tickets are required. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Professor Rona Ostrow, Lehman College Library, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468-1589. Please specify the number of tickets you are requesting.

- **November 22nd**, 2 pm, Library Atrium, 2nd Floor (general seating). Lecture by Professor Zelda Kahan Newman on “Singer and Becoming and American Writer.”

- **August – December**, Library Lobby. Exhibit, prepared by Professor Janet Munch, featuring copies of Singer’s books, as well as photos and videotapes.

Contact the Lehman College Library office at 718-960-8577 for additional information.