

Boston's Vilna Shul's *Making a Mark* Speaker Series Presents:

## ***Boston's Freylekher Kabtsn: A Tribute to Ben Gailing on his 10th Yahrtzeit***

Sunday, April 19, 2009

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Vilna Shul, 18 Phillips St., Boston, MA 02114

Info: [Event Website](#) or [rachel@vilnashul.org](mailto:rachel@vilnashul.org) or 617-523-2324

Suggested Donation:

\$10



Musician and ethnomusicologist Hankus Netsky will present an appreciation on the work of Ben Gailing, the Boston radio personality known to local audiences for sixty-seven years as "Der Freylekher Kabtsn" (The Happy Pauper).

Born in 1898 in Krasnopolye, a small town near Bialystock, Poland, Gailing came to the U.S. as a teenager and acted on the New York Yiddish Stage. Moving to Boston in 1931, he became a fixture on Boston's Jewish cultural scene for over six decades, directing Yiddish theatre productions, producing shows featuring prominent New York Jewish entertainers, and continuing his weekly Jewish radio broadcasts until his death in April of 1998 at the age of 101. He also served as cantor of Temple Beth Abraham in Canton for over thirty years.

Netsky's lecture will feature clips from Gailing's radio broadcasts and live performances of

some of his musical compositions. The program is a collaboration between the Vilna Shul and the Discovery Project, a Jewish cultural recovery project of the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA.

*Boston's Freylekher Kabtsn: A Tribute to Ben Gailing on his 10th Yahrtzeit* will be hosted by Hankus Netsky, a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and ethnomusicologist. He is chair of the Contemporary Improvisation Department at the New England Conservatory, Vice President for Education at the National Yiddish Book Center, and founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band, an internationally renowned Yiddish music ensemble. He will discuss the accomplishments of Ben Gailing, host of the longest running radio program in Boston broadcast history. Netsky has composed extensively for film, theater, and television, and collaborated with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Robin Williams, Joel Grey, and Theodore Bikel. He has produced numerous CDs on the Rounder and Vanguard labels. Hankus has received the Yosel Mlotek award for the perpetuation of Yiddish culture and the Lawrence Lesser and Louis Krasner awards for Excellence in Teaching from the New England Conservatory. His essays on klezmer and Yiddish Music have been published by the University of California, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Scranton presses.

This event is a collaboration with the Discovery Project at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA.

\*For more information contact [rachel@vilnashul.org](mailto:rachel@vilnashul.org), call 617-523-2324 or visit [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org).