

Naomi Praver Kadar, Ph.D.

Naomi Praver Kadar, Ph.D. (1949-2010), was an inspiring educator and scholar. With radiant energy, Naomi exuded a love for the beauty of Yiddish language and culture. With endless enthusiasm, even during her struggle with cancer, she touched the lives of hundreds of students of all ages.

The daughter of Holocaust survivors, Naomi understood the importance of Jewish and Yiddish culture from a very early age. After graduating from City College in New York, she decided to begin a life in Israel, where she married and started her family. In the early 1970s, she received a teaching certificate from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. When her family returned to the United States, Naomi refocused her language instruction on Yiddish, and later became the National Director for the Workmen's Circle (*Arbeter Ring*) Schools.



Naomi held teaching positions in academic institutions such as Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. During the summers, Naomi taught at various summer programs including the Tel Aviv University Summer Program, the Free University of Brussels Summer Program, and the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program sponsored by YIVO and Columbia and later by YIVO and NYU.

Naomi's passion for Yiddish language and culture culminated in her Ph.D. in Yiddish Literature from Columbia University. Her research focused on American Yiddish children's magazines from 1917 to 1950. During the same period, Naomi continued to produce rigorous scholarship in her academic life, while conceiving, founding, and creating a brand-new online ESL education program, BrainPOP ESL. This program allows students to access and learn the English language in a fun and entertaining way, bringing the joys of Naomi's classroom to students around the world. Naomi's love of language shines in the eyes of every student who laughs as he learns, who delights in his new and wondrous understanding.

Her support of Yiddish language and culture never flagged, and Naomi lived every day of her life true to her ideals. She was fiercely devoted to what she cared about most deeply: family, tradition, education, memory, love of Israel and, *yidishkayt*.