

Nina G

L'chaim and Beyond

Gather round hand in hand
run in out and in out, chairs up
hava nagila to the *klezmer* and his
band, clap swirl and clap and swirl
handkerchief on the tips of our fingers
hava neranenah and dance the *hora, hora,*
הָאָרְעַע my *khaveyrim!* It is here where we
are family, where we spin the circle of
life, push it forward with our feet and invoke
it in unified clap, *havaaaa nagilaaa, hava nagila, hava*
nagila ve-nismeha! Forward and back, three left
five right bounce and move with hands
intertwined, break so that another may
join in out in and out, one circle now two
three life enlarged, *klezmer* violin
enthralled with foot to glass as
the melody of tear smile shard
promise fills the room.

[Yiddish & Hebrew Trans.] **I'chaim** (H.): Jewish toast meaning to life or to happiness ; **hava nagila** (H.): let us rejoice (lyric from classic Jewish wedding song 'Hava Nagila') ; **klezmer** (Y.): musician who plays Ashkenazi Jewish dance music ; **hava neranenah** (H.): let us sing (ibid. same song) ; **hora** (H.): a Jewish traditional circle dance for special occasions ; הָאָרְעַע (Y.): Yiddish spelling of hora ; **khaveyrim** (Y.) friends ; **hava nagila ve-nismeha** (H.) : let us rejoice and be happy (ibid. same song).

Author Biography

Nina G is an American writer, music journalist, and musician. She has lived most of her life in the United Kingdom where she is currently completing an Undergraduate Degree in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Warwick. Her written work has appeared in *I Am BeYoutiful*, *HerCampus* and *Cobalt Magazine*, while her music work includes a large discography, several radio plays, and even her own Youtube Talk Show — *Music Talk With Nina G*.

