



BUILDING A FUTURE IN AMERICA

YIVO's 90th Anniversary Celebration

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015

Schedule

11:00am

Welcoming Remarks, *Jonathan Brent (YIVO Executive Director)*

11:15am

YIVO in Vilna

Archival film footage of YIVO in Vilna as featured in the Letters to Afar exhibition. Letters to Afar was created by Péter Forgács, and scored by The Klezmatiks.

11:30am

The Move to America

Keynote Address, Kalman Weiser (York University)

**Saving Yiddish, Saving American Jewry:
Max Weinreich and the Mission of YIVO in Post-Holocaust America**

In early 1940, Max Weinreich, co-founder and guiding spirit of YIVO, arrived as a refugee in the United States and immediately set about transforming YIVO's modest American Division into what he thought would be its temporary world headquarters. As he came to understand the utter devastation visited upon Eastern European Jewry, he was obliged to reconsider the future of Yiddish and Jewish peoplehood. Though heartbroken, Weinreich devoted himself with characteristic vision and vigor to building Yiddish scholarship on new shores, and to empowering American Jewry—now poised to assume intellectual and cultural leadership of the Jewish Diaspora—to understand itself.

12:15pm-1:15pm

YIVO and the Holocaust: Research, Education and Memorialization

Panel discussion with David Engel (NYU), Michael Grunberger (Director of Collections, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), Sam Kassow (Trinity College), David Fishman, moderator (Jewish Theological Seminary)

YIVO was one of the first and leading centers of Holocaust research, scholarship and commemoration. This panel examines YIVO's role in developing the field of Holocaust research during the first postwar decade and its unsurpassed archival collection documenting the Shoah.

1:15pm-2:15pm

Lunch (Lunch will not be provided, please make personal arrangements)

2:15pm-3:15pm

“University for All”: YIVO, Scholarship and Jewish Education

Panel discussion with Hasia Diner (NYU), Rakhmiel Peltz (Drexel University), Daniel Soyer (Fordham University), Jonathan Brent, moderator (YIVO)

With an extraordinary archive and library, the Max Weinreich Center, publications, fellowships and educational programs, YIVO is the preeminent research institution on East European Jewish history and culture. This panel explores YIVO's little-known impact on the development of Jewish Studies in America, its leading role in Yiddish language research and education, and why its mission to bridge the academic and public education of Jewish history is so significant.

3:15pm-3:45pm

The Future of YIVO

Special Address, Jonathan Brent (YIVO)

4:00pm-6:00pm

Birthday Party and Reception