



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER |

SPRING 2023

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

YIVO has embarked on an ambitious 5-Year Plan to strengthen infrastructure, expand our activities within the local tri-state area, and develop new educational initiatives. We are also thrilled to announce that we have commenced the largest archival digitization project in YIVO's history, the digitization of YIVO's Jewish Labor and Political Archive, consisting of approximately 3.5 million pages (see **PAGE 10** for more details about this epic project). A major gift from the Seedlings Foundation (see **PAGE 14**) has enabled us to begin digitizing a significant portion of YIVO's Holocaust archive of 7-million primary source, original documents. This is the largest such collection of Holocaust materials in the world outside of Yad Vashem. These materials include immigration records, ghetto and concentration camp materials, contemporaneous eye-witness accounts, memoirs, diaries, letters, poetry, songs, and much more. As of this writing, 700,000 newly digitized documents from the Holocaust archive have already been placed online for researchers, scholars, and a global public. The Seedlings Foundation grant will also enable the creation of a YIVO Learning and Media Center that will be designed with state-of-the-art technology to introduce students of all ages as well the general public to a wide variety of subjects pertaining to East European and Russian Jewish life and culture. We are most grateful for the support of the Seedlings Foundation and the continuing and growing support of the YIVO community. This support has enabled us to thrive and take the organization to the next level, fulfilling our age-old mission in the most contemporary and dynamic way. Thank you for being part of this exciting journey with us.



JONATHAN BRENT
Executive Director & CEO

COVER:
Teenagers in the Adriatic displaced persons camp.
Northern Italy (near Milan), ca. 1947-48. YIVO Archives.

WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you for being a part of the YIVO family. We have accomplished so much over the past year, thanks to the support and engagement of **YOU**, our global community. Become a member today and enjoy discounts on courses throughout the year.

Your enthusiasm inspires us, and we look forward to your continued participation and support in 2023!

Visit yivo.org/Membership or call 212.294.6131.

PROGRAMS Spring Season

For tickets, more information, and program updates: yivo.org/Events

THURSDAY
FEB 16
7:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

IRENA KLEPFISZ: HER BIRTH AND LATER YEARS: NEW AND COLLECTED POEMS, 1971-2021

Lesbian poet, child Holocaust survivor, and political activist Irena Klepfisz discusses her newly published book, the first and only complete collection of her work. *In collaboration with The Workers Circle.*

THURSDAY
FEB 23
7:30PM ET
CONCERT
IN PERSON

MORE FORBIDDEN MUSIC: JEWISH COMPOSERS BANNED BY THE NAZIS

Experience a selection of rediscovered music from the 20th Century whose composers were branded as 'degenerate' by the Third Reich. *Produced by the American Society for Jewish Music, co-sponsored by YIVO, Leo Baeck Institute, and Center for Jewish History.*

MONDAY
FEB 27
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

SUMMER CAMP AND JEWISH CULTURE IN POSTWAR AMERICA

Sandra Fox, in a conversation led by Philissa Cramer (Jewish Telegraphic Agency), explores how a cultural crisis birthed summer camp as a rite of passage that remains a significant influence in American Jewish life.

WEDNESDAY
MAR 01
1:00PM ET
PANEL DISCUSSION
LIVE ON ZOOM

ONCE UPON A TIME THE FIRE BURNED BRIGHTER

Jeremiah Lockwood, in a conversation with journalist and playwright Rokhl Kafrissen, explores the Yiddish folksong tradition, Yiddish music today, and his new arrangements of Yiddish ballads. The presentation will culminate in a video-premiere of one of his songs.

TUESDAY
MAR 07
1:00PM ET
LECTURE
LIVE ON ZOOM

MOLLY PICON AS LYRICIST

Musician-scholar Ronald Robboy offers a guide through Molly Picon's long career, choosing selected songs to show how she marshaled her writing skills not only to show off her singing to best advantage, but to flesh out characterizations and further the dramatic action of the many musicals in which she starred. *Part of Carnegie Hall's season-long exploration of the many contributions that women have made to the world of music.*

TUESDAY
MAR 14
1:00PM ET
LECTURE
LIVE ON ZOOM

AMERICAN JEWISH WOMEN AND NEW YORK OPERA CULTURE

Drawing on archival and press findings, Samantha M. Cooper explores the enduring relationship that Jewish women nurtured with New York opera culture from the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries. A response to this talk will be provided by Judith Pinnolis. *Co-sponsored by Jewish Music Forum and the American Society for Jewish Music. Part of Carnegie Hall's season-long exploration of the many contributions that women have made to the world of music.*

THURSDAY
MAR 23
7:00PM ET
CONCERT
IN PERSON & LIVESTREAMED ON ZOOM

CHANA MLOTEK: CELEBRATING A LIFE OF YIDDISH SONG

Celebrate the memory of Chana Mlotek, the longtime YIVO Music Archivist who played a key role in crafting the historical memory of Yiddish songs in our time. Performances will feature Chana's son Zalmen Mlotek as pianist and music director, grandchildren Avram Mlotek, Elisha Mlotek, Sarah Mlotek Dar, Marissa Mlotek Schonbrun, and special guests. *Part of Carnegie Hall's season-long exploration of the many contributions that women have made to the world of music.*

MONDAY
APR 03
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

JEWISH CULTURE BETWEEN CANON AND HERESY

David Biale, in a conversation with Sarah Abrevaya Stein, discusses his new anthology exploring power, sexuality, and secular Jewish thought. *Co-sponsored by The UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies.*

WEDNESDAY
APR 05
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

THIS WAS NOT AMERICA: A WRANGLE THROUGH JEWISH-POLISH-AMERICAN HISTORY

In a discussion led by Eddy Portnoy, Michael Steinlauf, historian of Polish-Jewish culture and child of Holocaust survivors, and anthropologist and artist Elzbieta Janicka examine critical moments in Jewish, Polish, and American history.

MONDAY
APR 17
7:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
IN PERSON & LIVESTREAMED ON ZOOM

ELIE WIESEL: CONFRONTING THE SILENCE

In a discussion with Samuel Norich, Joseph Berger presents Elie Wiesel as both a revered Nobel laureate and a man of complex psychological texture and contradictions.

THURSDAY
MAY 04
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

THE OBJECT OF JEWISH LITERATURE: A MATERIAL HISTORY

Barbara E. Mann, in a conversation with Justin Cammy, tells a history of modern Jewish literature, from novels and poetry to graphic novels and artists' books, through the lens of materiality and objects.

WEDNESDAY
MAY 10
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER'S SIMPLE GIMPL

David Stromberg and David Roskies discuss Stromberg's newly published bilingual edition of Isaac Bashevis Singer's *Simple Gimpl*, which tells the story of the deathbed confession of an orphaned baker who is ridiculed by his community.

TUESDAY
JUN 06
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

FRANZ KAFKA: THE DIARIES

Ross Benjamin and Jonathan Brent discuss Benjamin's recently published English translation of Franz Kafka's diaries, which include new content such as details, names, literary works, and previously omitted passages of a sexual nature.

Unable to attend our programs?
Watch past YIVO events at yivo.org/Video.

THURSDAY
JUN 08
7:00PM ET
FILM SCREENING
IN PERSON

FOUR WINTERS

A new film explores the story of the Jewish Partisans who blew up trains, bridges, police stations, and telegraph lines, making the forests so dangerous that Nazi soldiers were afraid to enter.

THURSDAY
JUN 15
1:00PM ET
PANEL DISCUSSION
LIVE ON ZOOM

MAX WEINREICH AND THE MEANING OF YIDDISH

Naomi Seidman, Kenneth Moss, and Jeffrey Shandler, in this panel moderated by Kalman Weiser, examine Max Weinreich's evolving understanding of the meaning of *Yidische visnshaft* and the role of Yiddish in Jewish life throughout his career.

YIDDISHCLUB

A program for Yiddish enthusiasts the world over, the YIVO Yiddish club is an informal monthly gathering to celebrate *Mame-loshn*. Hosted by Shane Baker with a new guest each month, sessions take place in English, live on Zoom, and include ample time for audience questions and group discussion.

SUNDAY
FEB 05
2:00PM ET

THEATER AND STORYTELLING

With Eleanor Reissa, a Tony-nominated director, actress, a prize-winning playwright, and an international singing artist.

SUNDAY
MAR 12
2:00PM ET

THE YIDDISH FORWARD

With Rukhl Schaechter, the editor of the Yiddish *Forward* (*Forverts*) and the producer and star of the YouTube series "Yiddish Word of the Day."

SUNDAY
APR 16
2:00PM ET

YIDDISH HIP HOP

With Josh "Socalled" Dolgin, a pianist, accordionist, producer, journalist, photographer, filmmaker, magician, cartoonist and puppet maker based in Montreal, Quebec.

Visit yivo.org/YiddishClub for details.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

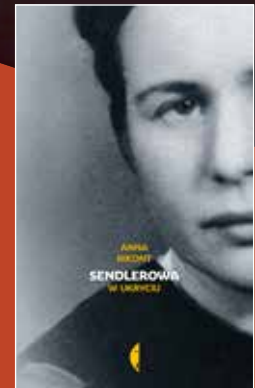
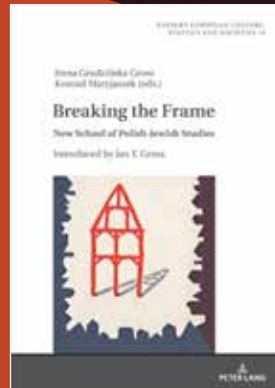


75 public programs

23.8K+ registrations

234.4K+ YouTube views

KNOWLEDGE UNDER SIEGE



WEDNESDAY
FEB 15
1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

BREAKING THE FRAME: NEW SCHOOL OF POLISH-JEWISH STUDIES

Irena Grudzińska Gross and Konrad Matyjaszek explore how, by addressing the anti-Jewish violence perpetrated through Polish history, past violence can be overcome and prevented in the future.

WEDNESDAY
MAR 15
1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

IRENA SENDLER: IN HIDING

Through excavating the truth about Irena Sendler's life and the stories of the children she saved, Anna Bikont reveals numerous silenced facts pertaining to the stances and behaviors of Polish society during the war and what came after.

WEDNESDAY
APR 19
1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

THE GUARDIANS OF FATE

Bożena Keff examines Polish-language literature about the Holocaust, asking whether those literary works contain a diagnosis of Polish culture that corresponds with its assessment by critical humanities and arts today.

WEDNESDAY
MAY 17
1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

NIGHT WITHOUT END: THE FATE OF JEWS IN GERMAN OCCUPIED POLAND

Jan Grabowski examines the Jewish struggle for survival, the agency of the local populations, and the German genocidal strategies during and after the liquidation of the ghettos through the end of the occupation.

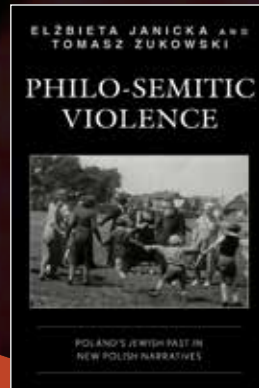
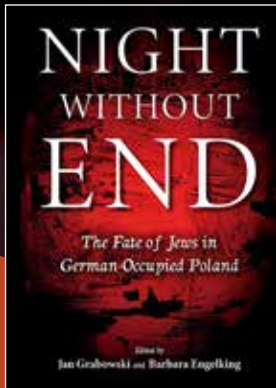
WEDNESDAY
JUN 21
1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

PHILO-SEMITIC VIOLENCE: POLAND'S JEWISH PAST IN NEW POLISH NARRATIVES

Elżbieta Janicka and Tomasz Żukowski examine how patterns of exclusion and violence are reproduced when antisemitism is not openly problematized, reassessed, and rejected in light of its consequences and the basic principle of equal rights.

New Scholarship from Poland



This series of programs presents a new Polish school of research into the Holocaust and antisemitism informed by critical theory and cultural critique. Initiated by Jan Tomasz Gross' book, *Neighbors* (2000), this new school proposes a new frame of analysis of the Polish responsibility for the destruction of Polish Jewry. It revisits the endeavor of *khurbn forshung* conducted in Poland by Holocaust survivor scholars. First impeded then destroyed by Polish bottom-up and top-down antisemitism, this post-war effort reappears as a reference point and an object of critical analysis as well.

Research into the material facts and cultural representations (imagery, narratives, ideas) of mainstream Polish Holocaust discourse reveals how much the facts were produced by the representations and stemmed from sources that have been neither deconstructed nor deactivated. A meticulous reconstruction of the historical process, its mechanisms and stakes, causes and effects, allows for a more complete grounding of Jewish social and cultural history. Providing context to the events of the Holocaust in Poland and situating them within a sociocultural continuum – between their eve and aftermath – also enables a sharper understanding of present-day patterns of distortion and propaganda that seek to suppress the results of historical research and through this effort to deny the Polish realities of the Holocaust.



Fall 2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

THE YIVO SOUND ARCHIVE AT 40: A CELEBRATION

(SEPTEMBER 13) The YIVO Sound Archive houses over 20,000 recordings (including 78, 45, and 33rpm discs, open-reel and cassette tapes, piano rolls, and compact discs and other digital formats) as well as various artifacts related to sound recordings. One of the most extensive and frequently consulted Jewish music collections in the world, it embraces Yiddish and Hebrew folk, popular and theater music, Holocaust songs, liturgical, choral and instrumental compositions and, of course, klezmer music, as well as spoken word, oral histories, interviews, and radio programs. In addition to serving researchers, the Sound Archive maintains a special link to the Yiddish cultural world, and has close relationships with many musicians who utilize its resources in creating their art. It serves anyone seeking to include Yiddish music in their life or work, including teachers, journalists, camp counselors, and radio producers, among others. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Sound Archive's founding, YIVO hosted a fascinating insider discussion of its history, collections, projects, and other stories. Moderated by Hankus Netsky, this event brought together the founder of YIVO's Sound Archive, Henry Sapoznik, current YIVO Sound Archivists Lorin Sklamberg and Eléonore Biezunski, and former YIVO Sound Archivist Jenny Romaine. *Co-sponsored by the Klezmer Institute.*

HIDDEN HERETICS: JEWISH DOUBT IN THE DIGITAL AGE

(SEPTEMBER 22) Scholar Ayala Fader, in conversation with Josh Lambert, professor and director of the Jewish Studies Program at Wellesley College, discussed the fascinating, often heart-wrenching stories of married ultra-Orthodox Jewish men and women in twenty-first-century New York who lead "double lives" in order to protect those they love. Drawing on five years of fieldwork with those living double lives and the rabbis, life coaches, and religious therapists who minister to, advise, and sometimes excommunicate them, Fader investigated religious doubt and social change in the digital age. In following those living double lives, who range from the religiously observant but open-minded on one end to atheists on the other, Fader delved into universal quandaries of faith and skepticism, the ways digital media can change us, and family frictions that arise when a person radically transforms who they are and what they believe.

HOW TO DO RESEARCH AT YIVO

(MARCH 14, SEPTEMBER 29, AND OCTOBER 31) YIVO's collections represent the single largest and most comprehensive collection of materials on Eastern European Jewish civilization in the world. With some 24 million items in the YIVO Archives and nearly 400,000 volumes in all European languages in YIVO's Library, the possibilities for research are endless. Thousands of people perform research in the Archives and Library each year, yet given the size and complexity of the collections, research can be intimidating for newcomers and provide unique challenges for even the most experienced researchers. With this in mind, YIVO launched the "How to Do Research at YIVO" series, in which YIVO archivist Hallel Yadin provided overviews and how-to guides to introduce newcomers to the collections and help researchers navigate the collections more easily. Sessions have touched on topics like how to use YIVO's databases effectively, how an archive differs from a library, what key terminologies associated with archives and libraries are useful to know, and how to access YIVO's digitized holdings.

EDUCATION

WINTER PROGRAM AND WINTER YIDDISH

Held annually since 2012, the YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization delved into the literature, history, and culture of East European

Jewry with a diverse lineup of international instructors – Jonathan Brent, Maya Benton, Maya Balakirsky Katz, Jeffrey Herf, Elżbieta Janicka, Dovid Katz, Tony Michels, Anita Norich, Ilan Stavans, and Marek Tuszewicki. During the program, participants engaged with the Ashkenazi experience in courses rarely found outside the university setting.

In the keynote event, “Legitimizing Genocide: Science, Scholarship and the Complicity of the Academy,” Alan Steinweis and Jonathan Brent explored how antisemitic discourse operated in Nazi Germany to legitimize antisemitic policy. Steinweis and Brent examined how understanding this history can be used to understand antisemitism in other historical contexts, including the contemporary U.S.

YIVO also ran a series of winter Yiddish seminars taught by Eve Jochnowitz, Josh Price, Vera Szabó, and Perl Teitelbaum. These seminars covered topics such as literature, children’s music, and cooking. 280+ students participated in the Winter Program and winter Yiddish seminars.

2023 URIEL WEINREICH SUMMER PROGRAM IN YIDDISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

Learn more and apply at summerprogram.yivo.org.

JUNE 20 – JULY 28, 2023

For the second year, our six-week intensive program will take place in person and online. The Summer Program offers peerless instruction in the Yiddish language and an in-depth exploration of the literature and culture of East European Jewry and its diaspora communities. The program features Yiddish language study from beginner to advanced levels, history and culture seminars, *shmues* (conversation) classes, a theater workshop, lectures by visiting scholars, a Yiddish song workshop, and more.

The Weinreich Program treats Yiddish as a living language and emphasizes spoken Yiddish. Whether on Zoom or in person, we hope you will join us this summer!

General Applicants Apply by: **March 3**

If six weeks isn't enough, try these additional programs:

REFRESHER COURSE JUNE 12-16

Instructor: Dovid Braun

YIDDISH: THE NEXT LEVEL JULY 31 – AUGUST 12

Instructors: Miriam Trinh and Eliezer Niborski

ONCE-A-WEEK YIDDISH

12 weeks

12 total sessions

1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I YIDDISH

(Sunday) Mar. 12 – Jun. 4 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Yaad Biran

(Monday) Feb. 27 – May 15 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET

Instructor: Lucas Fiszman

(Tuesday AM) Feb. 28 – May 16 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Malena Chinski

(Tuesday PM) Feb. 28 – May 16 | 4:30pm-6:00pm ET

Instructor: Nina Warnke

(In-person in NYC) Mar. 14 – Jun. 6 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET

Instructor: Yankl-Peretz Blum

BEGINNER II YIDDISH

(Sunday) Feb. 26 – May 14 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET

Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

(Tuesday) Feb. 21 – May 23 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Vera Szabó

(In-person in NYC) Feb. 16 – May 18 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET

Instructor: Annie Cohen

BEGINNER III YIDDISH

(Sunday) Feb. 26 – May 14 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET

Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

(Monday I) Feb. 27 – May 15 | 4:30pm-6:00pm ET

Instructor: Nina Warnke

(Monday II) Feb. 27 – May 22 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET

Instructor: Miri Koral

(Tuesday AM) Feb. 28 – May 16 | 10:00am-11:30am ET

Instructor: Nina Warnke

(Tuesday PM) Feb. 28 – May 16 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET

Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

BEGINNER IV YIDDISH

(Sunday AM) Mar. 5 – May 28 | 10:00am-11:30am ET

Instructor: Philip Schwartz

(Sunday PM) Mar. 5 – May 21 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET

Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

(Friday) Feb. 24 – May 19 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET

Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH

(Sunday) Mar. 5 – May 21 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET

Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

(Monday) Feb. 27 – May 15 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH

(Sunday) Feb. 26 – May 14 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET

Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

(Monday) Feb. 27 – May 15 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Vera Szabó

INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH

Feb. 27 – May 15 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET

Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH

Feb. 26 – May 14 | 1:30pm-3:00pm ET

Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

ADVANCED II YIDDISH

Feb. 26 – May 14 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET

Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

SPRING CLASSES

This spring we are offering 40 courses, all held remotely on Zoom unless otherwise noted. Join us and students from around the world! Space is limited and classes fill up quickly, so be sure to register today.

To learn more and register, visit yivo.org/Classes.

Questions? Visit yivo.org/Class-FAQ to help determine which class is right for you!

TWICE-A-WEEK YIDDISH

12 weeks
24 total sessions
1.5 hours each

INTENSIVE BEGINNER I&II YIDDISH

Mar. 5 – May 31 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

INTENSIVE BEGINNER III&IV YIDDISH

Feb. 23 – May 21 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE I&II YIDDISH

Feb. 23 – May 22 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE III&IV YIDDISH

Feb. 23 – May 21 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

INTENSIVE ADVANCED I&II YIDDISH

Feb. 22 – May 24 | 9:00am-10:30am ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó

INTENSIVE ADVANCED III&IV YIDDISH

Feb. 21 – May 23 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

INTENSIVE ADVANCED V&VI YIDDISH

Feb. 23 – May 23 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH

10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

Mar. 12 – May 21 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
Instructor: Malena Chinski

BEGINNER II CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

(Morning) Mar. 12 – May 14 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Lila Thielemans

(Afternoon) Mar. 12 – May 14 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
Instructor: Alexandra Polyan

INTERMEDIATE II CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

(Morning) Mar. 12 – May 21 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

(Afternoon) Mar. 12 – May 21 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

READING YIDDISH

14 weeks
14 total sessions
1.8 hours each

BEGINNER I READING YIDDISH

Feb. 28 – May 30 | 1:00pm-2:50pm ET
Instructor: Josh Price

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN ENGLISH)

10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

MODERN JEWISH FRANCE: 1789 TO THE PRESENT

Mar. 5 – May 21 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Nick Underwood

JEWISH RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Mar. 13 – May 15 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Emily Roche

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN YIDDISH)

10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

SIPUREY MAYSES: THE TALES OF REBBE NAKHMAN OF BRATSLAV

▶ This class meets for 10 sessions.

Mar. 13 – May 15 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET
Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

CONTINUING WITH COLLEGE YIDDISH

▶ This class meets for 12 sessions.

Feb. 28 – May 16 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Dovid Braun



102 classes
1,230 students
22 countries

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

VISIT US AT [YIVO.ORG](https://yivo.org) | 7

FROM THE YIVO COLLECTIONS



Recent Accession

THE RECORDS OF LINKE FLIGL

The YIVO Archives is pleased to announce that we are in the process of accessioning the records of Linke Fligl. Linke Fligl was a queer Jewish chicken farm and cultural organizing project based in Millerton, NY. It was founded in 2016 and was sunset in 2022. You can learn more about Linke Fligl's story here: linkefligl.com/our-story.

The collection is rich with records, correspondence, art, and objects, including a first for the YIVO Archives: an egg, the very first one ever laid on the farm. It also includes materials from other organizations doing complementary work, including Hazon, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, and Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, among others. The materials, all told, provide an invaluable view into the collaboration and labor involved in sustaining Linke Fligl for the time it was in operation.

The Linke Fligl papers will be of interest to anyone interested in leftist/radical politics; cultural organizing; diasporism; queer, rural life; and farming and agriculture movements through a Jewish lens. We are processing the collection in collaboration with Linke Fligl and look forward to making the collection available to the public.

ARCHIVES BY THE NUMBERS

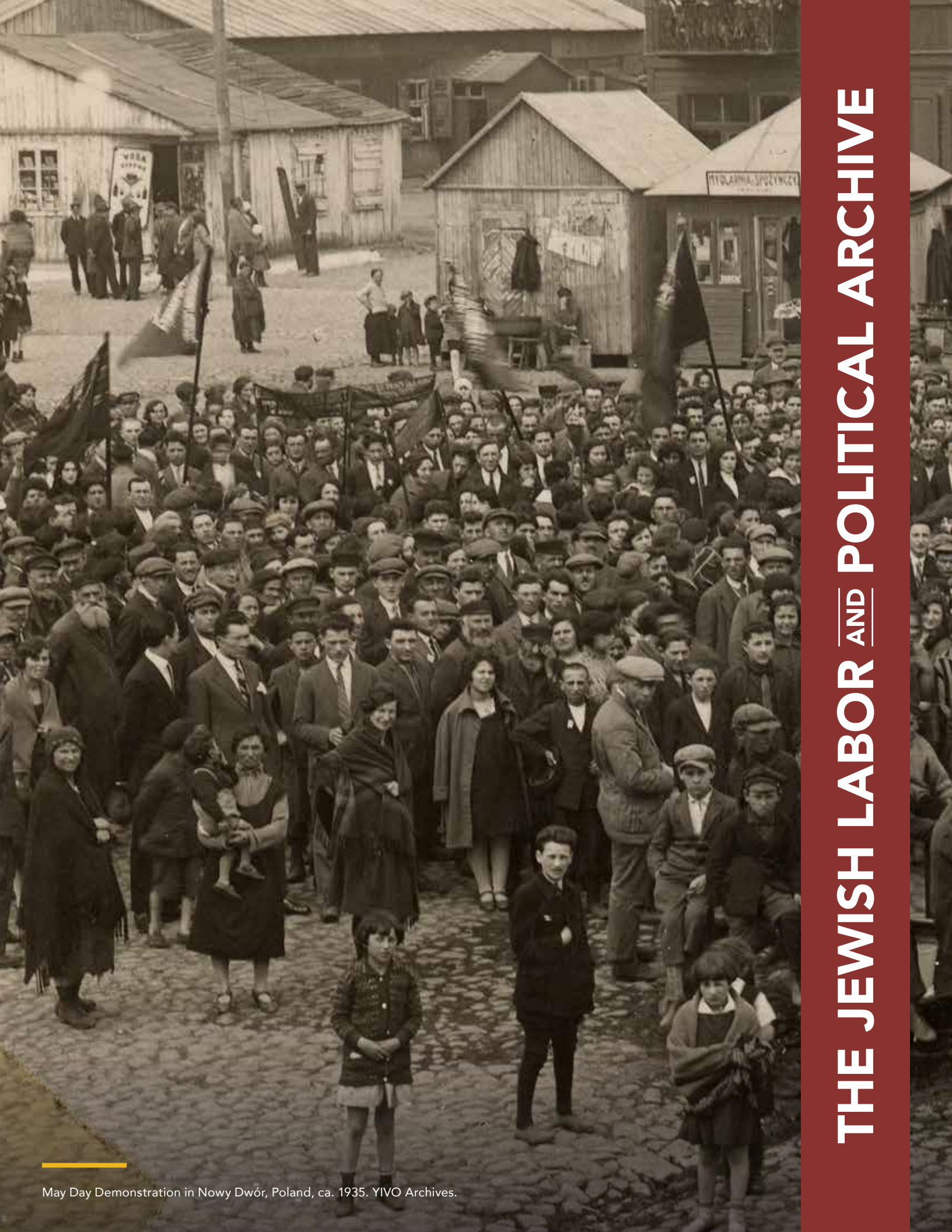
2022

~715,000

pages of archival materials made available online

~250,000

visits to YIVO's digital resources



THE JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVE

May Day Demonstration in Nowy Dwór, Poland, ca. 1935. YIVO Archives.

YIVO ANNOUNCES MAJOR PROJECT TO DIGITIZE ITS HISTORIC JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVE

YIVO is delighted to announce the digitization of its Jewish Labor and Political Archive. This eight-year project will conserve, process, digitize, and make available online free-of-charge its collections documenting Jewish political, labor, and social movements in the United States and Europe from 1870 to 1992.

The project, the largest archival digitization project in YIVO's history consists of approximately 3.5 million pages. The archive includes correspondence of major Jewish political and labor leaders including Vladimir Kossovskii, Raphael Abromovitch, Emanuel Scherer, Shmuel Arthur Zygielbaum, Morris Hillquit, Emma Goldman, and David Dubinsky; meeting minutes of clandestine revolutionary cells active in Europe from the late 1800s through World War II; ledger books detailing the activities of youth groups; manuscripts of speeches and lectures delivered by anarchists and revolutionaries; leaflets and flyers calling for protests and boycotts; posters advertising rallies and marches; sound recordings of members of the labor movement in the United States; and ephemera including flags, banners, and pins.

The Jewish Labor and Political Archive at YIVO is the most comprehensive resource on Jewish revolutionary, socialist, and labor movements in Europe and America. Many of the materials were originally collected by the Bund Archives, which was founded in 1899 in Geneva, Switzerland, to gather the organizational records and revolutionary literature published in the underground printing shops of the then-nascent Jewish Labor Bund.

The result of an impoverished Jewish working class in the Russian empire and the spread of secular ideas, the Bund was founded in Vilna in October 1897. It functioned as a kind of labor union and political party whose membership consisted of Jewish workers, intellectuals, and youth who fought against the oppressive forces of the Tsarist regime, the capitalist order, and the hierarchical Jewish community.

The Bund founded sports organizations, summer camps, Yiddish secular schools, and sanatoriums throughout Lithuania,

Poland, Russia, the United States, and other countries across the world.

In the 1930s, the Bund stood at the forefront of the struggle against antisemitism in Poland by announcing a general strike in response to waves of anti-Jewish violence and pogroms. During World War II, the Bund organized underground resistance efforts and created a network of informants who brought news of Nazi atrocities to the world.

In 1944, the Bund Archives was captured by the Nazis. After the liberation of Paris in 1945, a large portion of the collection was found in crates abandoned several miles from the city. In 1951, the Bund Archives was brought to New York where it continued its collecting operations until 1992, when the entire Bund Archives was transferred to YIVO. The materials documenting the activities of the Bund help illustrate how the transnational activities of the Jewish working class were instrumental in the international labor movement.

“In addition to providing fascinating material about Jewish political activity in pre-Revolutionary Russia and interwar Europe, these collections reveal the impact of an important aspect of the Jewish immigrant community on American politics and social life and deepen our understanding of the American Jewish experience,” said Jonathan Brent, Executive Director and CEO at YIVO.

The Jewish Labor and Political Archive at YIVO have been used in hundreds of scholarly publications, multi-day academic conferences, college courses, and museum exhibitions. YIVO has held several adult education classes that draw directly from these collections and has hosted over a dozen free public lectures by scholars on the research they conducted using the collections.

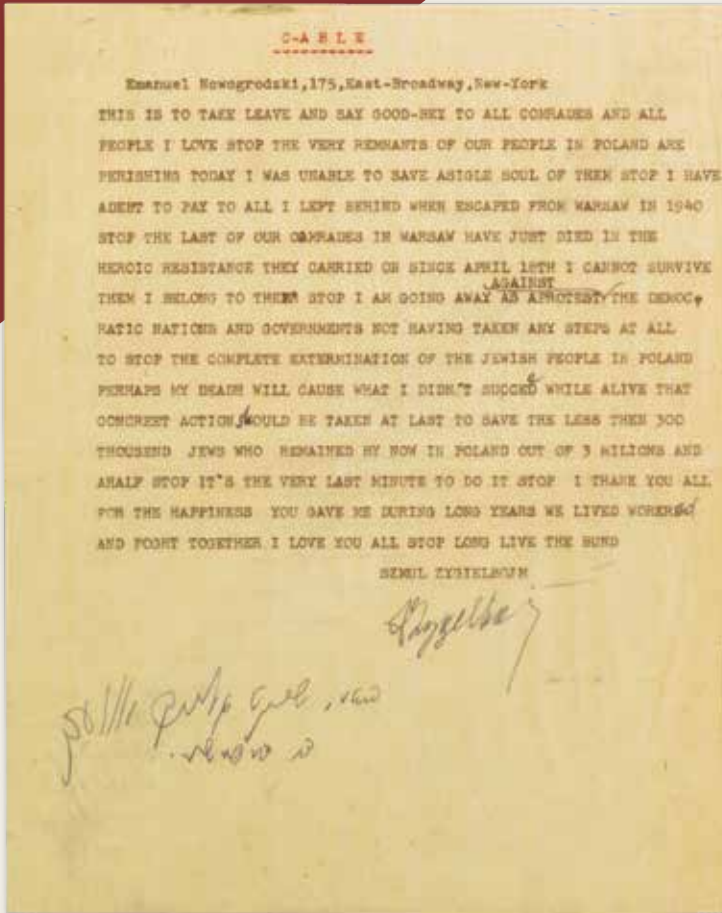
There are many possibilities for new scholarship, classes, public programs, exhibitions, archival outreach, and artistic and literary works that draw on the Jewish Labor and Political Archive at YIVO.

Featured Artifact

SHMUEL ZYGIELBOJM'S FINAL STATEMENT

After the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Shmuel Zygielbojm, a member of the Bund's Central Committee who had spent many years helping to unionize Jewish workers in Warsaw and Łódź, joined the defense committee of Warsaw during the siege of the city. After Warsaw fell, Zygielbojm became an organizing member of the underground movement of the Bund in Warsaw as well as a member of the Warsaw Judenrat. When the Nazis tasked the Judenrat with establishing a ghetto in Warsaw, Zygielbojm publicly opposed the order, a move which put him in danger and led his fellow Bundists to arrange for his escape from Poland. He arrived in the United States in September 1940 and spent the next two years working with the American Branch of the Bund, attempting to convince Americans that the situation in Europe was dire. In April 1942, Zygielbojm went to London to serve as the Bund's representative in the Polish National Council, an advisory body to the Polish government-in-exile. His pleas on behalf of Polish Jewry to the British political elite and the Polish government fell on deaf ears.

After learning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the ghetto's destruction in April 1943, Zygielbojm understood that his efforts had been futile. Zygielbojm decided on a radical move that he felt would focus attention on the fact that the Jews had been abandoned by the Allied powers and shock them into saving what remained of Polish Jewry: on May 12, 1943, Shmuel Zygielbojm took his own life. In Zygielbojm's final letters addressed to the heads of the Polish government-in-exile, he sharply denounced the free world for allowing what he called "the greatest crime in the history of mankind" to be carried out.



Last statement of Shmuel Zygielbojm before his suicide, May 12, 1943. YIVO Archives.

“ The significance of this undertaking for researchers around the world cannot be overstated...YIVO's digitization project will make the rich history of the Bund, which includes everything from labor protest to Yiddish-language education to anti-Nazi resistance, widely and freely available for the first time.

[...] I consider YIVO's digitization project to be the most important archival project of its kind in the United States presently.

— TONY MICHELS
George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History
University of Wisconsin

“ The Bund Archives is exceptionally important... Over the course of more than half a century, materials located in the Bund Archives have formed the foundations for groundbreaking books by both world-renowned and emerging scholars.

— JACK JACOBS
Professor of Political Science
John Jay College and the Graduate Center
City University of New York



YIVO WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT OF THE JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVE PROJECT (JLPA)

To date, the project has raised over \$1.2 Million towards its \$8.5 Million goal. This diverse collection includes items related to the Holocaust, labor unions, Jewish political activism, and much more. Together they offer invaluable insights into how Jews in Europe and the United States responded to the momentous events of the 20th century.

Join us on this journey as we make this historic archival collection available to a global audience.

Levels of support:

- \$1,000,000+ **Builder**
- \$500,000+ **Partner**
- \$100,000+ **Benefactor**
- \$50,000+ **Patron**
- \$25,000+ **Sponsor**
- \$10,000+ **Supporter**
- \$5,000+ **Contributor**
- \$1,000+ **Friend**

We are profoundly indebted to Irene Pletka for her generous lead support of this extraordinary collection.

YIVO gratefully acknowledges and thanks Ruth and David Levine, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation for their generous support of this project.

For more information and naming opportunities, please contact Melissa S. Cohen at 212.294.6156 or via email at MCOHEN@YIVO.ORG.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



YIVO AND UNITED NATIONS MOUNT JOINT EXHIBITION

After the End of the World: Displaced Persons and Displaced Persons Camps

YIVO is pleased to announce a new exhibition, *After the End of the World: Displaced Persons and Displaced Persons Camps*, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The exhibition will run through February 23, 2023.

The exhibit was created by the United Nations Department of Global Communications together with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and the United Nations Archives. Professor Debórah Dwork, Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity at the Graduate Center—CUNY, served as the scholar advisor for the exhibition.

An unprecedented humanitarian crisis unfolded after the Second World War.

The exhibition examines the responses of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), the first multinational response of its kind, and of Jewish Holocaust survivors in the immediate post-war years.

The exhibition is sourced with artifacts and documents from the archives of YIVO and the United Nations and illuminates the macro history and personal stories of the people living in the camps. Among YIVO's contributions are posters created by Holocaust survivors in the displaced persons camps that

reflect key aspects of their daily life. They include newspapers, announcements for sporting events and political rallies, and lectures presented at the camps. It also includes the toys and ritual and everyday objects created by displaced persons.

Official documentation, including photographs, reports and correspondence from survivors and family members trying desperately to trace one another, are drawn from the United Nations Archives.

The exhibition illuminates how the impact of the Holocaust continued to be felt after the Second World War ended and the courage and resilience of those that survived in their efforts to rebuild their lives despite having lost everything.

The exhibition is on view through February 23, 2023, at the United Nations Headquarters, located at 405 E 42nd St, New York, NY 10017.

Hours: Monday-Friday | 9:00am-5:00pm

Entrance to the United Nations Visitor Centre in New York is free, but there are requirements for all visitors. For more information, visit yivo.org/Displaced-Persons.

NEWS FROM YIVO

YIVO WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

YIVO is delighted to announce the additions of Ambassador Meryl Frank (ret) and Ambassador Eric Rubin to its Board of Directors.

A graduate of Rutgers University (BA) and Yale University (MA, MA, and MPH), Frank is an international champion of women's leadership, human rights, and political participation. Frank served as the Mayor of Highland Park, New Jersey, for ten years. In 2009 President Obama appointed Frank as the US Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Frank is currently President of Makeda Global Network, an international consulting firm specializing in leadership and media training, messaging, and strategic planning. In May 2022, President Joe Biden appointed her to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum Council.

"I grew up hearing about YIVO as a descendant of proud emigrants from Vilna. I have spent many hours in its archives sifting through precious artifacts rescued from the Vilna Ghetto, attending classes and lectures. I am honored to be invited to its Board and support its unique and expanding contribution to Jewish culture," said Meryl.

Ambassador Eric Rubin grew up in Brooklyn and New Rochelle, New York and attended the Sholem Aleichem Folkshule in Yonkers, New York, where he learned Yiddish. He was raised in a home that highly valued secular Jewish culture. Ambassador Rubin joined the Foreign Service in 1985 after graduating from Yale. Rubin was nominated for the post of ambassador by President Obama and was confirmed on December 9, 2015. He was sworn in on January 27, 2016. He was elected to serve as the President of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) after his posting as U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria (2016-2019).

"Joining the YIVO board is a thrilling honor for me," said Ambassador Rubin. "I am devoted to supporting the preservation and survival of Ashkenazi Jewish culture in Central and Eastern Europe, and to the survival of the Yiddish language as well."



YIVO RECEIVES \$2.5 MILLION GRANT TO SUPPORT TWO SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

YIVO has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the Seedlings Foundation to support two significant projects: the creation of a YIVO Learning and Media Center (YLMC), and the digitization of an important part of YIVO's Holocaust collection, the largest collection of Holocaust materials in the world outside of Yad Vashem in Israel.

The YLMC will create a physical space to showcase YIVO's Archival and Library holdings and develop educational units designed for students that will introduce Jewish history of Eastern Europe and illuminate its worldwide culture, while debunking widespread, popular misconceptions. Visitors will encounter YIVO materials directly as well as through interactive multimedia exhibitions and public programs. The YLMC will be a destination for visiting students and provide lesson kits that draw upon primary sources from YIVO's archival collections of over twenty-four million documents and objects. Short content videos on select topics of Jewish learning will also be developed.

YIVO's Holocaust collection will be digitized and made available online to a global public for free. Collections designated for digitization under this grant include records of HIAS, which aided European refugees prior to and post WWII; German Jewish Children's Aid, which helped unaccompanied and orphaned children emigrating from Europe to the United States before, during, and after the war; YIVO's Displaced Persons camp collections; the Lodz Ghetto collection; the Berlin Collection, which has records from Nazi agencies; and about 5,000 *kennkarten* (identity cards) assigned to the Jews by the Nazi regime, all stamped with a 'J' for 'Jude'. Approximately five million pages will be digitized and put online.

YIVO RECEIVES \$250,000 GRANT FROM THE YASSKY FAMILY, ESTABLISHING YIDDISH VOICES

YIVO is pleased to announce a grant of \$250,000 from the Yassky family in memory of Harriet Yassky z"l, a treasured YIVO volunteer. The grant will fund YIVO's latest initiative, *Yiddish Voices*, a series of translated literary works that will be curated by Alyssa Quint (*Tablet Magazine*/Yeshiva University) and Elissa Bemporad (Queens College/CUNY Graduate Center). The paperback editions will showcase texts (mostly translated from Yiddish) of literary and historical significance and will be published by Bloomsbury Press (UK). YIVO's *Yiddish Voices* will launch its first volume, a collection of three Yiddish plays authored by women, later this year with an event that will honor Harriet's memory. We are grateful to Lester Yassky, Rachel Yassky, Evan Yassky, Andrea Didisheim, David Yassky, and Diana Fortuna for their commitment to this special project.



From YIVO's Holocaust collection: Berlin, 1945. A Jewish couple sits on a bench labeled "Nicht für Juden" ("Not for Jews"). YIVO Archives.

**YIVO AWARDED
\$80,000 BY THE
NEW YORK
STATE COUNCIL
ON THE ARTS**



YIVO received a grant award of \$80,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support YIVO's work in fostering Jewish learning, identity, and community through courses and events inspired by our extensive Archives and Library. These programs

bring the past to life and examine the complexity of Jewish identity and culture through a contemporary lens. It will also support YIVO's dedicated, multi-generational staff, who range from their 20s to their 80s. They represent communities worldwide, with deep knowledge of Jewish history and culture and proficiency in 12 languages.

**YIVO RECEIVES
\$78,000+
CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND GRANT**



YIVO has been awarded a grant from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs' Cultural Development Fund for \$78,260 to support YIVO's public programs. YIVO was among 1,000+ organizations across New York City that received funding to deliver

arts programming that contributes to the city's extraordinary cultural life. YIVO's public programs bring a unique depth and exposure to Jewish cultural heritage through vibrant lectures, panel discussions, concerts, and book talks. These programs engage a diverse audience and draw on YIVO's Archives to look at the past through a contemporary lens. Themes include folksong and classical music, theater, pre-war European Jewish life, politics, immigration, LGBTQI identities, and the Holocaust.

**YIVO RECEIVES
\$18,000 GRANT
FROM SILVIAN
FOUNDATION**

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is delighted to announce a grant of \$18,000 from the Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc. to help con-

serve, process, and digitize the Holocaust collections that form part of YIVO's Jewish Labor and Political Archive. Collected by the Bund Archives, these collections document various aspects of the Holocaust and its aftermath, including Nazi atrocities in extermination camps and ghettos, armed and intellectual acts of Jewish resistance, and the renewal of Jewish life in the immediate post-war period.

**YIVO RECEIVES
GRANT FROM
THE NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

YIVO has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities's Division of Preservation and Access for \$9,417 to purchase the materials to rehouse YIVO's historic Jewish Labor and Political Archive, which documents Jewish political, labor, and social movements in the United States and Europe. Consisting of 900 linear feet of materials

documenting activities from 1870 to 1992, the grant will allow YIVO archivists to further ensure the preservation of these valuable materials.



IN THE MEDIA

Here are some of YIVO's media highlights from summer-fall 2022:

ARCHIVES

60 Minutes (NOVEMBER 13, 2022)

The Paper Brigade: Rescuing cultural artifacts during and after WWII

This year, the story of YIVO, the Paper Brigade, and the rescue of Jewish artifacts and culture was featured in a segment on 60 Minutes on CBS. Filmed in New York City and Vilnius, Lithuania, reporter Jon Wertheim reported on this remarkable story. The segment featured Jonathan Brent, YIVO's Executive Director & CEO, and Stefanie Halpern, YIVO's Director of Archives.

Moment Magazine (DECEMBER 16, 2022)

The Seifter Menorah: Fingerprints From a Vanished World

Metropolitan Archivist (JULY 26, 2022)

Reflections on the Role of Children in the Archival Record

In Geveb (JULY 13, 2022, MENTION)

Final Projects

EDUCATION

Australian Jewish News (OCTOBER 31, 2022)

YIVO summer program success

The Washington Post (SEPTEMBER 30, 2022)

The pandemic and apps are fueling a surge of interest in Yiddish

The Jewish Standard (SEPTEMBER 29, 2022)

'Yiddish is a really cool language'

STUDY TOUR

Australian Jewish News (DECEMBER 15, 2022)

'Haunting' journey through a shared past

The Jewish Ledger (SEPTEMBER 20, 2022)

Reclaiming European Jewish Life: A Personal Journal

The Jewish Standard (SEPTEMBER 14, 2022)

'Understanding where we come from'

JUNE 19 – JULY 2, 2023

Lithuania & Poland

STUDY TOUR EXCLUSIVELY FOR YIVO

Join YIVO for an enlightening journey to Lithuania and Poland. Examine the life that was lived as you reconnect with your own heritage. Discover the remarkable treasures of old Warsaw, Kraków, Vilnius, and Białystok. Leading the tour will be noted historian Dr. Samuel Kassow, with Dr. Jonathan Brent, YIVO Executive Director and CEO.

Chaired by Irene Pletka

Vice-chair of the YIVO Board of Directors

► Visit yivo.org/LithuaniaPoland2023 for more information.



OCTOBER 10-22, 2023

Northern Italy

STUDY TOUR EXCLUSIVELY FOR YIVO

Join YIVO on a fascinating journey of discovery across northern Italy from Torino, Genova via Firenze, Siena, Parma, Modena, Ferrara, Padua to Trieste and Venezia, discovering the fabled Jewish history, unfamiliar to most of us. Leading the tour will be renowned scholar Professor Elissa Bemporad, with noted historian Dr. Samuel Kassow.

Chaired by Irene Pletka

Vice-chair of the YIVO Board of Directors

► Visit yivo.org/NorthernItaly2023 for more information.



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Shop items inspired by our collections, online classes, and more.

YIVO STORE

► yivo-institute.myshopify.com

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YIVO gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies for their support in 2022. In addition, we extend our gratitude to all YIVO members, each of whom is critical to our success.

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**Become a member of
the YIVO Institute
for Jewish Research's
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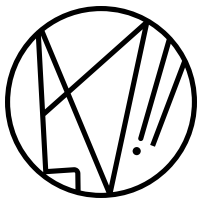
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We can assist you and your advisors in customizing a plan. Please contact Melissa Cohen at 212.294.6156 or MCOHEN@YIVO.ORG.



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 15 West 16th Street
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 LOCATED IN THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

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The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is dedicated to the preservation and study of the history and culture of East European Jewry worldwide. For nearly a century, YIVO has pioneered new forms of Jewish scholarship, research, education, and cultural expression. Our public programs and exhibitions, as well as online and on-site courses, extend our global outreach and enable us to share our vast resources. The YIVO Archives contains more than 24 million original items and YIVO's Library has over 400,000 volumes—the single largest resource for such study in the world.

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