



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 2020



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

YIVO is thriving. 2019 was another year of exciting growth. Work proceeded on schedule for the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections and we anticipate completion of this landmark project in December 2021. Millions of pages of never-before-seen documents and rare or unique books have now been digitized and put online for researchers, teachers, and students around the world to read. The next important step in developing YIVO's online capabilities is the creation of the Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum of East European Jewish Life. The first gallery, devoted to the autobiography of Beba Epstein, will launch in March 2020. For the first time, original documents, books, and other artifacts will be *translated into English* and set in a historical context for general audiences worldwide through this Museum.

In 2019 we also initiated work on the 4th Shine Online Educational Series class on Jewish food. This entertaining and educational program will launch May 1 with an event at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Other highlights include a fabulous segment on *Mashable's* online "What's in the Basement?" series; a *New York Times* feature article (June 25, 2019) on the acquisition of the archive of Nachman Blumenthal; a *Buzzfeed Newsletter* article (December 22, 2019) on Chanukah photos in the DP camps; and a *New Yorker* article (December 30, 2019) on YIVO's Autobiographies.

YIVO is an exciting place to work, to study, to explore, and to reconnect with the great treasures of the Jewish heritage of Eastern Europe and Russia. Please come for a visit, sign up for a tour, or catch us online on our YouTube channel (@YIVOInstitute).

JONATHAN BRENT
Executive Director & CEO

ABOVE: Children playing with a makeshift telephone. Haifa School Children's Album, 1932. YIVO Archives.

COVER: Students at YIVO's 2019 Summer Program *דיוס* (*siem* [graduation]). Photo: Melanie Einzig.

PROGRAMS WINTER/SPRING SEASON

For tickets and more information: yivo.org/Events | 917.606.8290

TUESDAY
FEB 04
7:00PM

FELLOWSHIP
LECTURE

WHAT IS THE CANTORIAL "GOLDEN AGE"?

Scholar and musician Jeremiah Lockwood offers insights from the YIVO archival holdings that illuminate the impassioned debates among cantors and their critics in the early 20th century. Cantor Yoel Kohn will join Lockwood in performances of representative works from classic records.

THURSDAY
FEB 06
7:00PM

BOOK LAUNCH

LEGACY OF BLOOD: JEWS, POGROMS, AND RITUAL MURDER IN THE LANDS OF THE SOVIETS

The most extreme legacies of tsarist antisemitism were pogroms and blood libels. After coming to power, the Soviets claimed to have eliminated these phenomena. In her revelatory new book, Elissa Bemporad demonstrates that the Soviets' claim was part propaganda, part reality.

TUESDAY
FEB 18
6:00PM

BOOK LAUNCH

CONFESSIONS OF A YIDDISH WRITER AND OTHER ESSAYS BY CHAVA ROSENFARB

Chava Rosenfarb was one of the most prominent Yiddish novelists of the second half of the twentieth century. This new book, compiled and edited by Goldie Morgentaler, comprises thirteen personal and literary essays by Rosenfarb.

MONDAY
MAR 02
7:00PM

BOOK LAUNCH

THE ODYSSEY OF AN APPLE THIEF

Moishe Rozenbaum's autobiography takes us through his fascinating life, starting with his boyhood in prewar Lithuania, with a focus on the rarely accounted for, most impoverished part of the Jewish population.

TUESDAY
MAR 10
7:00PM

DISCUSSION

Co-sponsored by
LaGuardia Community
College Social
Science Department
and Routledge

WHY THE FAR RIGHT KILLS

Researcher Chip Berlet and journalist Talia Lavin will discuss the Far Right's themes of demonization, scapegoating, conspiracism and apocalypticism and offer their perspectives on how to deal with this toxic social current.

WEDNESDAY
MAR 25
7:00PM

SIDNEY KRUM
YOUNG ARTISTS
CONCERT SERIES

Co-sponsored by
American Sephardi
Federation

SEPHARDIC ART SONG: A MUSICAL LEGACY OF THE SEPHARDIC DIASPORA

Mezzo-soprano and music scholar Lori Şen discusses the history, language, and culture of the Sephardim, focusing on the elements and stylistic features of Sephardic music. Following the lecture is a recital of Sephardic songs with Şen, Jeremy Lyons, and Alexei Ulitin.

MONDAY
APR 20
7:00PM

CONCERT

In partnership with
Carnegie Hall's
Beethoven Celebration

BEETHOVEN IN THE YIDDISH IMAGINATION

Celebrate Beethoven in the Yiddish imagination, with a performance of *Ode to Joy* in Yiddish translation, a bilingual reading of a Yiddish story about the Moonlight Sonata, and performances of two of Beethoven's masterworks with Jewish connections.

FRIDAY
MAY 01

The launch of our next online class, *A Seat at the Table: A Journey into Jewish Food*, will take place at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. For more information, **SEE PAGE 6**.

TUESDAY
MAY 19
7:00PM

PODCAST
RECORDING

Co-sponsored by
LABA: A Laboratory
for Jewish Culture,
The 14th Street Y

BAD RABBI – LIVE PODCAST RECORDING

YIVO's Eddy Portnoy joins Charlie Buckholtz on his *Bad Rabbi Podcast* for a discussion of Portnoy's book, *Bad Rabbi and Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press*. An underground history of downwardly mobile Jews, *Bad Rabbi* mines the Yiddish press to expose the seamy underbelly of pre-WWII New York and Warsaw.

THURSDAY
JUN 18
7:00PM

SIDNEY KRUM
YOUNG ARTISTS
CONCERT SERIES

COMPOSING IDENTITY: YIDDISH FOLKSONG IN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Enjoy a concert of classical works that incorporate Yiddish folksongs from Jewish and non-Jewish composers, including the premiere of five new works engaging with these melodies in new ways from composers Martin Bresnick, Marti Epstein, Aaron Kernis, Judith Shatin, and Alex Weiser. Featuring Emily Donato, Martin Bakari, violinist Jacob Ashworth, and pianist Lee Dionne.

AN-SKI FESTIVAL

*Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Writer and Ethnographer
S. An-ski, In Honor of His 100th Yortsayt*

SUNDAY
MAY 03
4:00PM

SEMI-STAGED
CONCERT
PERFORMANCE

Co-sponsored by the
American Society for
Jewish Music, Center
for Jewish History,
Jewish Music Forum

THE DYBBUK: BETWEEN TWO WORLDS – OPERA BY OFER BEN-AMOTS

Join us for a Hebrew-language semi-staged concert performance of this chamber opera adaptation of *The Dybbuk*, created by Israeli-American composer Ofer Ben-Amots. This is the opera's first time being performed in New York City.

WEDNESDAY
JUN 03
7:00PM

LECTURE

DYBBUKS, GOLEMS, S. AN-SKI, AND JEWISH LEGENDS IN TIMES OF FEAR

S. An-ski's play *The Dybbuk*, a story of possession set in a shtetl, is the foundation of modern Jewish drama. This talk by scholar Gabriella Safran explores its roots: in Jewish folklore, the scandalous blood libel trial in Kiev in 1913, and the political passions of Russian-Jewish revolutionaries.

THURSDAY
JUN 04
7:00PM

FILM SCREENING

THE DYBBUK – FILM SCREENING

In *The Dybbuk*, boundaries separating the natural from the supernatural dissolve as ill-fated pledges, unfulfilled passions, and untimely deaths ensnare two families in a tragic labyrinth of spiritual possession. Come see a screening of this classic film, remastered and with new English subtitles by The National Center for Jewish Film.

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

Programs take place at YIVO unless otherwise noted:
15 West 16th Street, NYC, located in the Center for Jewish History

NEWS FROM YIVO

YIVO HONORS ROBERTA GROSSMAN AND SAMUEL KASSOW AT GALA DINNER

Over 150 people attended YIVO's November 20th gala, honoring award-winning documentary filmmaker Roberta Grossman and leading Holocaust and Jewish history scholar Dr. Samuel Kassow. Ms. Grossman directed the acclaimed documentary film *Who Will Write Our History* based on the book of the same title by Dr. Kassow.

The documentary tells the story of the heroic efforts of Emanuel Ringelblum and his compatriots, to document in real time the daily life and struggles in the Warsaw Ghetto at great risk to their own lives. Nancy Spielberg, the Executive Producer of the film, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

"Sam's book and Roberta's film provide an important service in educating the general public on a range of important historical issues, and as the Executive Producer of the film we have Nancy to thank for bringing this history to audiences around the world," said YIVO Board Chair Ruth Levine.

As part of the gala, YIVO hosted a reverse auction, giving attendees an opportunity to bid on supporting YIVO initiatives: sponsoring a student in the Summer Program, sponsoring a Winter Program class, funding the digitization of rare books and periodicals in the library, and funding archival boxes. 56 bids were placed, raising an additional \$86,400.

Amongst those in attendance at the event were Consul General of Israel in New York Dani Dayan, Acting General Consul of Lithuania Gitana Skripkaitė, American women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, and Israeli-American economist and former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Stanley Fischer. ①

NEW BOARD MEMBER: HARRY WAGNER

Born on Christmas Day, 1946, in the Heidenheim, Germany DP Camp, Harry is the son of Vilna-born Holocaust survivors, Rubin and Sima Wagner. His sister, grandparents, aunt, and uncle did not survive. Between them, Harry's parents survived nine different German concentration camps before emigrating to the U.S. in 1949. His connection to YIVO was vividly formed in the early 1970s while helping his father create the two-volume memorial book, *Vilna-in-Pictures*. YIVO was a vital resource for these volumes. The Wagner Family has endowed and created the Rubin and Sima Wagner Gallery on the third floor at YIVO.

A graduate of Syracuse University and Brooklyn Law School, Harry has been a practicing attorney concentrating in banking, loan restructuring, real estate, and planning and zoning since 1972.

While visiting with his two children and three grandchildren in New York, Harry devotes time to charitable causes and religious organizations; President of Dix Hills Jewish Center, Dix Hills, NY; Co-chair of the Holocaust Committee of the Long Island Division of UJA-Federation of NY; and other UJA Committees; and, SHALVA (Israel). ②

500 BOOKS FROM CHAIM GRADE'S PERSONAL COLLECTION ADDED TO YIVO'S LIBRARY CATALOG

500 of approximately 20,000 books in Chaim Grade's personal collection were brought to YIVO to create a Chaim Grade Memorial Library. This work was completed in the fall and the books were added to the YIVO Library catalog. The books were cataloged with special attention given to the peculiarities that made these copies unique to Grade. Topics range from Yiddish prose to

Romantic era poetry, ancient Roman history to 20th century psychology, providing insight into the life and interests of Chaim and his wife Inna. ③

JONATHAN BRENT SPEAKS AT YIVO ARCHIVAL EXHIBITION IN LITHUANIA

On September 19, YIVO Executive Director and CEO Jonathan Brent spoke at the exhibition, "Documents of the YIVO Archive," in the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in Vilnius, Lithuania. The exhibition

featured YIVO materials that have been housed at the Wroblewski Library since 1948 and are being preserved and digitized as part of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections project. They were on public view for the first time since the end of World War II. This exhibition of YIVO materials represents a wide spectrum of topics, from medical records to pogroms in Ukraine to the record of YIVO documents turned over to Nazis. ④

NEW PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA VISITS YIVO

On September 26, the newly elected President of the Republic of Lithuania, H.E. Gitanas Nausėda, and First Lady Diana Nausėdienė visited YIVO.

Their visit highlights the important ties between Lithuania and YIVO and acknowledges how Jewish history and culture shaped the identity of the countries of the world, including Lithuania. The President and First Lady viewed an array of materials from YIVO's collections, including the *Pinkas* of Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon Zalman's synagogue. Known as the Vilna Gaon, Rabbi Elijah was the most significant religious leader of his generation. This visit followed Mr. Brent receiving the Cross of the Knight of the Order for Merits to Lithuania in July, recognizing the cooperation between Lithuania and YIVO and the preservation of Lithuania's prewar Jewish archives. ⑤

אָ דאַרציקן דאַנק!

YIVO thanks its many incredible volunteers for all their hard work and assistance.

DR. EVELYN ACKERMAN
SONIA BAY
RENA BOROW
FAIVUS BRAUER
FRANCINE BROWN
BELLA BRYKS KLEIN
DR. FAINA BURKO
JANE FOSS
ROSALIE FROST
CHARLES GOLDFISCHER
OSNAT GREENBAUM
ESTELLE GUZIK
HARRIET HOLZMAN
LAUREL KALLEN
LORRAINE KORN
ALYS KREMER
DR. CHAVA LAPIN
DR. GAIL MALMGREEN
MALKA MARGOLIES
SELMA MARKS
DR. ELLEN MAUSNER
SUSAN MILAMED
SELMA PERLSTEIN
ELI RABE
MIMI SANDLER
REUVEN SCHLENKER
ELLIE SCHWEBER
MAXINE SPIEGEL
SOPHIA TARNAGURSKAYA
PAULA TRUSHIN
ROBIN WRIGHT
DR. AURORA ZINDER



1 From left to right: YIVO Executive Director & CEO Jonathan Brent, Producer Nancy Spielberg, Director Roberta Grossman, YIVO Board Chair Ruth Levine, and Scholar Dr. Samuel Kassow at the 2019 Gala Award Dinner.

PHOTO: TODD FRANCE PHOTOGRAPHY

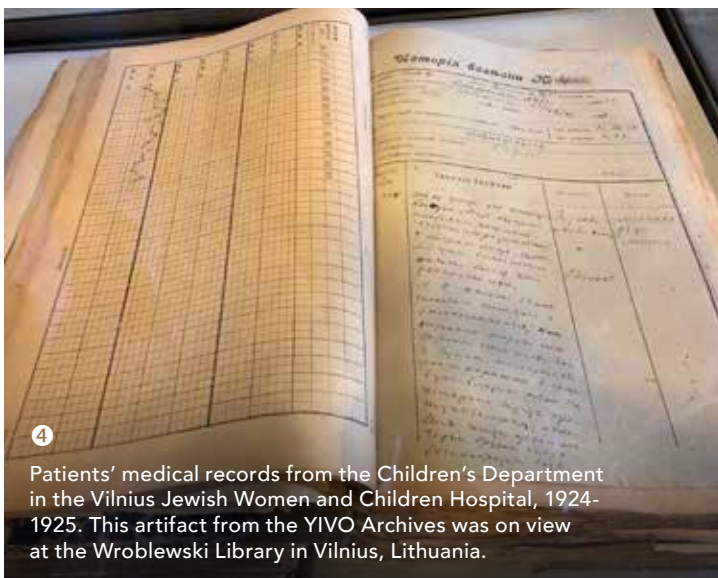


2 Harry Wagner, new member of the YIVO Board of Directors.



3 Books from Chaim Grade's personal collection, now part of the YIVO Library catalog.

PHOTO: MORIAH KENNEDY



4 Patients' medical records from the Children's Department in the Vilnius Jewish Women and Children Hospital, 1924-1925. This artifact from the YIVO Archives was on view at the Wroblewski Library in Vilnius, Lithuania.



5 The recently appointed President of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Gitanas Nausėda and First Lady Diana Nausėdienė visited YIVO in New York, highlighting the important ties between Lithuania and YIVO.

PHOTO: ROBERT DACKUS

EDUCATION

SPRING CLASSES

▶ Register at yivo.org/Classes

BAY MIR BISTU SHEYN! FROM RUMANIA TO SECOND AVENUE

Instructor: Neil Levin | 6:00pm-8:00pm
Begins February 5 | 6 Sessions, Wednesdays

BEGINNER YIDDISH

Instructor: Josh Price | 6:00pm-8:00pm
Begins February 20 | 10 Sessions, Thursdays

ADVANCED BEGINNER YIDDISH

Instructor: Paula Teitelbaum | 6:00pm-8:00pm
Begins February 24 | 10 Sessions, Mondays

INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH

Instructor: Dovid Braun | 6:00pm-8:00pm
Begins February 20 | 10 Sessions, Thursdays

2020 URIEL WEINREICH SUMMER PROGRAM IN YIDDISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

▶ Learn more and apply at summerprogram.yivo.org

JUNE 29 – AUGUST 7, 2020

Our six-week intensive program, featuring five levels of language study, history and culture seminars, *shmues* (conversation) classes, a theater workshop, tours of the Lower East Side and Hasidic Borough Park, a translation workshop, lectures by visiting scholars, Yiddish theater and music performances, and more.

If six weeks isn't enough, join us for our additional programs to expand your Yiddish learning:

REFRESHER COURSE | JUNE 22-26, 2020

Instructor: Dovid Braun

YIDDISH: THE NEXT LEVEL | AUGUST 10-21, 2020

Instructors: Miriam Trinh and Eliezer Niborski

International and Financial Applicants Apply by: February 27*

General Applicants Apply by: March 31

* Financial aid is available for international and domestic students

YIVO-BARD WINTER PROGRAM ON ASHKENAZI CIVILIZATION

Held annually in January since 2012, the YIVO-Bard Winter Program invites students to delve into Ashkenazi Jewish life and culture covering its thousand-year history in Eastern Europe and across the diaspora. Over 100 students attended the 2020 Winter Program, which featured courses

taught by Jonathan Brent, Anita Norich, Elzbieta Janicka, Irena Klepfisz, Eddy Portnoy, Ron Robboy, Ilan Stavans, and Spencer Sunshine. The keynote lecture, given by Yevgenia M. Albats, discussed Jewish life in Russia today and the wave of Jewish emigration from the country.

Running concurrently with the Winter Program was YIVO's new series of winter Yiddish courses. The Beginner Yiddish Intensive course was taught by Josh Price and the Advanced Yiddish Intensive course was taught by Dovid Braun. These were offered for the first time due to an increased demand for Yiddish language courses that YIVO has experienced over the last few years.

**ONLINE CLASS
LAUNCHING MAY 1**



A Seat at the Table A JOURNEY INTO JEWISH FOOD

The latest online course from
YIVO'S SHINE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Join us for an exploration into the heart of Jewish food, with an emphasis on the Ashkenazi table. This course features hundreds of never-before-seen archival objects, lectures by leading scholars, interviews with food critics, and video demonstrations of your favorite Jewish recipes by renowned chefs. Discover how the essence of Jewish food has remained constant even as the recipes have evolved and changed with the migration of Jews around the world.

Visit yivo.org/Food for news and updates!

A Seat at the Table is sponsored by:

THE EDWARD BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION
THE COVENANT FOUNDATION
THE SHINE TRUST

Explore YIVO's other online course offerings at yivo.org/Shine.

RELATED EVENT WASHINGTON, D.C.

FRIDAY
MAY 01
1:00PM

COOKING
DEMONSTRATION
WITH GUEST
CHEF JOAN
NATHAN

*Presented in
partnership with
the Smithsonian's
National Museum of
American History*

COOKING UP HISTORY: THE VILNA VEGETARIAN COOKBOOK

Our guest chef Joan Nathan is a renowned cookbook author and expert on Jewish foodways. During this demonstration, she will shed light on a largely unknown culinary educator and author, Fania Lewando, who lived in Vilna, Lithuania in the early 20th century. Lewando authored one of the first Jewish cookbooks dedicated to vegetarianism, *The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook* (1938).

Join Joan Nathan and Smithsonian food historian Ashley Rose Young as they prepare dishes from Lewando's cookbook and explore the history of Vilna, the devastating impacts of the Holocaust on the city's Jewish population, and one woman's efforts to sustain her community through food.

This cooking demonstration is held in partnership with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Demonstration at 1:00pm in the
Wallace H. Coulter Performance Plaza, 1 West,
Smithsonian's National Museum of American History
Constitution Avenue, between 12th and 14th Streets North West

Hassimcho. Di Frejd.

Fun Beethoven. (9.te Symphonie.)

הַשְּׂמִיחָה. דִּי פֵרִיד.

פון בעטהאווען (9-טע סימפאניע.)

Allegro assai. M.M. 112 = ♩

Gich un frejlach.

Soprani.

Wi a Schtral a Gots ma - to - ne oft kumst du zu
Sim - cho at noj - zart bo - ej - den sik ejl choj laj -

Alti.

YIVO JOINS CARNEGIE HALL IN CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEETHOVEN'S BIRTH

BY ALEX WEISER, *Director of Public Programs*

BEETHOVEN WAS BORN ON December 17, 1770. To celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth Carnegie Hall is holding a festival from January-June 2020 including performances of all of his Symphonies, Piano Sonatas, and String Quartets. YIVO is one of ten partner organizations around New York City that Carnegie Hall invited to join their festival by hosting events of their own.

This invitation gave us at YIVO a wonderful opportunity to explore the Beethoven-related materials in our own collections. We have Yiddish translations and adaptations of *Ode to Joy* and other vocal works. We have beautifully illustrated Yiddish children's books about Beethoven. We have Yiddish poetry about Beethoven. We have novels, travelogues, newspaper stories, even academic books about Beethoven – in Yiddish.

Beethoven also wrote works that took inspiration from Jewish sources. His song cycle *An Die Ferne Geliebte* sets to music poetry by German-Jewish poet Alois Isidor Jeitteles. Many also argue that Beethoven's String Quartet Op. 131 uses a melodic motif from a traditional *Kol Nidre* recitation melody.

Join us on April 20 (SEE LISTING ON PAGE 3) for an evening celebrating Beethoven in the Yiddish imagination including performances of these works, a bilingual reading of a Yiddish story about the Moonlight Sonata, and, of course, *Ode to Joy* in Yiddish translation. Performances feature Allen Lewis Rickman, Yelena Shmulenson, Mario Diaz-Moresco, Spencer Myer, and the Ulysses Quartet.



ABOVE:

Sheet music for *Ode to Joy* in Yiddish and Hebrew. Kiselgof, Zalmen, *Lider-zamlbukh far der yidisher shul un familye*, 1912. YIVO Library.

Portrait of Ludwig van Beethoven. Bastomski, Shloyme, *Bethovens levone-sonate*, 1928. YIVO Library.

NEW ACCESSIONS

RECREATING IMAGES OF THE BREST GHETTO

Some donations to the YIVO Library strike a chord by their moral idea and unique concept. This was the case with Vladimir Gubenko's *Brest of My Memory: 30s-60s of the XX Century; Author's Memoirs and Drawings* (Brest, Belarus, 2019. In Russian and English). The book, with its 200 drawings, demonstrates the phenomenal memory of the author, now in his late 80s, who is not Jewish and was a child in the 1940s. His images of the Varburg Jewish neighborhood and the ghetto during WWII are particularly impressive in their details and in his compassionate approach. Gubenko drew with pencil while capturing his non-Jewish friends' recollections of the ghetto's destruction. The amateur artist—a physicist by profession—so sharply remembered every building and tree on the streets of his native Brest, that he could easily place the events into the environment of the town. According to Mr. Gubenko's daughter, Natalie Levine, who donated the book, her father's drawings often look like scrolls. After finishing one page, he would proceed to the next, and the stories would unveil.



NOAMI LEAF HALPERN AND THE HISTORY OF JEWISH DANCE

The field of Jewish dance history received a major boost with YIVO's acquisition of the collection of Naomi Aleh-Leaf Halpern, whose dance career spanned seven decades. 15 boxes of dance programs, handbills, itineraries, clippings, photographs, correspondence, publications, costumes, and artwork from the 1920s-2014 are being accessioned, with more on the way.



Born in Jerusalem in 1914, Naomi came to America as a child with her parents, Reuven Leaf of the Bezalel Institute and Sarah Kantorowitz, a weaver and seamstress. She danced at the Farband's summer Camp Kindervelt, where her father taught art. She studied with choreographer Michel Fokine and performed in *Ziegfeld Follies* in 1934. A return to Palestine in 1935 inspired her life's work interpreting Jewish and Near Eastern dance traditions.

During the 1930s-50s, Leaf Halpern toured France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Israel, Mexico, Cuba, and the U.S. Among her memorabilia is a pristine Yiddish-Flemish program for her January 1938 Antwerp performance at an event promoting YIVO.

Leaf Halpern danced at Fred Berk's Israeli Dance Festivals in the 1950s, founded and led the Boston-area Festival Dance Company in the 1960s, and became a pioneer within the sacred dance movement. She trained as a dance therapist, taught modern dance, and coached actors into her eighties. The collection will undoubtedly be a new, invaluable resource for exploring nearly a century of Jewish art and cultural life.

LEFT: Drawing by Vladimir Gubenko. A German officer ordered a local policeman to kill two Jews who survived the Brest ghetto liquidation. When the policeman refused, the officer did the job. Gubenko recreated the image based on the story of the Belarusian witness Misha Korza.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FALL 2019

THE CHALLENGES OF MULTICULTURALISM IN CONTEMPORARY LITHUANIA

(SEPTEMBER 5) Under the auspices of Litvak Days NYC, YIVO celebrated Lithuanian Jewish heritage with a talk by Professor Tomas Venclova (Yale University, Emeritus). He was then joined by Jonathan Brent (YIVO's Executive Director), Mindaugas Kvietkauskas (Minister of Culture of Lithuania), Professor Saulius Sužiedelis (Millersville University, Emeritus) and Rabbi Andrew Baker (American Jewish Committee, Director of International Jewish Affairs) to discuss the challenges of rebuilding a multicultural society in contemporary Lithuania, confronting the complexities of Lithuanian Jewish history, and taking lessons from it for today. Over 250 people attended.

BUNDISM'S INFLUENCE TODAY

(SEPTEMBER 16) We are witnessing a revival of the ideas of the socialist party the Jewish Labor Bund, a powerful force in Russian and Polish Jewish communities in the first half of the 20th century. Historian Jack Jacobs led a panel with Molly Crabapple, Irena Klepfisz, Jenny Romaine, and Jacob Plitman, activists and cultural workers ranging from their 20s to their 80s. The panelists discussed what they see in Bundist ideas and how those ideas affect their political and cultural practices and influence the Jewish community today. Nearly 450 people of all ages attended; over 1,000 more watched online.

THE BOOK SMUGGLERS [YIVO UK]

(SEPTEMBER 19) The first of several events hosted by YIVO UK this past fall, the book talk for David Fishman's *The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis* attracted a full house. This book tells the incredible story of the Paper Brigade, the courageous Jews who risked their lives to rescue thousands of rare books and manuscripts—first from the Nazis and then from the Soviets—by hiding them on their bodies, burying them in bunkers in the Vilna Ghetto, and smuggling them across borders. YIVO UK Board Member Lady Hilary Pomeroy gave opening remarks, followed by a talk by author and scholar David Fishman, who discussed his book as well as how the work to rescue Jewish culture and heritage from oblivion continues to this very day at YIVO.

ANTISEMITISM AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

(NOVEMBER 11) Over 200 people attended this talk by Brendan McGeever on his new book, *Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution*. McGeever's book offers the first book-length analysis of the Bolshevik response to antisemitism. Jack Jacobs introduced the evening, followed by a presentation by McGeever. McGeever and Jacobs were then joined by Andrew Sloin, Polly Zavadvivker, and YIVO's Jonathan Brent for a panel discussion.

APRIL 20-23, 2020

CELEBRATING
THE **300TH**
Anniversary
OF THE *Vilna Gaon*

Join YIVO in Vilnius, Lithuania to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Vilna Gaon, the most significant religious leader of his generation.

FEATURING: ■ Conference hosted by the Lithuanian National Library
■ Insider tour of YIVO's digitization project and a tour of Vilnius led by YIVO Executive Director Jonathan Brent ■ Dinners with the representatives from the American and Israeli Embassies

► Visit yivo.org/Gaon2020 for more information.

JUNE 22 – JULY 3, 2020

Literary Tour of Jewish Galicia

TOUR EXCLUSIVELY FOR YIVO

The YIVO Literary Tour of Jewish Galicia chaired by Irene Pletka, with noted historian Dr. Samuel Kassow and Dr. Jonathan Brent, YIVO Executive Director and CEO, will guide you on a unique journey of literary and cultural discovery. You will read works of writers such as Peretz, Schultz, Agnon, Celan, Babel, and many others in places that they were written, and travel through the historic landscapes that shaped them.

► Visit yivo.org/LiteraryTour2020 for more information.

AUG. 24 – SEPT. 7, 2020

Jewish Artists and the Russian Avant-Garde

TOUR EXCLUSIVELY FOR YIVO

YIVO's first arts tour chaired by Irene Pletka, with Dr. Samuel Kassow, Dr. Ilya Prizel of the YIVO Board of Directors, Dr. Eddy Portnoy, Senior Researcher and Director of Exhibitions at YIVO, and art expert Dr. Malgo Bakalarz-Duverger, will demonstrate the fascinating ways in which Jewish artists impacted and were shaped by the Russian avant-garde. There will also be an optional add-on to Paris.

► Visit yivo.org/ArtTour2020 for more information.

YIVO IN THE MEDIA

Here are some of YIVO's media highlights from the last six months:

PUBLIC PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, AND TOURS

The New Yorker

Found in Translation
(December 30, 2019)

TOPIC ► URIEL WEINREICH SUMMER PROGRAM ALUM / YIVO'S HISTORY & ARCHIVES

Jewish Women's Archive: Jewish Women, Amplified

Yiddishes, Alive and Dead
(October 7, 2019)

TOPIC ► URIEL WEINREICH SUMMER PROGRAM

The Jewish Chronicle

Please write this on my tomb: The thing I love most is being a Yid
(August 30, 2019)

TOPIC ► YIVO ARCHIVES / YIVO HISTORY / 2019 UKRAINIAN JEWISH LITERARY TOUR

Tablet Magazine

The 'Mother' of Yiddish Literature
(August 28, 2019, mention)

TOPIC ► THE GREATEST YIDDISH WRITER YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF: YANKEV DINEZON

YIVO'S HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

Buzzfeed JPG Newsletter

For Your Eyes Only: History and Hanukkah with YIVO Pictures
(December 22, 2019)

TOPIC ► YIVO ARCHIVES

The Covenant Foundation

Reboot Meets the American Jewish Historical Society:
A Creative Shidduch
(December 11, 2019)

TOPIC ► REBOOT FELLOWSHIP VISIT

Mashable

NYC's YIVO Institute holds Jewish memories saved from destruction during the Holocaust — What's in the Basement?
(November 21, 2019)

TOPIC ► YIVO ARCHIVES

Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Magazine

Composing Identity: A History of Yiddish Folksong in Classical Music
(November 1, 2019)

TOPIC ► YIVO ARCHIVES

Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Magazine

The Life and Death of a Yiddish Puppet Theater
(October 15, 2019)

TOPIC ► YIVO ARCHIVES

Maariv

הארכיון שחושף את השפה המנומסת מאחורי מכונת המוות הנאצית
(September 7, 2019)

TOPIC ► THE PAPERS OF NACHMAN BLUMENTAL

National Endowment for the Humanities

Documents of Yiddish Life
(Fall 2019)

TOPICS ► EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA ONLINE COLLECTIONS

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- Charitable Remainder Trust** – for fixed rate lifetime income and avoidance of tax on long-term capital gains.
- Charitable Lead Trust** – to pass property to the next generation at low cost.
- Bequest** – leave a gift after lifetime and reduce estate taxes.
- Endowment Fund** – a named gift in perpetuity to carry out a special purpose.
- Life Insurance** – existing or new policies for tax deductions to leverage larger future gifts at low cost.

HOW TO MAKE A PLANNED GIFT

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- IRAs** – designate charity as a beneficiary and avoid potential double tax.
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NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 2020

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