Alter Kacyzne’s Photographs

YIVO Celebrates Publication of Historic Album

YIVO began its 75th Anniversary year with a celebration for Poyln — Jewish Life in the Old Country, a new book of pre-Holocaust photographs taken throughout Poland by the renowned Yiddish author and photographer Alter Kacyzne. (A selection of photographs from the book appears on pages 18 – 21.) Edited by YIVO Chief Archivist Marek Web and published by YIVO in cooperation with Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt, Poyln has received excellent reviews from the Forward, the Atlanta Jewish Times and the Canadian Jewish News and has been named a Book-of-the-Month selection. Its initial printing in English is 17,000 copies.

“A simultaneous German edition of Poyln was released just in time for the Frankfurt Book Fair,” Board Chairman Bruce Slovin told the 100 people who attended the November 4th reception and book signing in the Center for Jewish History library. “Marek Web has done Herculean labor in bringing this book to publication.”

“We are very proud to be here today,” Dr. Carl Rheins, YIVO Executive Director, commented. “It is a very fitting way to begin our 75th year.”

Kacyzne (1885-1941) was an acclaimed writer who published novels, plays, and poetry. However, he earned his living as a photographer. He had a portrait studio in Warsaw and also traveled the country photographing scenes of traditional Jewish life. He was first commissioned by HIAS in 1921 to photograph Jews seeking to leave Poland. After finishing this assignment, Kacyzne was, as he wrote, “hired to be the photo correspondent for the New York Jewish Daily Forward. My task is to cover all the places in Poland that may be of interest to the reader in America.” Although he was slated to work for two years, he eventually spent a decade as the Forward correspondent.

Kacyzne had a remarkable sensibility for his subjects, whether in studio portraits, on a Warsaw street, or in a shtetl marketplace. He was known to have been unusually painstaking in his work, never satisfied until he had achieved exactly the right effect. This new book provides a window into the lost world of Polish Jewry through the eyes of one of its keenest observers.

As Marek Web notes in his introduction, in the late 1930’s, Kacyzne “had been granted a U.S. visa, which he did not use. He could not bring himself to leave behind all that was meaningful to him and become an immigrant, physically and culturally.”

When war broke out in 1939, Kacyzne fled with his wife and daughter, Sulamita, to Lwow in eastern Poland, which had been

[continued on page 6]
Message from the Chairman of the Board

Time for Reflection and Renewal

It is the 75th Anniversary of the founding of YIVO! As this turbulent twentieth century winds down, it is a perfect time for reflection, evaluation and a renewal of our commitment to the mission of YIVO and future generations. Once Eastern Europe was the center of a whole Jewish culture. YIVO was founded as part of that thriving and strong community which was destroyed. Those people who survived built new lives. They, like YIVO, rose from the ashes despite all obstacles. We honor their memory and celebrate their dignity and perseverance.

For seventy-five years YIVO has been a central force in recording, studying, preserving and honoring every aspect of Jewish life, language and culture. YIVO has embraced an inclusive definition of Jewish continuity, one that spans the generations and looks to the future. The new century and millennium bring unique opportunities to forge links — among the generations and internationally, with Israel, Canada and Mexico, as well as the countries in the former Soviet Union. So many young people want to study Yiddish and Yiddish culture — to trace their family histories in Eastern Europe. YIVO must help them — and you — to make those connections. Join with us, as we begin our 75th year. Together we will face the future and make it our own.

NFJ C Funds Two Major YIVO Projects

YIVO is receiving two grants totaling nearly $117,000 from the Fund for Jewish Preservation of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture (NFJC). The grants will help YIVO redesign its Web site and publish autobiographies written in 1942 by Jewish immigrants to the United States. In addition, NFJC will award a special grant to help defray the costs of YIVO’s move into permanent quarters at the Center for Jewish History.

The Web site project, which will receive $25,800, will enhance public access to YIVO. It will explain YIVO’s mission and rich history, provide an introduction to Yiddish, showcase the YIVO archives and library, and provide a calendar of YIVO events and programs. The site will also facilitate public access to YIVO through e-mail, serve as an online YIVO publications catalog, offer membership and donation forms, and provide links to related sites. The site will feature audio clips from the Sound Archives, online versions of recent YIVO exhibitions and the YIVO News.

Former YIVO photo archivist Roberta Newman will be the Project Coordinator. She knows YIVO’s library and archives, has professional experience as a multimedia/film producer and writer, is a skilled researcher, and is knowledgeable about Jewish history and culture. Ms. Newman recently helped produce the DVD-ROM format of Thirteen/WNET’s “Heritage: Civilization and the Jews.”

The other grant — $91,000 — is for the creation of an English language anthology of American Jewish immigrant autobiographies. This volume will feature about 20 of the 233 responses to YIVO’s 1942 contest for the best autobiography by a Jewish immigrant to America. Of the responses to the contest, 176 were from men and 47 from women; just over half came from New York, while others came from 62 locations in the U.S., Canada, Argentina, Mexico and Cuba; and the majority of the writers were between 51 and 70 years old. They had immigrated from Eastern Europe, Germany and Palestine, from the 1880s to the 1940s; most came between 1882 and 1924, the years of mass immigration.

Professor Daniel Soyer of Fordham University will serve as Project Editor. Soyer is a former archivist at YIVO and is the author of Jewish Immigrant Associations and American Identity in New York, 1880-1939. The anticipated publication date is 2002.
Some Thoughts on YIVO’s Future

Dr. Carl J. Rheins

In the coming century, Jewish communal life in the United States will require strong institutional leadership. This is especially true for institutions such as YIVO, ones with a mandate to preserve the material artifacts of Jewish civilization and promote the study of Jewish history. The vitality of Jewish archives and research libraries will also depend on their continuing adherence to the highest scholastic standards, combined with free and unfettered intellectual inquiry. The overarching acceptable institutional ideology must embrace the legitimacy of all forms of Jewish expression.

Other challenges must also be met if we are to keep YIVO and other Jewish research institutions strong. These include, but are not limited to:

• Identifying and raising substantial new sums of money;
• Supporting and energizing staff, while recruiting the most distinguished scholars available in Eastern European Jewish History, Yiddish language and literature, Archives and Records Management, and Library Science;
• Developing new strategic partnerships, including initiating new programs and academic enterprises with institutions both in the United States and abroad;
• Technological upgrading in every program to harness the power of new technologies at every level;
• And, finally, analyzing existing and emerging trends in Jewish Studies, the Social Sciences and the Humanities, so that YIVO’s programs and practices remain adaptable to changing times and constituencies.

YIVO has a broad spectrum of ongoing academic and cultural programs. To insure their survival and expansion, we must also develop a strategic plan that addresses the interests of YIVO’s many constituencies and friends.

As YIVO approaches its 75th anniversary, a renewed commitment from the board, staff and YIVO’s many benefactors and supporters is essential for strengthening the Institute’s archives, library and research departments; for reevaluating its distinguished publications series; and for expanding its genealogical services program.

This last point is particularly critical. As young American Jews face the future, institutions such as YIVO are ideally positioned to assist new generations in understanding themselves, and affirming Jewish continuity, by understanding their past.

Martin Buber addressed this in 1911 when he wrote: “For Judaism has not only a past; despite all it has already created, it has above all, a future. Judaism has, in truth, not yet done its work and great forces active in this most tragic and incomprehensible of people have not yet written their ... own word into the history of the world.” YIVO must play a critical role in this process. For in the end YIVO has the historic responsibility of passing to future generations the power and depth of Jewish archives and research libraries will also promote the study of Jewish history. The vitality of Jewish archives and research libraries will also depend on their continuing adherence to the highest scholastic standards, combined with free and unfettered intellectual inquiry. The overarching acceptable institutional ideology must embrace the legitimacy of all forms of Jewish expression.

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Zipperstein Book on Russian Jewish Past to be Feted by YIVO

The Russian Jewish past — how it is remembered in history, in literature and in popular culture — is the focus of Dr. Steven J. Zipperstein’s new book Imagining Russian Jewry: Memory, History, Identity. The book, just published by the University of Washington Press (1999), is part of the Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies. Dr. Zipperstein, a research fellow of YIVO’s Max Weinreich Center from 1977-1980, is the Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History, and Chair of the Jewish Studies Program at Stanford University. A panel discussion and reception in honor of the book on December 15, is to be the first major scholarly program sponsored by YIVO at its new home in the Center for Jewish History.

In Imagining Russian Jewry, Dr. Zipperstein explores the imprint left by the Russian Jewish past on American Jews, considering literature ranging from immigrant novels to Fiddler on the Roof. “The chasm — and the interrelationship — between historical knowledge and widely disseminated...strongly felt, popular assumptions about the world of Russian Jewry (its pogroms, its poverty, its piety, etc.) are the unifying threads,” Dr. Zipperstein comments in his Prologue.

Prof. Tony Judt, Director of the Remarque Institute at NYU, will serve as panel moderator. Other panelists will include Dr. Zipperstein and NYU professors Hasia Diner and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett.
As a result of the efforts of the Leadership Forum, YIVO is branching out in a new direction aimed at connecting today’s high school students and their families with their grandparents, with children of survivors and with the culture of pre-World War II Jewish Eastern Europe. To mark YIVO’s 75th anniversary, the Forum is helping to develop a unique high school curriculum called “Eastern European Jewish Culture: Life, Creativity and Expression — Educational Program on Yiddish Culture” (EPYC). The program will explore the life and culture of Eastern European Jewry. The EPYC syllabus will survey the geographic, political, economic and cultural life of these Jewish communities.

YIVO’s Women’s Committee, chaired by Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, has joined in the support of EPYC. “This is a great project,” Mrs. Heller affirmed. “We want help bring it to fruition.” EPYC will address a new constituency for YIVO. “We want to build appreciation, support and usage of YIVO among students, the general public and people who, at present, may not even know that the organization exists,” noted Rita K. Levy, chair of the Leadership Forum. “Further, we hope to build bridges of communication among generations and to create a new constituency that will be active with YIVO far into the future.”

Members of each committee will sponsor parlor meetings to introduce YIVO and EPYC to their friends and colleagues. The first gathering, held at the home of Sima and Nathan Katz in October, was a singular success. Etta Wrobel, Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, and Cindy Stone and her sister Rosina Abramson will host future parlor meetings.

“Each of us must show a practical commitment to the success of EPYC,” commented Cathy Zises, a member of the Leadership Forum. “Financial support as well as the gift of personal involvement are key to our project’s success. We are turning our project into reality. We urge each Yedies reader to join us. If we succeed, EPYC will have national and international impact.” She also noted that the committees are planning a major fundraising event for the spring of 2000.

Other supporters of this initiative include Dr. Adina Cimet Singer, who helped develop the core project material, and Forum members Carol Stahl, Cindy Stone, Rhona Liptzin, Miriam Katz and Charles Rose (a new addition), who each have made a financial commitment to the program.
Abraham Joshua Heschel, a resident of Brooklyn, New York, has been appointed archivist for the project. Mr. Heschel brings considerable experience conducting Yiddish language interviews. A student of yeshivas in Jerusalem and New York, Mr. Heschel has studied the history and customs of religious Jews, including Hasidim, and has a deep knowledge of the published literature on the subject. Mr. Heschel has also delivered lectures on the Holocaust based on his own fieldwork.

Mr. Heschel, whose interviews will be conducted primarily in Yiddish, will collect information on the establishment of the prayer house in New York, the founding members, the fate of the original community during the Holocaust period, nusakhes and unusual customs, size and membership of the congregation, special melodies, languages spoken, Torah classes given, weekly learning schedules and methods of learning used. Other functions of the prayer house, such as free loan services and support for charitable causes, will be explored and documented. In addition to the interviews, field recordings will be made of nigunim (melodies) sung at religious gatherings.

The interviews will comprise a collective narrative reflecting the community’s spiritual and historical perspectives. They will also provide the scholarly community with authentic archival sources on Jewish ethnography, including Jewish customs, Hasidism, Yiddish language usage, immigrant history and Holocaust studies. Like YIVO’s Landsmanshaftn Archive, generated in the 1980s, the new archive will reflect an immigrant group’s link with its European past. Not least of the project’s objectives is the recording of Yiddish language interviews with survivors who never before shared their experiences.

Although the project started in Borough Park, it eventually will cover the entire New York area.

The YIVO Archives welcomes prospective participants in this project. Readers familiar with shhtiblekh suitable for inclusion in this project are encouraged to contact Fruma Mohrer, YIVO’s Associate Archivist and Project Director, at (212) 294-6143.
occupied by the Soviet Union. He abandoned his studio and photographs, all of which were destroyed. In Lwow, he worked as an editor and theater director until 1941, when the Germans invaded. Kacyzne fled on foot to Tarnopol, where he was killed in a pogrom perpetrated by Ukrainian collaborators. His wife perished in the death camp at Belzec; Sulamita survived the war disguised as a non-Jew.

Of all of Kacyzne’s work, only the photos that he had sent to the United States survived. Some have already been published, in The Vanished World, edited by Raphael Abramovitch (Forward Association, 1947) and in Image Before My Eyes, edited by Lucjan Dobroszycki and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (YIVO and Schocken Books, 1977). This new book features a representative sample of Kacyzne’s work for the Forward, material now housed in the YIVO archives, along with his own witty picture captions (which the Forward did not use).

“This book would not have been possible without Sulamita Kacyzne-Reale, Mr. Kacyzne’s daughter,” Web noted. “She spared no effort to make this volume possible but, unfortunately, did not live to see the fruit of her labors.”

Marek Web was born in Lodz, Poland and received his M.A. in History from the University of Lodz. He emigrated to the United States in 1970, and began working at the YIVO archives, becoming Chief Archivist in 1979. Mr. Web has curated major exhibits including “A Century of Ambivalence: A Photographic History of Jews in Russia and the Soviet Union,” which circulated in the U.S. and Europe from 1988 to 1992. Among many projects, he was research director for the film Lodz Ghetto: A Community Under Siege, and co-editor of the Guide to the YIVO Archives.
Project Judaica

Rekindling Jewish Studies in Russia

Eight students received master’s degrees in Jewish studies at Moscow’s Russian State University for the Humanities last June thanks to Project Judaica, which is returning Jewish Studies to a country where the study of Hebrew was banned for 70 years.

An intensive program co-sponsored by YIVO and the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), Project Judaica celebrated its third graduation at the RSUH. The students received their degrees and then were given certificates from YIVO and JTS at a more intimate Judaica graduation ceremony.

Project Judaica also celebrated its publication of the Anthology of Hebrew Literature, a Russian-language book edited by Professor Hamutal Bar Yosef of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and issued by Russian State University Press. The handsome volume, which spans modern Hebrew literature from 19th-century poet Judah Leib Gordon to contemporary Israeli author Amos Oz, has been lauded as a monumental literary achievement in a country that long prohibited the study of Hebrew literature. The anthology, intended as a university-level text, includes a near-exhaustive bibliography of Hebrew literature.

Several additional books are in preparation, including a Russian-language textbook of Yiddish written by veteran philologist Shimon Sandler.

The students in Project Judaica had completed and defended theses on topics such as “Yiddish Children’s Periodicals in the Soviet Union,” “The Problem of the Autobiographical Genre in the Works of Isaac Bashevis Singer,” and “The Poetics of Dovid Hofshtein.” The graduates were congratulated by the director of Project Judaica, Dr. David Fishman of YIVO and JTS, and by Vice Rector Natalya Basovskaya of RSUH. YIVO Chief Archivist Marek Web and JTS Dean Rabbi Alan Kensky also attended the celebration.

The five-year program, founded in 1991, trains students as specialists in Jewish Studies, stressing either Bible and rabbinics (JTS track) or Yiddish and East European Jewish history (the YIVO track). The program currently enrolls 55 students, including five doctoral candidates.

Mr. Web was in Moscow primarily to work on Project Judaica’s Jewish archival survey, which prepares comprehensive guides to Jewish archival records throughout the former Soviet Union. A guide to the Moscow archives was issued in 1997, and a Belarus guide will be published in 2000. The guides enable researchers throughout the world to locate materials on topics of interest to them, from Sholem Aleichem to Zionism in the USSR.

Scholars and Grad Students Flock to Yiddish-Only Seminar

YIVO has inaugurated a new academic seminar, conducted entirely in Yiddish, covering Yiddish and East European Jewish Studies. Directed by Drs. David Fishman and Paul (Hershl) Glasser, the bi-weekly Friday sessions draw 25 scholars and graduate students in the field.

The new seminar has two goals. First, it brings together scholars and students of East European Jewish history and culture as well as Yiddish language, literature, folklore, and related fields, from academic institutions in the greater New York area. These include YIVO, the Jewish Theological Seminary, Columbia University, New York University, Yeshiva University, and the City University of New York. The seminar provides a forum for discourse across institutional lines.

Secondly, the seminar perpetuates the YIVO tradition of using Yiddish as an active language of scholarly research and discussion. Many scholars and students in the field are eager for the opportunity to hear high-quality Yiddish lectures, and others are committed to maintaining a Yiddish-language svive (environment) in YIVO.

The seminar series was inaugurated by Dr. Mordkhe Schaechter, emeritus senior lecturer of Yiddish at Columbia University, and the dean of all Yiddish language instructors, who spoke on “The History of Yiddish Orthography.” He was followed by Rabbi Sholem Ber Levin, chief librarian of the Central Lubavitch Library, who discussed that library’s history and collections.

At the third session, Abraham Brumberg, a scholar of East European affairs, lectured on “The Bund in Poland in the 1930s—A Response to Its Critics.” The organizers are planning a wide range of speakers and topics. For further information on the seminar, contact Dr. Glasser at YIVO at (212) 246-6139.
“Dancing with the ILGWU”

The Max Weinreich Center’s Fall Lecture Series was launched with “We Organized the Union by Dancing? Jewish Socialist Culture and Interracial Organizing in the ILGWU,” a talk delivered Oct. 7 by Daniel Katz, a 1999 Weinreich Center research fellow. Mr. Katz, a doctoral student at Rutgers University, spoke of efforts by leaders of the largely Jewish International Ladies Garment Workers Union to reach out to other ethnic groups—particularly, but not exclusively, blacks.

Unlike many other unions, the ILGWU and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union did not restrict membership by blacks. On the contrary, they actively recruited members among black workers, with mixed success. The unions also aided blacks seeking to unionize in other industries, such as A. Philip Randolph’s Pullman porters. However, infighting between Communists and Socialists, as well as the anti-union backlash in the 1920’s, cost the union many members. The union encouraged socializing among members of various racial and ethnic groups. Union leaders generally (although not always) felt that workers who were friendly and associated with each other both at work and in their free time would be more likely to struggle together for the cause of labor.

Accordingly, the ILGWU did not merely organize workers and work for higher wages and better working conditions; it sponsored sports teams, cultural events and Unity House, a resort in the Poconos that provided city dwellers an escape to the country at a reasonable price.

“Unraveling the Golden Thread”

Dr. Joel Berkowitz, YIVO’s 1999 Professor Bernard Choseed Memorial Fellow, gave a lecture August 2 titled “Unraveling the Golden Thread: Meditations on Avrom Goldfaden’s Place in Yiddish Culture.” Dr. Berkowitz is the Corob fellow in Yiddish and director of studies at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

In his talk, Dr. Berkowitz first established Mr. Goldfaden’s identity, his importance to the development of Yiddish culture in general and Yiddish theater in particular, and the reasons for his great popularity, in his own time and today. He argued that the epithet “father of Yiddish theater” generally applied to Mr. Goldfaden is inaccurate, because Yiddish theater existed before Mr. Goldfaden and because he achieved far more than the mere establishment of Yiddish theater. Mr. Goldfaden’s accomplishment was in founding the first theater to survive for a significant period of time and ensuring longevity to the tradition of Yiddish theater.

Mr. Goldfaden began as a writer of songs and sketches, eventually moving on to full-fledged plays and operettas. As true in works of earlier maskilim, Mr. Goldfaden’s plays were an important vehicle for social satire. While his operettas were frequently inspired by Biblical and Talmudic stories, they also contained contemporary messages veiled in allegory.

Dr. Berkowitz declared Sholem Aleichem, Peretz, Jacob Gordin and Mr. Goldfaden to be the four classic authors of the Yiddish theater, because of the quantity and quality of their writings and theatrical productions. He considers the production history of Mr. Goldfaden’s works to be the richest. Though by the early 1920’s Mr. Goldfaden was generally considered to be “old hat,” just a few years later, he had become “exotic and daring.”

While he was still alive, writers like Sholem Aleichem, Peretz and the popular songwriter Mark Warshawsky paid homage to him and acknowledged his influence on them. Even today, his popular songs are well-known, both in Yiddish and in translation.

Dr. Paul Glasser, Research Associate at YIVO, introduced the speaker. The lecture was accompanied by recordings of songs and dialogue from Mr. Goldfaden’s works.
Hasidic Tales

Justin Lewis, the 1999 Hort Fellow, explored the world of Hasidic tales in a lecture on Oct. 21 titled, “In the Marketplace: Hasidic Tales Between Yiddish and Hebrew.” Mr. Lewis is a doctoral student at the University of Toronto and rabbinical student at the Academy for the Jewish Religion in Manhattan, as well as an experienced storyteller himself.

He structured his engaging talk by setting forth the assumptions about Hasidic narratives, particularly around issues of language, with which he first embarked upon his research, and the subsequent evolution of his understanding of these issues. Focusing on the first era of major publication of such works, from the 1860s until World War I, he discussed the types of evidence that led him to see Hasidic tales as part of a wider body of popular tales, as opposed to a highly distinct genre. This also led him to question whether books containing Hasidic tales were truly regarded as holy or whether their authors merely aspired to such status for their publications and to see a fluidity in the relative status of Yiddish and Hebrew within these tales. Mr. Lewis displayed unusual astuteness in his analysis of books of tales, reading not only the contents but also the book as artifact. Much of the illustrative material he referred to during his talk resides in the YIVO library and archives.

The lecture was introduced by Dr. Lisa Epstein, YIVO Director of Research.

Reprint of Hitler’s Professors
Issued by Yale University

In spring 1999, Yale University Press released the long-awaited reprint of Dr. Max Weinreich’s book, Hitler’s Professors: The Part of Scholarship in Germany’s Crimes Against the Jewish People. The seminal work was originally written in Yiddish and first appeared in two consecutive issues of YIVO-bleter in 1946, as well as in a separate English-translation volume that same year. This pioneering study explores the role of German academics in helping to create and support a philosophy upholding Nazi ideology and goals, and in implementing their ideas. It was written in the immediate aftermath of the war, as Nazi documents first were being sent to YIVO from Europe. The book also played a critical role in the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.

The new edition includes an introduction by historian Sir Martin Gilbert, who comments: “Hitler’s Professors is written with great passion. Drawing on publicized writings, Weinreich conveys through [selected quotations] the anger he felt on reading these materials for the first time… Building on a formidable bibliography of books, pamphlets and articles, Weinreich provides erudite evidence of the scale and ramifications of Nazi support in German intellectual life, [examining] in great detail the intellectual support and encouragement inside Germany for Nazi policy against the Jews.”

To order copies, please contact Yale University Press at 1-800-987-7323.
YIVO’s Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture concluded its 32nd session this summer with the annual siyem (graduation ceremony) on Friday August 6, 1999. Following remarks by Yankl Salant, YIVO Director of Yiddish Language Programs, keynote speaker Dr. Eugene Orenstein of the Jewish Studies Department at McGill University discussed the contributions of Uriel Weinreich. Then, the students showed off what they learned in the previous six weeks with songs, original poems, skits, essays and even a tango, all in Yiddish.

The 57 students came from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, Russia, South Africa and the United States. The programniks included artists, historians, linguists, professors, musicians, librarians, retired persons and even a high school student.

The morning classes in Yiddish grammar and literature were taught by Hanan Bordin, Brukhe Caplan, Naomi Kadar, Rivke Margolis, Eugene Orenstein, Mordkhe Schaechter and Sheva Zucker. The afternoon conversation classes were taught by Kolya Borodulin, Adina Cimet, Naomi Kadar and Leye Robinson. The Yiddish folkdance workshop was again led by Michael Alpert and the folksong workshop was co-led by Binyumen Schaechter and Adrienne Cooper. Irena Klepfisz led a translation workshop and Hy Wolfe debuted as the leader of the theater workshop. Lectures were given by Mina Bern, Toby Blum Dobkin, David Goldberg, Beyla Gottesman, Troim Handler, Shloyme Krystal, Joshua Rubenstein, Jeffrey Shandler and Tsirl Waletzky.

In short, the summer was a success. Back in their homes, students will now have something new to keep them linked to their experience in New York. An alumni newsletter will soon be published, allowing students to share their experiences.

Below: Dr. Eugene Orenstein of McGill University makes a point to the Intermediate II class.

Adam Pasamanick (L) and Steve Greenman performing a klezmer piece at siyem for the 1999 Uriel Weinreich Program.

Thank You Letter to Summer Program Director Yankl Salant

Dear Yankl,

I would like to thank YIVO for making it possible for me to participate a second time in the YIVO/Columbia Yiddish Summer Program. To attend once is just not enough. In the beginners level I felt as if I were breaking through a wall in the struggle to grasp and to internalize the basis of the language. In the intermediate, I was soon able “to swim in the sea” of Yiddish literature, enjoying the classics of our greatest writers, such as Yitzhak-Leibush Peretz, Sholem Aleichem, Sholem Asch, Chaim Grade, Avraham Raisin, Moyshe Nadir and Yosef Opatoshu.

Now back in South Africa, I have already been booked to present three reports on the program: to the Union of Jewish Woman, the Highlands House-Cape Jewish Aged Home, and to the Cape Jewish Seniors Association. Yesterday, with the resumption of our small leyenkrayt, I was able to begin to share the delight of reading “Monish,” Yitzhak-Leibush Peretz’s first published Yiddish work, which we read in Prof. Orenstein’s inspiring literature classes.

The summer course has enabled me to continue with my South African Jewish bibliographic work and my research into South African Yiddish cultural life and Yiddish theatre in particular with far greater proficiency and speed.

Nokh a mol, a groysn un a hartsikn dank!

Veronica Belling
Jewish Studies Librarian
University of Cape Town
Zuckerman Scholarships in Second Year

The Harry & Cecelia Zuckerman Foundation has awarded its second annual scholarships for YIVO’s Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture.

Dmitry Tartakovsky was born in Kiev and raised in Chicago. He is a Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois. His dissertation topic will focus on late 19th-century Ashkenazic Jewish life in the Russian Pale of Settlement. Mr. Tartakovsky was a student in the Elementary class.

Anna Petrov Bumble, from Israel, is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Near Eastern & Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. She previously studied Spanish, English, and Russian literature at Leningrad Pedagogical University. She has studied Yiddish at Brandeis and wishes to gain further proficiency. Her focus is Jewish literature of Eastern Europe and its reflection in American Jewish literature. Ms. Petrov Bumble was a student in the Intermediate I class.

Jocelyn Cohen is a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota specializing in American Jewish history and Eastern European Jewish history of the late 19th century. She previously studied Yiddish at the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in 1997. Her goals are to master the Yiddish language, to contribute to the current renewal of the Yiddish language and culture and to use Yiddish in her academic work.

Yiddish At YIVO

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Six-week intensive program at all levels, taught at Columbia University.

Yiddish Evening Courses at YIVO
Fall and spring classes at all levels.

For more information, call (212) 246-6080.

Calling All Alumni! Of the Yiddish Summer Program

If you have not yet submitted your alumni information, please do so as soon as possible, even if you are already on the YIVO member mailing list.

Contact Yankl Salant by phone: 212-294-6138, fax: 212-292-1892 or e-mail: YSalant@yivo.cjh.org.

YIVO Fellows Receive NFJC Awards

YIVO is proud to note that several recent YIVO fellows have been named recipients of awards for 1999-2000 by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Cecile Kuznitz, YIVO’s 1997 Racolin Fellow and 1999 Melezin Fellow, has received the Kogan Foundation Fellowship for completion of her dissertation, “Where the Treasure of Our People Lies: A History of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.”

Keith Weiser, a doctoral student at Columbia University and YIVO’s Max Weinreich Center, has received a doctoral dissertation fellowship for his work on “The Politics of Yiddish: Noah Prilutski and the ‘Folkspartey’ in Poland, 1900-1926.”

Jocelyn Cohen, the 1999 Racolin Fellow, has been awarded the Joy Ungerleider-Mayerson/Dorot Foundation Fellowship to support her dissertation work on “Dynamics of Class and Gender in Eastern European Immigrant Autobiography, 1942.”

Pearl Gluck, the 1998 Racolin Fellow, has received a grant of $23,660 from the NFJC’s Fund for Jewish Documentary Filmmaking to continue work on Divan, her documentary on her “journey from Brooklyn to Hungary to retrieve a family heirloom: a couch upon which Hasidic rebbes once slept.”
More than 7,000 Requests Annually
Queries Stream in from Around the World

by Aviva E. Astrinsky, Head Librarian

National Public Radio requests photocopies of pages from the Holocaust diaries of Hayim Kaplan and Emanuel Ringelblum. An architect from Amsterdam who was commissioned to build a synagogue in Lima, Peru, requests photos of Sephardic synagogues in Turkey, Greece and North Africa. A bibliographer asks for help in locating poems by Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot that were translated into Yiddish. The Princeton Historical Society is seeking a copy of the autobiography of Harris Rubin in which he describes Princeton in 1885. (The manuscript was located in the YIVO Archives.) A graduate student from Helsinki searches for materials about Jews in Scandinavia, particularly Finland.

These are just a few examples of the more than 7,000 queries from all over the world that come to YIVO each year by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail and, of course, in person. The questions, which span a wide array of subject matter, are testimony to the high esteem in which our library is held by scholars and the general public. Library staff members do their best to answer each question or to refer people to other, more suitable, organizations.

By far, the highest number of queries concerns East European genealogy. There is a tremendous curiosity on the part of the children and grandchildren of Jewish immigrants to the U.S. to learn more about their family roots in East Europe and to trace their family trees. YIVO applauds this trend, and hopes to play an even greater role in fulfilling these genealogical needs when the Institute for Jewish Genealogy opens under the auspices of the Center for Jewish History in the next few months.

The YIVO Library also receives many requests for help with translations from Yiddish. The librarians are pleased to translate short passages but are unable to devote the time necessary to translate long texts.

We also receive many requests for copies of articles from our extensive collection of East European newspapers, which are available on microfilm. A scholar from England requested an article about Yiddish names of birds, which appeared in Di Yidishe Shprakh (Kiev) in the 1930's, and a graduate student from Israel requested copies of newspapers that appeared in the DP camps. The YIVO music collection is also heavily used — a testimony to the tremendous interest in Yiddish music in the 1990’s. Interest in Yiddish Theater is also very keen.

The YIVO Library and Archives are now open to the public in the Reading Room of the Center for Jewish History. Please enter through 22 West 17th Street. Appointments are encouraged. Contact the Library at (212) 294-5100 and the Archives at (212) 294-6143, or by e-mail at library@yivo.cjh.org.

Request for Information from Abroad: One of Many

A company based in Germany that is preparing a film on Jewish life in inter-war Poland has requested copies of the August 1939 issues of Nasz Przeglad, the last ones to appear before the Nazi onslaught. Nasz Przeglad was a Polish-language daily, the central organ of Polish Jewry in the years 1923-39. The National Library in Poland also has the paper, but a microfilm copy was not available. In addition to the complete set of Nasz Przeglad, the YIVO Library also contains a complete run of the Yiddish daily Der Haynt, published from 1908-1939.

In this context it is important to mention that the Vilna YIVO Library had a remarkable collection of the Jewish press from all over the world. A considerable part of this collection miraculously escaped destruction by the Nazis and the Soviets and now is in the possession of the National Library of Lithuania. YIVO has initiated a cooperative project with this library to microfilm the rescued collection. Norman Ross mentions this vital project in the recent volume of the Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries (Philadelphia, 1998).
Henri Minczeles, who visited the YIVO Library several years ago while collecting materials for his book *Vilna, Vilno, Vilnius* (1993), was kind enough to send YIVO a copy of his more recent publication, edited with Yves Passeraud. At its core is still Vilna, but this time it encompasses larger territory, as is indicated by its title, *Lithuanie Juive 1918-1940; Message d’un Monde Englouti* (Autrement, 1996). “Message from an Engulfed World” is also the title of Mr. Passeraud’s introduction, where he defines the purpose of the book more precisely. Its subject is “a mythical country” which he prefers to call “Yiddishland” and “Litvakia.” The latter is a term created by a French psychiatrist, Dr. Leon Chertok, which he derived from the Yiddish word Litvak. This country encompassed approximately the territory of the historic Grand Duchy of Lithuania and included lands which in the inter-war period were divided among Poland, Lithuania and the Soviet Union (now Belarus).

The importance of this “mythical” country is further explained in a statement that seems to signal a new approach to Jewish history in an effort to bring out its meaning and significance in terms of universal values. “Although the country does not exist any more,” Mr. Passeraud writes, “it engendered one of the most remarkable civilizations of our [European] continent… From the establishment of the Bund movement in 1897 to the expansion of YIVO in the 1930’s, there is a long list of Litvak institutions which have left a deep mark on our century.” It should be noted here that the intention of the authors was recognized by the popular French publisher Autrement, which included the book in its series “Collection Memoires.” The series is meant as a “history of ideas, sensibilities, creations in the world—through places as symbols caught in the critical moments of turmoil and rupture.”

*Lithuanie Juive* was conceived as an anthology whose loose structure permitted the inclusion of several literary genres, such as succinct historical narratives, travelers’ impressions, objective studies of a chosen topic (one is by Ariel Sion on the school network in Vilna and Bialystok), as well as interviews and poetry. Two great poems, “Vilna” by Moyshe Kulbak (1927) at the opening of the book, and “Farewell” (1944) by Abraham Sutzkever at its end, set the tone of the work, which is warm and sometimes even lyrical.

Interestingly, the editors disregard chronology when this is desirable, although the motives for such are not spelled out. Thus, we find a chapter entitled “La Catastrophe” covering the years 1940-44 in the introductory part of the book, although this really describes the end, not the beginning, of the story of Jewish Lithuania. It may be a sensitive act on the part of Mr. Passeraud, who could have anticipated a problem: How could a general reader who is not very familiar with the history of the period understand the paradox that a community of such high cultural achievement, which coexisted rather peacefully with its neighbors in the long course of history, could have come to such a tragic end in which the neighbors played more than a minor role? The author of the account should be credited for his effort to consider all possible circumstances that could shed light on the terrible tragedy.

The book includes a succinct but insightful survey covering the time from the early Middle Ages to the inter-war and war period; interviews with Holocaust survivors; and in the final part, discussions of the lasting heritage of the Litvak civilization. The following contributing scholars are connected with YIVO: Dov Levin, on the resistance movement in the Vilna and Kovno ghettos and their environs; Itshok Niborski, on the achievement of Max Weinreich and YIVO in the field of Yiddish; and Rachel Ertel, on the modernist movement in literature, represented by the group known as “Young Vilna.”

In the end the authors declare that their work “is the first in France to restore the obliterated world of the heirs of a culture which is still alive, and to rescue it from oblivion.” This certainly seems to be true. (Our *Yedies* readers should remember that YIVO also has contributed several recent publications to the study of Lithuanian Jewry. In addition to the first three volumes of the renewed *YIVO-bleter*, it has co-sponsored two books: Dr. Yulian Rafes’ biography of Dr. Tsemakh Shabad, one of the founders of YIVO and a pioneer in the field of social medicine; and *Profiles of a Lost World* by Hirsz Abramowicz, a journalist and educator from Vilna who himself was a part of the “lost world.”)

Let us conclude with a phrase borrowed from Odile Suganas, one of the contributors: “Lithuania does not emit this radiance in situ anymore. It nevertheless continues to live here...in our hearts...It is a living permanence.” May we hope that this remark rings true to many of our readers.
“Displaced Books” Pamphlet Presented to Library

A pamphlet entitled “Displaced Books” was recently sent to the YIVO Library by its editor, Maria Kuhn-Ludewig. Mme. Kuhn-Ludewig is an active member of “AKRIBIE,” the German “Workshop of Concerned Librarians.” She is one of the editors of the “Laurentius” series, which publishes a journal under this title, as well as a series of Sonderhefte, or special issues. The purpose of the pamphlet is explained by its German title, which translates as “The Dual Aspect of Book Returns.”

This pamphlet is in response to a request by several German libraries to have some of their holdings returned to them from East European countries, which are in possession of the holdings as a result of World War II. The editor of “Displaced Books” points out that the holdings of German libraries also should be surveyed for the “gifts” that they may have received during the Nazi period. YIVO is especially interested in this aspect of “Displaced Books,” since the Vilna Library and Archives were plundered by the infamous “Einsatzstab Reichsleiter,” Alfred Rosenberg. This is the most exhaustive survey in the field to-date. It is divided into three parts: Gifts, Losses and Case Histories.

Mme. Kuhn-Ludewig, now on a research assignment in France, has published extensively on Vilna Ghetto librarian Herman Kruk, whose diary in the original Yiddish was published by YIVO in 1962.

Claims Grant To Put Vilna Library Online

YIVO will use a $116,000 grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany to help fund an online catalogue of the Vilna Library, one of YIVO’s many invaluable treasures. “We are very proud and grateful for this grant,” said Bruce Slovin, Chairman of the YIVO Board. “By putting the Vilna Library catalogue online, YIVO will make our core collections accessible to everyone, including Holocaust and cultural scholars, researchers in a wide variety of topics, and the general public.”

The Vilna Library is a key piece of YIVO’s overall Vilna collection. YIVO played a critical role in negotiations with the Lithuanian government that enabled the Institute to identify and preserve, on microfilm, an extraordinary trove of Jewish artifacts unearthed in Vilnius in the 1980s.

“With this grant the Claims Conference has reaffirmed our longstanding partnership,” Executive Director Dr. Carl J. Rheins said. “We thank the Conference, and plan to forge ahead rapidly to complete the online catalogue.”

Nikolai Borodulin Lectures to Jewish Educators at CAJE

YIVO bibliography specialist Nikolai Borodulin lectured at the August Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education (CAJE), a major gathering of Jewish educators in the United States. The event took place at Ohio State University in Columbus.

Borodulin spoke about innovative ways to teach Yiddish to young people and presented two papers, “Yiddish Curriculum for Sunday School” and “Methods of Teaching Yiddish through Games.” He also taught Yiddish for the beginners at the Yiddish Ulpan.

Mr. Borodulin also participated in the world-renowned “Klezkanada” festival of Yiddish/Jewish music and culture held in Toronto in August. He taught Yiddish to 30 beginners, most of them young people between 18-40 years old. Interestingly, many of the young attendees of the Yiddish class were Klezmer musicians. Mr. Borodulin took his 10-year-old son with him to Klezkanada. “After participating for three days in the children’s program of the Klezkanada festival, my son approached me and said, ‘Dad, teach me Yiddish.’ It was such a nakhes – one which I will never forget.”

Hannah Levin: Lifelong YIVO Supporter

Hannah Levin, a lifelong supporter of YIVO, recently passed away at the age of 76. She was the daughter of Yankev Levin, a founder of the Yiddish secular schools in the United States, and of Rivke Levin, a leading activist of the World Congress for Jewish Culture.

Aside from donating her parents’ papers to the YIVO Archives, Hannah Levin and her siblings sponsored YIVO’s 1981 Conference for Teachers of Yiddish.

Like her parents, Hannah Levin was a devoted Yiddishist and an active member of many Yiddish-oriented groups. A highly cultured person, she was also head of the Israel programs section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

YIVO and its staff will miss her.
Dr. Joseph C. Landis

Professor Joseph C. Landis, National Secretary of the American Association of Professors of Yiddish and Professor Emeritus of Yiddish at Queens College (CUNY), visited YIVO on October 28 as the guest of YIVO’s Executive Director Dr. Carl J. Rheins. At the conclusion of his tour of YIVO’s new offices and the Center for Jewish History, Dr. Rheins presented Professor Landis with a copy of the 50th Anniversary Edition of College Yiddish (New York: YIVO, 1999).

The American Association of Professors of Yiddish numbers more than 150 members nationally and is a constituent member of the Modern Language Association (MLA).

Professor Malachi Beit-Arie

Professor Malachi Beit-Arie, the Ludwig Jesselson Professor of Hebrew Codicology (the study of manuscripts in book-form), Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and his wife, Dalia, visited YIVO on October 15. While still a graduate student, he discovered the oldest dated inscription in Yiddish—in the Mahzor of Worms from 1272. This lavishly illuminated, large-format Mahzor includes a short rhymed blessing, in pointed Yiddish, for the person who would carry the heavy Mahzor into the synagogue. The inscription confirmed the hypothesis that Yiddish was the spoken vernacular of the Jews who settled the Rhineland in Germany since the early Middle Ages.

Dr. Milos Pojar of Prague

Dr. Milos Pojar, head of the Education Department of the Jewish Museum of Prague and former Czech Ambassador to Israel, visited YIVO on Oct. 20, 1999 as the guest of Board Chairman Bruce Slovin.

While at the Institute, Dr. Pojar met with Dr. Carl Rheins, YIVO’s new Executive Director, Aviva Astrinsky and Dina Abramowicz of the library, as well as Fruma Mohrer, Associate Archivist.

At the conclusion of his visit, Dr. Rheins presented Ambassador Pojar with a copy of Dr. David Fishman’s book, Embers Plucked From The Fire: The Rescue of Jewish Cultural Treasures in Vilna.

Head Archivist of Ukraine

Professor Pirig (L) with Miriam Weiner (author of Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova) and Dr. Carl Rheins.

Professor Ruslan Y. Pirig, Director of the Main Archival Administration of Ukraine, made his first visit to YIVO this October accompanied by Miriam Weiner, author of the newly released Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories. Ms. Weiner’s book is co-published by YIVO and the Routes to Roots Foundation, in cooperation with the Ukrainian State Archives and the Moldovan National Archives. Prof. Pirig noted that Ms. Weiner is an indefatigable and courageous historian and archivist.

“Through her work, she builds bridges. We are proud to have assisted her in completing this important book.” Ms. Weiner’s first book, Jewish Roots in Poland, was also co-published by YIVO in cooperation with the Polish State Archives.

Professor Pirig, who is responsible for 55 million books and documents, exchanged information on archival practices with YIVO head archivist Marek Web, Dr. Carl Rheins and other members of the YIVO staff. He toured the library, the new archival storage facilities, examined the computer system and received as a gift the Guide to the YIVO Archives. “This has been a very valuable visit for me,” Prof. Pirig commented. “I hope our institutions can forge a partnership for future projects.”

Dibner Fund’s Sternheim

Marci B. Sternheim, Executive Director of The Dibner Fund, visited YIVO at its new headquarters, at the Center for Jewish History. The Dibner Fund is a major supporter of YIVO, with a special interest in books, Jewish history and culture. Together with David Dibner, President, and George M. Szabad, The Dibner Fund treasurer and member of the founding family of YIVO, we greatly appreciate their support and look forward to a continuing — and productive — partnership.
New parents looking for a Yiddish lullaby for a baby-naming ceremony (“Shlof Mayn Feygele” or “Sleep, My Little Bird”) and researchers from Harvard and Penn State University writing on early Yiddish theater are among the diverse clientele of the YIVO Music Reference Service.

A cursory glance at some of the topics archivists assisted with in recent months shows the range of ongoing interest in Jewish music among teachers, scholars, students, performers and lay people.

Among the inquiries fielded by the Music Reference Service were:

- A researcher at Hebrew Union College (HUC) requested songs of the Messiah for a master’s thesis and concert program.
- Klezmer musicians and researchers—Joel Rubin of Berlin, Henry Sapoznik and Yale Strom—requested bibliographic data relative to their forthcoming publications.
- Scholars and musicians from Geneva, Switzerland, and Berkshire Community College, among others, examined the repertoires of the late well-known klezmer Dave Tarras, Leon Schwartz and Harry Kandel.
- A Yiddish music teacher at the Jewish Community Center in Rockville, Maryland inquired about the biographies of theater composers Joseph Rumshinsky, Abraham Ellstein, Alexander Olshanetsky, and others.
- A professor from Tulane University sought music of 19th-century Yiddish folk poets such as Mikh Gordon, Berl Broder, and Velvel Zbarzher.
- A singer from Montreal investigated the influence of Ukrainian music on the Yiddish folksong.
- Dr. Jack Gottlieb researched the influence of Jewish music on American popular music for a book in preparation.
- In addition, librarians fielded requests for piano arrangements of folksongs for concert performances, traditional wedding music, songs by Eliza Greenblatt, music by Vladimir Heifetz, “God of Abraham” songs and tekines. A student at the Jewish Theological Seminary was interested in Yiddish choruses. Librarians also assisted with preparing for a songster at the upcoming Camp Hemshekh reunion.
- Two children came with their grandmother, YIVO volunteer Esther Mishkin, to learn about their ethnic music for school and showed particular interest in the songsheets of the “Titanic.” Additionally, numerous requests were received for individual songs like “Eyli, Eyli,” “A Yidishe Mame,” “Mayn Shtetele Belz” and others.

Peter Lighte Writes from Hong Kong To Thank Music Archives

I was thrilled to receive the sheet music for “Shlof Mayn Feygele” which you kindly passed on to my childhood friend, Larry Lipton. As he might have mentioned, it will be sung at the naming ceremony for my second daughter, Tillie. The lullaby was sung to me by my mother who heard it from hers. Unfortunately I only knew the first two lines; thus my search. Tillie is my second adopted child from China. Since you are now involved in our lives, I thought you might enjoy the photo of Hattie and Tillie. A cantor will sing the melody at the ceremony. I thank you for your kindness.

Warm wishes,
Peter R. Lighte
Hong Kong, China

Jenny Romaine Launches Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln

We are proud that former Sound Archivist Jenny Romaine’s original adaptation of the oldest writing by a woman in Yiddish, The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln (17th century), will be featured in theaters across North America and in Europe. The music theater work with puppets, performed in Yiddish and English, was created by Romaine with YIVO alumni Adrienne Cooper and Frank London of the Klezmatics.

The show will have its grand New York City premiere Jan 17- Feb. 6 at the La MaMa Annex Theater on East 4th Street. Look for it!

Professor Mark Slobin Supports Music Project

Professor Mark Slobin of Wesleyan University’s Music Department, consultant to the YIVO Music Archive, recently presented a timely gift to YIVO for a special project in the Music Archive. Professor Slobin and his wife Greta Slobin visited the Music Archive earlier this year and examined the Ruth Rubin collection, among other holdings.
Ms. Leah Ingel, of Tamarac, Florida, sent the YIVO Archives three 90-minute tapes of 130 songs that she remembered from Kovno. Included on the tapes are songs her parents sang and that she learned in a Yiddish school, stories for children, folksongs, recitations and about 25 songs that were sung in the Kovno Ghetto. She was confined in the ghetto for two years until she escaped. Ms. Ingel feels that the songs and stories reflect Eastern European Jewish life during the period between the world wars.

“The songs,” she says, “reveal the horrific tribulations of the largest part of Lithuanian Jewry, which the Nazis and their collaborators systematically exterminated. I hope that future generations will be interested in listening to these songs and learn the extent of deprivation that European Jewry endured under German occupation. A pitifully small group survived to describe it.”

The songs are moving: Ms. Ingel’s voice is clear and the melodies are rendered with simplicity and little embellishment. They are an important addition to YIVO’s recorded Yiddish song treasury, and we are most grateful to her for this important contribution. The tapes eventually will be placed in the YIVO Sound Archive, where they will be available to interested visitors and researchers.

Lazarus Gift Buys Klezmer Music

Thanks to the special donation from Alice and Ben Lazarus of Denver, Colorado, a number of klezmer music albums have been purchased for the YIVO Music Archive. The donation was made in memory of Alice Lazarus’ sister, Ruth Levy of Vancouver, Canada. The music albums purchased will feature special bookplates acknowledging the couple’s gift.

Klezmer music purchased with the Lazarus gift.

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In 1921, photographer Alter Kacyzne was commissioned by the New York Yiddish daily, the Forward, to document Jewish life in Poland, or "Poyln." At the time, it was home to more than three million Yiddish-speaking Jews. Their story, as seen by Kacyzne’s camera, is told in a new book called Poyln — Jewish Life in the Old Country (see story on page 1). Here are some of the photos from Poyln.

L: Khana, Sulamita and Ater Kacyzne, Warsaw, ca. 1930.

R: Otwock, 1927. Otoowck’s next generation learns how to pour water.
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Irja and Jeffrey Steiner
Morris I. Stein, PhD
Muriel W. Sterne
Vera Stern
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Talansky
Tanner & Co., Inc.
Estelle N. and Harold Tanner
Michael & Lynne Tarnopol Foundation, Inc.
Lynne and Michael L. Tarnopol
Irving Chutick Foundation, Inc.
Louise and Jack Terry
TMPC Realty Corporation
David R. Weinreb
Urban Foundation/Engineering, LLC.
Elsie and Leon Levy
John and Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren
Sima and Rubin Wagner
Osram, Inc.
Marco Walker
Gladys O. and Allen C. Waller
American Banknote Corporation
Judy and Morris Weissman
Weissman Family Foundation, Inc.
Mildred and George Weissman
Weiss Peck & Greer
Suzanne and Stephen H. Weiss
Wertheim, Schroder & Company, Inc.
Eleanor and Mort Lowenthal
Whale Securities Co., L.P.
Claudia and William G. Walters
Louis Williams Foundation, Inc.
Elliot Scher
Aon Group Limited
John R. Wise
Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz
Charles B. Wolf, Esq.
Wolkow Braker Roofing Corp.
Gerald Wolkowitz
Eta and Henry Wrobel
Genevieve G. and Justin L. Wyner
Zantker Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Joseph H. Miller
Marjorie and Aaron Ziegelman
Arthur D. Zinberg

The journey begins:
Immigrants on the way to Gdansk.
New Accessions to the YIVO Archives

AMERICAN HISTORY

- Eleonor Holtz donated the records of Pioneer Women, the American Labor Zionist women’s organization now known as Na’amat Women. The materials span the years 1923 to 1996. The organization was officially established in 1925.

- Aida and Nathan Litwack donated materials relating to the American-Palestine Line. This passenger line was active in 1925. The Litwacks also donated documents and photographs relating to Max Davidson, an actor who performed on Yiddish stages in Tsarist Russia and Argentina.

- Through the agency of Professor Maurie Sacks, director of the Synagogues of Sullivan County [NY] Project, the YIVO Archives has received an increment of the records of Hebrew Congregation of Loch Sheldrake, of Temple Beth El of Kauneonga Lake and of Congregation Chesed Shel Emes of Monticello.

- Jack Raskin donated objects relating to American Jewish fundraising for Israel.

- Gitl Bialer donated materials relating to Labor Zionist activities, including schools, in Paterson, NJ, in the 1920’s and 1930’s. She also donated letters from the Zionist pioneer Manya Wilbushevitch Shochat.


ARTIFACTS, FILMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

- Libby (Libe) Okun Cohen donated two albums of original photographs. One album contains dozens of images of pupils and teachers, including the Yiddish writers Moishe Kulbak and Ber Horowitz, of the Yiddish-oriented Sofia Gurevitch Gymnasium (high school) in Vilna, where the donor studied during the late 1920’s. The second album contains images of the Bund-sponsored Medem [children’s] Sanatorium, near Warsaw, where the donor spent her vacations.

- Liselotte Samuel Gorlin and Evelyn Kalinsky made separate donations of European Jewish embroidery dating from the 1840s to the beginning of the twentieth century. Ms. Gorlin also donated glass positives of the Ecole Gilbert Bloch, a Jewish scout training center established in France after the Holocaust.

- Joseph I. Cohen and Rebecca Patt jointly donated a children’s game in Hebrew, published in Kishinev, Moldova, in the 1920’s. He also donated a candidates list for Jewish communal elections in Bialystok, Poland, in 1918.

- Khayim Lurye donated photographs of pre-war Jewish institutions in Kreslava as well as of the Jewish choir in Riga in the early 1960s. Both locations are in Latvia.

- The late Lucy Luchowitzki donated (via Edward Portnoy) photographs of the funeral of the puppeteer, illustrator and Yiddish poet Yosl Kotler, who was killed in a car accident in 1935.

- Dr. Leah Davidson donated photographs of the Yiddish educator Yitskhok Charlash.

- Khayim Kleiman donated photographs of labor and Bund activist Marek Jedwab of pre-war Lodz, Poland.

- Sheila J. Salenger donated photographs of her family (Grossman), which lived in the Odessa, Ukraine, area. The family perished in the Holocaust.
New Accessions

**FAMILY HISTORY MATERIALS**
- Hershl Lederhendler donated a video, made in Canada in 1977, on Bund history Bund.
- Ruth Markowitz donated family letters, written in 1925-1935, from Kilkikev, near Annapol in the Ukraine, by her grandfather, Chaim Nachson (Nachsin).
- Lee Gaynor donated family letters from her mother, Jeanette (Tsherne) Botwinski Kantor, written from Wolfowysk, Poland, in 1935.
- Edith Cohen donated family letters, mostly written to her father, Louis, from Gologora, Ukraine, before World War I.
- Lee Turner donated family letters from the paternal side of her family, named Yomin, written mostly from Disna, Belarus, in the first decade of the twentieth century.

**HOLOCAUST**
- The Israeli journalist Eliyohu Yones donated, via former YIVO archivist Cecile Kuznits, an extensive portion of his unpublished Yiddish manuscript of his recollections of the Kurowice slave labor camp, which was located near Lwow (now Lviv), Ukraine, as well as of his life as a partisan fighter against the Nazi occupation authorities.
- Irene Birnbaum donated a 140-page unpublished English-language memoir of the Warsaw Ghetto.
- Lea Strusan donated her testimony on the Stutthof concentration camp.
- Leib Opoczynski donated his recollections of the Fuenfteichen (near what is now Wroclaw, Poland) slave labor camp.
- Nachum Lifshits donated his recollections of the fate of the Jewish community during the first Soviet occupation of Riga, Latvia, in 1940-1941.
- Dr. Lucja Gliksman donated materials relating to her late husband, Dr. Jerzy Gliksman, who was a Jewish Labor Bund activist in Poland. In particular, the documentation concerns his imprisonment by the Soviet authorities during the Holocaust years.

**LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**
- Elye Derbaremdiker donated the manuscript of his unpublished study of Yiddish numismatic terminology.
- Leon Milman donated original typescripts of Workmen’s Circle resolutions and conference minutes for 1947-1948.


"A photo of the Shuttan family, taken in Vilna, probably in 1925. It was donated by Aida and Nathan Litwack."
Dr. Monica Shteingart donated a letter from Isaac Bashevis Singer.

Hank Bayer donated fundraising materials for the publication of a Yiddish translations of the Five Scrolls of the Bible by Naftoli Gross.

Dr. Zetta Putter and Vita Hochstadt jointly donated a 216-page manuscript of children’s stories written by their father, Shaye Hurwitz-Zalkes, author of several widely-used Yiddish schoolbooks.

Vassili Schedrin donated his unpublished study of the diary of Osip Dymov, the Russian and Yiddish playwright and sculptor whose papers and art are in the collections of the YIVO Archives.

Geraldine Kuris donated the papers of the actors/singers Gustav Berger and Fania Rubina. Berger and Rubina, who were married, had long-lasting careers in Yiddish theater and film in Europe and America. The collection consists of about a hundred play manuscripts, musical positions by Hertz Rubin, Rubina’s brother, and other materials.

The distinguished actress Shifra Lerer donated (via Yosl Mlotek) manuscripts of five Yiddish plays.

Paula (Perl) Boltman donated documentation about Yiddish theatrical activities in Australia, particularly relating to performances by the great Yiddish actresses Ida Kaminska and Rokhl Holtser.

Janet Weiss donated 31 Yiddish and cantorial 78-rpm recordings.

Leah Ingel donated tapes containing 130 Yiddish songs that she remembers from her childhood as well as from the two and a half years she spent confined in the Kovno, Lithuania, ghetto. [See p. 17 for an article on this donation.]

The distinguished singer Masha Benya-Matz donated six Yiddish theatrical songs in printed and manuscript versions.

Clara Flohr donated a thank-you note signed by members of a class taught by the great violinist Jasha Heifetz.

A very special thanks goes to Judi Lepofsky for donating twenty-five piano rolls featuring popular Yiddish songs. Piano rolls are a new kind of document for YIVO’s collections.

The Fairfax Public Library of Los Angeles donated 26 Hebrew song booklets.

Sandra Domnitz, Dinah E. Lindauer and Tzipora Sofare made separate donations of Yiddish and cantorial 78-rpm recordings.

OZE (a Jewish health organization) Summer Camp in Kreslava, Latvia, 1938. Donated by Khayim Lurye.

Funeral of puppeteer and cartoonist Yosl Kotler. The donor, Lucy Luchowitzki, is holding the flag.
Letters to Yedies

We encourage our readers to write with comments and responses to *Yedies*.

Stirring Old Memories

The photo of Dr. T. Shabad in your last issue reminded me that Jasha Shabad, his son, was a very close friend of my family in Vilnius ( Vilna) after WWII. He spent long hours at the home of my parents, Fira and Edgar Pavloski.

Dr. Boris Paul
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Thanks from Archives of Ukraine

I want to thank Dr. Carl J. Rheins, YIVO executive director, for the warm welcome and very interesting tour of your repository. It was very important for me to learn more about the YIVO Institute and the important work you are doing. I am very interested in seeing more of your collections the next time I visit New York. If YIVO officials plan a trip to Ukraine, I welcome the opportunity to meet with them in my office and to show them the archives in Kiev. Again, thank you for your hospitality.

Prof. Ruslan Y. Pirig
Director
Main Archival Administration of Ukraine

From a Donor to the Archives

I don’t know how easy it is for you to receive Yiddish letters, so I decided to write in English. With this letter, I am also sending you materials related to the following:

- The Sofia Markovna Gurevich Gymnasium in Vilna, Poland, my school from 1923 - 1930. (It included elementary and high school classes.)
- The Medem Sanitarium in Miedleszyn, near Warsaw. (I often spent summer vacations there.)

Both institutions were important in building the education of the youth of that time, and both were Jewish secular institutions. I hope these materials will enrich the YIVO Archives in relation to pre-Holocaust Jewish life in Poland. Please let (YIVO’s) Dina Abramowicz know that these materials arrived, since Vilna was also her city.

With thanks,

Libby O. Cohen
Charlottesville, VA

Dear Ms. Cohen,
Thank you very much for your generous gift. Yes, we do publish letters in the Yiddish section of *Yedies*.

Editor

Music Archives Provides Words to Comforting Song

I am 97 years old, a resident at Daughters of Israel Geriatric Center, in New Jersey. A new resident arrived and told us he spent five years in a concentration camp, lost his father and mother there and had seen naked bodies go into the gas chambers and never return. He was 30 years old at the time and survived as a slave laborer. Understandably, his brain is somewhat addled. My heart broke as I heard his story and I wailed out the mournful song “Eyli Eyli.” I express myself in song. I remembered all the words except three but substituted the sounds. Everyone was silent when I sang. Evidently, no one knew of the error but I don’t want it to happen again. Please send me the song in English transliteration. The Hebrew words I know. I am missing three Yiddish words.

Many thanks for your help,

Ruth Smith
West Orange, NJ

Dear Ms Smith,
The Music Archives, of course, has the words to the song and forwarded them. We are delighted to be part of your noble efforts to comfort others through song.

Editor

Ida Kaminska’s Australian Tour

The last issue of *Yedies* had a short article about the forthcoming Commemorative Exhibition on the 100th Anniversary of Ida Kaminska’s birth. Ida Kaminska, her husband Melman, daughter Ruth Turkow Kaminska and son-in-law Karol Latowicz visited Australia in 1960. Ida Kaminska directed and performed two plays: “Mirele Efros” and “The Trees Die Standing,” together with the ensemble of the David Herman Theater. I am forwarding a photocopy of the front of the program and two photos, one of myself playing Felicia the maid, together with Ms. Kaminska. I am also enclosing a copy of an article which appeared in the Australian Jewish News shortly after the death of the great Yiddish actress Rachel Holcer.

Mit a hartsikn grus,
Perl Boltman,
Victoria, Australia
בראיבט يوسف בגדאלה

"אנו יודעים אנו זמנים פאוליניסטיםutra כי די
עמוקה ת럼ית. זכזך שיאפה את 63 ש skype א
אצְטֵפ לרת ע Narendra בגדאלה ומות ס
שף משלטסץ על בגדאלה המרוסיימים. בה יד
כְּלָת אצטפים על בגדאלה המרוסיימים.

בראיבט يوسف בגדאלה

(1931) מלקות, ורמברג, ירושלים "בראיבט يوسف בגדאלה" (1931 רמת המדרש)

(1931) מלקות, ורמברג, ירושלים "בראיבט يوسف בגדאלה" (1931 רמת המדרש)
(blog)

(teacher)
בוגרד - אפכלדוסטר סמטאנת आंशिक्य से निःशुल्क

देव यहूदा पूर्व में निःस्वरूप एवं चाहिए मानवीय धोखाधड़ी निर्माण करो।

एक निःस्वरूप  मानवीय धोखाधड़ी निर्माण करो।

अनुसूचित फ़ाइल के लिए दूर पदार्पण करो अथवा उन्हें दूर करो।

यदि आप इस उद्देश्य के लिए दूर पदार्पण करो अथवा उन्हें दूर करो।

पूर्व निःस्वरूप एवं चाहिए मानवीय धोखाधड़ी निर्माण करो।

एक निःस्वरूप  मानवीय धोखाधड़ी निर्माण करो।

देव यहूदा पूर्व में निःशुल्क
אלטר קאציוו

مشاר coma לשונה לאנסטרט א אומלפורפיאקס

าน רעליגודה עונסתחי איידייראכד

לדא תורחשק שלח טנעגהלקר ריאיר חום, ריאיר

לӊוʊויך גונסמא אא סקטינט זים מנסשתין.()

לעו קלאסשר אטמאל פאיטאיאו איידייראכד

אא מ"א, יא ריאיר גוורינאאק. יא טור춰ש

בשט יה זמס קלאס פארמעגאמ אא צוין

וז יא טוץ קלאס שלח אברנאמק איידייראכד.

ע"א טון בורע אא סקטינט זים מנסשתין.

לרוfyכ疗程 אא סקטינט זים מנסשתין.

ע"א טון בורע אא סקטינט זים מנסשתין.

לעמפ פון פון, יא טון בורע אא סקטינט זים מנסשתין.

יא סקטינט בורע אא סקטינט זים מנסשתין.
אריס א בן פּאַסֶּאָנהֲפָיִיס פּוֹף
אלעטער קאָצײַרעד א"ט "פורלן"

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
15 West 16th Street,
New York, NY 10011