Eizenstat, Bock, Harnick Honored

75th Anniversary Gala Raises $1.5 Million

More than 500 people celebrated with YIVO at its 75th Anniversary Benefit Dinner on April 10th. The gala, at New York’s Pierre Hotel, raised $1.5 million and honored Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Stuart E. Eizenstat and the composing team of Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick.

Presenting the honorees with special 75th Anniversary commemorative medals, YIVO Chairman of the Board Bruce Slovin commented, “While saluting three outstanding members of our Jewish community, we also are honoring the preservation of our people by remembering our roots and building a new vision of Jewish continuity together.”

The commitment to remember Eastern European Jewish life and culture [continued on page 4]

Prof. Deborah Lipstadt

New Cultural Series Marks Celebration of 75th Year

This year YIVO inaugurates a major new program of cultural events, including a film series (four New York premieres), lectures, readings and performances. World-class scholars, researchers, theater performers, musicians and directors will share their work and thoughts at the YIVO series in the Center for Jewish History (full schedule, page 19). In addition, the film component will bring films never before screened in New York, such as The Assistant, directed by Dan Petrie.

Prof. Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, will open the 75th Anniversary Celebration Series. Lipstadt who successfully defended her work against libel charges in England, will address “Holocaust Denial: A New Form of Anti-Semitism,” on October 19. Her latest book, Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory (Free Press/MacMillan, 1993) is the first full-length study of those who attempt to deny the Holocaust.

Lipstadt will be followed by Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Visiting Professor of Holocaust Studies at Clark University and Director of the International Institute of Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Memorial Authority. He will explore “The Shoah in Historical Perspective” on November 21. His last book, Jews for Sale? Nazi Negotiations, 1939-1945, discussed the negotiations between Nazi Germany and the Jews for the release of Jews in exchange for money, goods or political benefit.

Other events include the Special YIVO Colloquium, “Emanuel Ringelblum Remembered,” coordinated by Prof. Samuel Kassow of Trinity College, and Prof. Neil Jacobs, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures of Ohio State University, speaking on “Negotiating Jewish Modernity Verbally: Yiddish, ‘Not-Yiddish,’ and the Linguistic Roadmap of Ashkenazi Jewry.”

Please join us for this groundbreaking series.
Message from the Chairman of the Board

Honoring the Past, Building for the Future

I want to thank each and every one of you who contributed to the success of our dinner celebrating YIVO’s distinguished 75 year history. We raised $1.5 million, money crucial to the success of ongoing programs and of several new initiatives in the pipeline. The Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat, and Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, our eminent honorees, together made a unique and memorable statement about the vitality of Eastern European Jews and their descendants.

However, as we look to the future, we also pay tribute to Dina Abramowicz, our devoted YIVO librarian who passed away on April 3. Hers was a life of courage and commitment to the preservation of Jewish libraries and scholarship. She nurtured several generations of academics, researchers, and librarians. The YIVO Board has created the Dina Abramowicz Book Fund (for the library) and the Fellowship Fund, an endowment to support an emerging scholar pursuing research at YIVO. Together, the funds perpetuate the values she embodied.

I want to welcome three new persons to the YIVO Board: David Polen, Rosina Abramson, and Arthur Rosenblatt (see page 8 for profiles). Each brings special skills and knowledge, which add to the strength and breadth of our board.

As you page through this issue of Yedies, you will notice all the exciting new activities at YIVO. The broad public programming events include a film festival featuring four New York premieres, the Zamler Project in Brooklyn, and the terrific redesigned Web site which can be found at http://www.yivoinstitute.org. YIVO is building for the future. With the comprehensive Planned Giving package we are creating with Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., we begin to reach out to our supporters to help ensure a bright future for YIVO. And we are forging partnerships with the National Yiddish Book Center, the Sholom Aleichem Memorial Foundation, the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, and New York University’s Center for Advanced Technology — to enhance the core mission of YIVO. We hope you will join us as we grow and blossom.

YIVO News

Founded in 1925 in Vilna, Poland as the Yiddish Scientific Institute and headquartered in New York since 1940, YIVO is devoted to the history, society and culture of Ashkenazic Jewry and to the influence of that culture as it developed in the Americas. Today, YIVO stands as the preeminent center for East European Jewish Studies; Yiddish language, literature and folklore; and the study of the American Jewish immigrant experience.

A founding partner of the Center for Jewish History, YIVO holds the following constituent memberships:
• American Historical Association • Association for Jewish Studies • Association of Jewish Libraries • Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies • Research Library Group (RLG) • Society of American Archivists and • World Congress of Jewish Studies.

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Become a Member of YIVO Today

Help ensure that our children and our children’s children will study, enjoy and remember the history, language and culture of our East European ancestors.
Message from the Executive Director

Optimistic Engagement for the Future

In the May 11, 2000 Arts Section of The New York Times, Bernard Weinraub devoted a full-length article to the renewed interest in Eastern European Jewish culture in the United States. He cited such popular events as the annual day-long Festival, “Yiddishkayt Los Angeles,” which draws thousands of participants each year. Also noted were burgeoning Yiddish language adult education programs, film series and Klezmer music festivals which seem to dominate the cultural life of Jewish New York.

What Weinraub did not address is the even more dramatic rise of Eastern European Jewish Studies at European and U.S. universities. During the Holocaust, about 750 institutions of European Jewish learning were lost forever. Many cities that were major centers for Jewish studies before the Second World War were destroyed by the Germans and experienced the near-total devastation of their Jewish Studies resources. Jewish Studies never properly recovered from the Holocaust, and the reconstruction has taken place on a country-by-country basis. The rebuilding of a pan-European field in Jewish studies and the promotion of European cooperation has been particularly haphazard and slow.

The position today is one of optimistic engagement. Attempts are underway to reconstruct and consolidate the field. This is partly because of the new spirit of European cooperation fostered by the European Union and partly because of renewed contacts with Eastern Europe, where teaching and research in Jewish Studies was illegal after the Second World War.

According to the European Association for Jewish Studies, reconstruction of the field is proceeding (e.g. Jewish Studies were officially restarted in Slovakia only in May 1996). The enormous interest is marked by new publications, cultural festivals, and student demand for teaching of subjects that until recently were taboo.

For example, Eastern European Jewish Studies, including courses in Yiddish, are now taught regularly at such distinguished European universities as Oxford, Düsseldorf, Vilnius and the Russian State University of the Humanities (Moscow). For YIVO, this growth is manifested in the steady increase in the numbers of European graduate students and faculty who now regularly visit the YIVO Archives and Library or who enroll in YIVO’s intensive Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture at Columbia University.

In North America, the picture is even more encouraging. Due to the pioneering efforts of YIVO’s Max Weinreich Center and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture in the early 1970s, an entire new generation of scholars in Eastern European Jewish Studies has been trained. These individuals, many of whom loyaly count themselves as YIVO alumni, and who are at the most productive points in their careers, now head major Jewish Studies programs at leading universities such as Harvard and Stanford.

Although undergraduate Yiddish enrollments have remained flat during the past decade, the number and quality of doctoral dissertations in East European Jewish Studies have increased steadily, further ensuring that a second generation of American-born scholars of Eastern European and Yiddish Studies will soon be prepared to take their places in university classrooms throughout the United States and Canada.

These developments, coupled with the creation of the Center for Jewish History, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and other first-rank Jewish research institutions, offer promise of a bright, secure and fertile future for the study of East European Jewish Civilization.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011-6301

I want to help YIVO preserve our Jewish heritage.
• $50—Entitles you, as a YIVO member, to the YIVO newsletter in Yiddish and English.
• $100—The above, and a small poster reproduction from YIVO’s collection.
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was exemplified by the Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat, a leader in negotiations for the return of looted Jewish assets. Receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award, he noted that Yiddish was the language of his grandparents and “suffused” his early years. “This award means more to me coming, as it does, from an organization that has for so long been preeminent in the preservation and advancement of the legacy of Jewish culture,” he said.

Eizenstat then described his work. “Over the past five years...we have been trying to bring a measure of belated justice to the survivors of the Holocaust and to their families. To me, this has been the most challenging and the most satisfying assignment I have ever had in government.”

Introducing Eizenstat, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, a supporter of restitution efforts, thanked YIVO for allowing him “to share a platform with Stuart Eizenstat and Bruce Slovin.”

Slovin acknowledged the death of Dina Abramowicz, YIVO’s devoted Research Librarian and mentor to many of today’s top scholars in East European Jewish Studies (see page 6). Noting that Abramowicz was a veteran of the famous Vilna Ghetto Paper Brigade, which saved YIVO’s documents from the Nazis, Slovin said, “This marks the end of an era. Dina embodied the values and scholarship of Vilna; and, she was a link between the Yerushalayim de Lita, and the present. This is a terrible loss. Her memory will be for a blessing.”

Greetings in Yiddish by Board member Motl Zelmanowicz demonstrated YIVO’s commitment to preserving and teaching the language, and to bringing Yiddish culture to new generations. This was reinforced by Board member Leo Melamed, who read, in Yiddish, “And Thus You Shall Speak to the Orphan.” The powerful poem was composed by Abraham Sutzkever, an activist in the “Paper Brigade,” who now lives in Israel.

Composer and lyricist team Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, who collaborated on scores for seven Broadway shows,
including the enduring world-wide hit *Fiddler on the Roof*, each received the Special Cultural Arts Award. Before these were presented, there was a poignant musical tribute that included a medley of their songs, performed by Broadway stars Debbie Gravit and Leroy Reams.

At the end of the scheduled program Joseph D. Becker, Chairman of the YIVO Executive Committee, along with Leadership Forum Chair Rita Levy and Co-Chair Cathy Zises, called Slovin to the podium to present him with a Lifetime Achievement Award medal. Becker announced that the surprise honor was to acknowledge Bruce Slovin’s 15 years of outstanding leadership at YIVO, as well as his commitment, wisdom, unstinting generosity and perseverance. “Thanks to your great vision, YIVO is a stronger organization. We can look to the future, and go from strength to strength,” Becker said.

**Development and External Affairs**

**Restoring Jewish Vitality**

by Ella Levine, Development Director

In this new century, as in the past, we must find and restore the meaning and vitality of Jewish life. To do so, we must harness the energy and dedication of our members as we continue YIVO’s traditions of community involvement, teaching and instilling a sense of continuity between past, present and future generations.

Strengthening a Jewish community and a cultural organization dedicated to preserving our heritage allows us to enrich our lives and those of others. Perhaps these goals are best achieved through collaboration and strategic partnerships with academic institutions, investment in our future through endowments, and working together to share and implement ideas with new target groups that may have been beyond our reach before.

YIVO is designing a new program to create vibrant connections between today’s younger generations and our pre-war Jewish East European culture; it will draw on YIVO’s remarkable resources. The EPYC program will help us bring various aspects of the life, traditions, languages and culture to a new audience. This will ensure that YIVO will continue to grow and flourish.

The success of YIVO’s 75th Anniversary Dinner signified the great strides made in the past century. The importance of our mission — to teach and preserve — has not changed. The interest shown by the younger generations gives us great hope that people will desire to learn more about their heritage, to pass on our legacy.

YIVO is uniquely positioned and equipped to bring together diverse elements of Jewish life, to share enhanced resources and rich experiences, and to cement new partnerships and collaborations.

YIVO’s new Planned Giving Program will provide valuable resources needed to meet YIVO’s goals. A planned gift is a special opportunity, over and above your annual commitment to YIVO, to achieve your personal, family and philanthropic goals. It is an expression of the values you hold dear and a vehicle to enhance your support for a cause that is important to you, to enhance the core mission of YIVO.

A planned gift to YIVO is an investment in and for the future. We all have a part in meeting this challenge, and I believe that, by working together, we will succeed.

This is our challenge — to bring our knowledge to present and future generations.
Irving Howe summed up Dina Abramowicz’s role at YIVO in a tribute published in his book *The World of Our Fathers*. Thanking YIVO for making his book possible he acknowledged “its indefatigable and splendid librarian Dina Abramowicz.”

Born in Vilna in 1909, when the city was the seat of Eastern European Jewish scholarship and culture, Abramowicz lived under Czarist, Polish, German, Lithuanian and Soviet Russian rule before immigrating to the United States in 1946. The daughter of teachers, she was fluent in Yiddish, Russian, Polish, German, French and English. Abramowicz earned a master’s degree in humanities from Stefan Batory University in Vilna and served as librarian of Vilna’s Jewish Children’s Library and then of the Vilna Ghetto library.

In that capacity, she was a member of the “Paper Brigade,” intellectuals who risked their lives to rescue Jewish books from looting and destruction by the Nazis. Many of those works were unearthed after the war and are in the YIVO collection.

In September 1943, when the ghetto was liquidated, Dina was put on a train to a labor camp. The train car door slid open on the Vilna platform and Dina walked off and joined Jewish partisans. She served out the war as a nurse’s assistant.

In 1947, Dina went to work at the YIVO library. In 1962, after earning a master’s degree in library science from Columbia University, she became YIVO’s head librarian. In 1987, when she was 77, Dina stepped down but remained a YIVO reference librarian until her death.

During her 53-year career at YIVO, Dina earned an international reputation for her encyclopedic knowledge of YIVO’s collection. Friends and associates say that her mental “card catalog” was as powerful as a computerized one.

One story about her near-photographic memory involved diplomat George F. Kennan, who sought information on a 19th-century convert to Christianity. Immediately, Dina brought him an arcane Yiddish book on Jewish apostates.

Among Dina’s many awards was the Berl Frimer Prize for Cultural Achievement from the Congress for Jewish Culture.

Last year, Dina oversaw the English publication of *Profiles of a Lost World* (Wayne State University Press), written by her father, Hirsz Abramowicz. Originally published in Yiddish in 1958, *Profiles* describes Lithuanian Jewish culture. Dina called the English publication “a dream come true.”

Dina considered YIVO her home and a YIVO volunteer, Elaine Adamenko, was with her when she died. She is survived by a niece and two nephews.

Dina Abramowicz, 1909-2000

**Memorial Funds to Help Library and Emerging Scholars**

YIVO’s Board of Directors has established two funds and scheduled a tribute to long-time YIVO librarian and Yiddish scholar Dina Abramowicz who passed away on April 3 at age 90. The tribute is open to the public. It will be held on Monday, September 18, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M. at YIVO, in the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th St., New York, NY.

The Dina Abramowicz Book Fund will help develop and maintain the YIVO Library through the purchase and restoration of books. The Dina Abramowicz Fellowship Fund will be an annual endowment to enable an emerging scholar to pursue research through the YIVO Library and Archives.

Contributions to either or both of these funds should be sent to Ella Levine, YIVO Director of Development.
Tributes to Dina Abramowicz have come in from around the world. Here are excerpts from two eulogies by people who knew her well.

Zachary M. Baker succeeded Dina as YIVO Head Librarian and is now Reinhard Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections at Stanford University.

“Dina would have disapproved of being described as a symbol of Eastern European Jewry, though those who came in contact with her often regarded her as such. Symbols tend to be static, and there was nothing static about Dina’s probing curiosity or her desire to learn new things, to be au courant with current events or the newest books to cross her desk…”

“Tenacity, energy, strength, and above all dedication — these are the main characteristics that marked Dina Abramowicz’s personality. She was dedicated to her work, to the public that she served, to the legacy of Vilna, and to the memory of her father, Hirsz Abramowicz. Dina was also blessed with a phenomenal memory, which she was always able to plumb for elusive facts and helpful research strategies.”

Sam Kweskin, a Boca Raton, Florida, genealogist, used Dina’s services regularly.

“I am among the many hundreds — and even thousands — who profited from the kindnesses and culture and knowledge of Dina Abramowicz. In the years 1978 - 1981, while issuing the quarterly Vilkija, the genealogical newsletter of relatives and friends who came from that be-knighted village west of Kovno, that wonderful librarian was able to practically take me by the hand to show me where, how and which books to search for information. She was a lighthouse among librarians, a mistress of her ‘fach’, and she will long be remembered and missed and honored.”

Dina on Vilna Ghetto, Books

At the June 22, 1998 Association of Jewish Libraries Convention in Philadelphia, Dina Abramowicz gave a stirring lecture on the library of the Vilna Ghetto, where she had worked. Entitled “Guardians of a Tragic Heritage: Reminiscences and Observations of an Eyewitness,” the lecture provided insight into her passion for books. It was later issued as a separate publication by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Speaking about ghetto conditions, she noted that “space that was previously occupied by one resident was now shared by seven people” and that “each ghetto resident had not quite two square meters of space at his disposal.” In the midst of this misery that Dina called a “human cage,” a group of dedicated librarians (including Dina and headed by Herman Kruk) restored the ghetto’s Hevrah Mefitse Haskala Library, making its 45,000-volume collection available to residents.

On November 12, 1942, the library held a celebration when its annual circulation reached 100,000 volumes. In her lecture, Dina quoted Kruk as saying, “Books were narcotics, a way to get away, to escape the unbearable reality. Books were taken out during the most tragic events of ghetto life, immediately after selections and deportations, and read in crowded rooms, where people slept on their bundles instead of their beds.”

As residents of the ghetto were deported, the library absorbed their collections. Eventually, the Nazis put Kruk in charge of sorting Vilna’s book treasures so that the most valuable could be sent to Germany and other material could be destroyed.

While not speaking directly about her own activities in the “Paper Brigade,” a dedicated group who risked their lives to rescue books from the Nazis, Abramowicz noted, “The lucky post-Holocaust generations ought to remember these courageous and dedicated individuals who struggled against incredible odds to save the spiritual riches of their people, accumulated during the centuries.”
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To find out more about the many ways YIVO Charitable Gift Annuities can help you achieve your financial, family and Jewish objectives, please call Ella Levine, Director of Development, at (212) 246-6080.

*Please note that YIVO does not provide legal or professional tax advice. For that, you will need to discuss the matter with an attorney or other professional.
Since December 1999, three new members have been elected to YIVO’s National Board of Directors. They are David M. Polen, Rosina K. Abramson, Esq., and Arthur Rosenblatt, FAIA.

David M. Polen is President and Chief Executive Officer of Polen Capital Management of Tampa, Florida. He has been a financial services executive for more than 30 years. A securities analyst and one of the nation’s top-performing money managers, he is founder and president of several companies including Polen Capital Management Corporation, all in the business of providing investment advice and counsel.

His firms operated on Wall Street for many years. Polen is a frequently quoted source in Barron’s, The Wall Street Journal, Investor’s Business Daily and other national financial media. He is listed in Marquis Who’s Who in the World, and Who’s Who in Finance and Industry, and he is among the first financial executives in the country to have earned the CFP (Certified Financial Planner) credential. The firm currently manages over $650 million in investment products.

Polen has served on the board of the UJA/Federation in Tampa, Florida, and has been the Chair of the Florida Holocaust Museum, the fourth largest museum of its kind in the United States.

Rosina K. Abramson is the principal of INSIGHT Project Management Services, a consulting firm specializing in strategic planning, fund development, project implementation and delivery. She formerly served as the Executive Director/CEO of Women’s American ORT, Inc. Her achievements in project development include President of the Queens West Development Corporation, Vice-President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation of the State of New York, and General Counsel for the Office of the New York City Council President.

Abramson served as Chair of the Municipal Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Not-for-Profit Corporations Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. She also is the founder and primary fundraiser for the Kovno Lithuania Jewish Community Kitchen, a food pantry for the elderly.

Arthur Rosenblatt has spent most of his career in the public sector. A graduate of Cooper Union and Carnegie Mellon Universities, he designed the new Auschwitz Jewish Center in Oswiecim, Poland. From 1986 to 1988 he was Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. He is a Presidential appointee to the National Museum Services Board of the Institute for Museum Services.

In the New York City area, Rosenblatt was Vice Director and Vice President of Architecture and Planning for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, overseeing the Museum’s Comprehensive Architectural Plan, from 1968 to 1986. He also served as First Deputy Commissioner, NYC Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs under Mayor John Lindsay.

He received the 1995 Alumni Award of Carnegie Mellon University, for “influential contributions to the field of architecture and … museum design and construction.” Other honors include being a Fellow, The American Institute of Architects and receiving the Augustus St. Gaudens Medal of The Cooper Union.
Two YIVO books have been honored by the Jewish Book Council. First, *Poyln: Jewish Life in the Old Country*, the unique album of Alter Kacyzne’s photographs, edited by YIVO’s Chief Archivist Marek Web, received the 1999 National Jewish Book Award in the Yiddish Life and Culture category. Sponsored by the Council, the ceremony was held on March 23, 2000 in New York.

“The real earner of this distinguished award is the martyred Yiddish writer and photographer Alter Kacyzne, who was killed by the pogrom mob in the Ukrainian city of Tarnopol on July 7, 1941,” Web said.

In addition, Miriam Weiner’s *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories* (Routes to Roots Foundation and YIVO Institute) was a finalist in the Council’s reference category.

**Libraries Award for Jewish Roots**


In presenting this award, Robert Singerman noted, “(We are) quickly overtaken by the author’s …mission of both pilgrimage, and rescue of records long-thought to have been destroyed.”

He added that the book features views of towns in Ukraine and Moldova that were once predominantly Jewish, and today still have functioning (though decreased) Jewish communities, “not just the destroyed cemeteries that are photographed here in abundance.”

The award was funded by Dr. Greta Silver.

**Yiddish Orthography Published**

Yiddish speakers and writers worldwide now have an updated, comprehensive source on standardized spelling of Yiddish words and their transliterations into English. YIVO and the League for Yiddish this spring published the much-anticipated *The Standardized Yiddish Orthography* [*Der eynheytlekher yidisher oysleyg*].

“YIVO’s efforts to standardize Yiddish orthography, while primarily intended to elevate the status of Yiddish as a modern language of literature and scholarship, also had the intention of bringing together those who spoke and wrote in the language…unifying the Jewish people through the standardization of their mother tongue,” Drew University associate professor of Jewish Studies Dr. Allan L. Nadler writes in his preface.

The book’s introductory remarks were written by Dr. Joshua A. Fishman and Dr. Paul Glasser, a YIVO research associate and a renowned linguist. A comprehensive bibliography and detailed index are included, as well as photographs and reproductions of historical documents.

Included in the volume are the sixth edition of *Rules of Yiddish Spelling* (*Takones fun yidisher oysleyg*) and *The History of Standardized Yiddish Spelling* (*Fun folkshprakh tsu kulturshprakh*), by Dr. Mordkhe Schaechter, senior lecturer emeritus in Yiddish at Columbia University.

Dr. Glasser’s introduction traces efforts to compose a standard Yiddish orthography. He notes: “The first dated occurrence of written Yiddish that has survived — a single sentence in a Hebrew prayerbook — dates to 1272; the first longer Yiddish text — to 1382.”

*The Standardized Yiddish Orthography* ($18.00 U.S., plus postage and handling) is available through the Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring Bookstore, 45 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016 (1-800-922-2558).
The treasures of Yiddish children’s literature will soon be preserved forever in new reprint editions, thanks to a partnership between YIVO and the National Yiddish Book Center. YIVO Executive Director Carl Rheins and Yiddish Book Center President Aaron Lansky signed an agreement that paves the way for the digitization of YIVO’s children’s book collection, using existing microfiche. Once digitized, all of YIVO’s Yiddish children’s titles — including long-out-of-print volumes — will become available on demand, as new, high-quality reprints.

The Yiddish Book Center will add hundreds of its own children’s titles to YIVO’s holdings, from the 1.5 million Yiddish volumes recovered by the Center over the past 20 years. Hardcopy, acid-free reprints of all titles in the combined children’s book collection will be added to the YIVO Library.

Upon signing the agreement, Yiddish Book Center President Aaron Lansky said, “This effort addresses the essential mission of both our organizations: to preserve and celebrate Yiddish culture, and to add to our growing understanding of its many treasures.”

Rheins added, “I look forward to more cooperative projects with the Book Center.”

Hundreds of children’s books were produced by Yiddish writers in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Ranging from basic language primers to fantasies and adventure stories, the books reflect the turbulent times in which they were written. Many will be valuable to teachers and students of Yiddish, providing a rich supplement to contemporary textbooks. The Yiddish Book Center will compile an annotated bibliography of all children’s books in the digitized collection, with plot descriptions and biographies of authors, further enhancing the usefulness of the books to students, scholars, schools and study groups.

The spirit of collaboration is also manifest in a cooperative agreement inked between Rheins and Sidney J. Gluck, President of the Sholom Aleichem Memorial Foundation. The two organizations are co-sponsoring three cultural programs this fall at the Center for Jewish History. They include “An Evening with (writer) Bel Kaufman,” who will discuss her grandfather, Sholom Aleichem. The two other events, “From Russia with Song” and “An Evening with the Co-Directors of the Folksbiene Theater,” will highlight areas of mutual interest, and celebrate the broad panoply of Yidishkayt, past and present.

“Our new working relationship will provide the New York area public with free opportunities to see and hear key members of the Jewish community,” Rheins commented. “These programs represent a commitment to remembering our history, as we enjoy our live Yiddish culture.”

(See page 19 for details.)

Energetic and Innovative Chicago

Chicago YIVO is thriving. It has more than doubled its membership since 1991, bringing exciting new programming to thousands of Chicago area residents. This year it is planning to develop more programming in the city and suburbs, and will work to provide more grants to young Yiddish scholars.

With the financial support of YIVO National Board Member Leo Melamed, the Society is also developing an interactive CD-ROM for teaching Yiddish.

Another outreach vehicle is Chicago YIVO’s new web site, which can be viewed at: www.chicagoyivo.org. It offers a history of YIVO, the mission statement of Chicago YIVO, images from its collections, and links to other web sites, including the new YIVO New York site.

On April 23, 2000, as part of YIVO Chicago’s regular lecture series, Dr. David Fishman (JTS, New York YIVO) spoke about “Project Judaica: YIVO Ensuring the Future of Yidishkayt in Russia,” which described the pioneering program and his role as its director.

The 2000 Summer Festival of Yiddish Culture, an annual series of events co-produced with the Chicago Public Library, features free public lectures and performances. Among the many offerings are Yiddish art and folk songs, presented by Sima Miller, and Northwestern University Prof. Irwin Weil’s talk entitled “Developments in Yiddish Culture.” For a full schedule of events, call (312) 747-4702 or (312) 744-7616.
The Zamler Project, launched in fall 1999, signals an exciting new phase at YIVO. The Archives reports that a core collection on religious Jewish life in Borough Park has been successfully established. It includes about 15 recorded interviews, ten live recordings of religious and communal events, 250 photographs and about 100 wall posters. The materials are rich in research potential and will be useful to historians and genealogists alike.

A survey of the network of shiblakh (prayerhouses) in Borough Park reveals that over 250 shiblakh have been established since the eve of the Holocaust by former residents of 150 towns and cities in Poland, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Rumania and Hungary. Project Archivist Abraham Joshua Heschel, who conducted the survey, is following up with an outreach program to meet with representatives of the prayerhouses. Included were the Hasidic congregations of Slonim, Komarno, Satmar, Kopyczynitz, Ribnitz, Munkacs, Rachmastrivka, Bobov, Bishrina, Bistritz, Foltishan, Dej, Biala and Amshinov. People from all walks of life were contacted: communal and Hasidic leaders, businessmen, congregation members, cantors, computer programmers, scholars, journalists and yeshiva students. A meeting was also held with the Borough Park Historical Society and plans were made for future cooperation.

The interviews cover a rich range of topics pertaining to Jewish religious communities before World War II and the successful transplantation of those communities on American soil. There are personal anecdotes about Hasidic rebbes, narratives about childhood and educational experiences, information about everyday economic life, recipes for Sabbath meals, nigunim (songs) sung during the Seder, and first-hand accounts of life under the Nazis. The interviewees include a grand rabbi, a professional artist, Holocaust survivors, a housewife and a ‘party coordinator,’ who organizes the celebrations held upon the completion of a new Sefer Torah.

In one interview, an elderly survivor cries as he recalls the pre-war High Holiday prayers of his beloved rebbe, who was killed by the Nazis. In another, a young Hasidic leader relates the oral history of his dynasty, recording family heritage stories passed from generation to generation over the last 150 years.

Key to a full picture of Hasidic life are the wall poster and photographic components of the Zamler Project. Printed in Yiddish, Hebrew and English, the wall posters of various sizes and shapes reflect contemporary life. They include announcements of school plays, concerts, Torah classes, charitable events, and special holiday store sales. The photographic collection depicts street scenes, local synagogues and institutions, and observance of Jewish holidays. There are also rare historic images of Hasidic leaders and followers in pre-war Europe, the United States and Israel, as well as images of precious Hasidic artifacts. The photographs are captioned with biographical and historical information.

We thank all who responded to the first Yeides article announcing the project and those who provided valuable information, such as bibliographic references on Hasidic and congregational studies, and material about the history of Borough Park.

The staff of the Zamler Project welcomes comments, suggestions, questions or assistance. If you are doing genealogical research on an Hasidic group, please contact Abraham J. Heschel, Project Archivist, at (212) 246-6080, ext. 6157, or e-mail him at aheschel@yivo.cjh.org or at binMoses@juno.com. You may also contact Fruma Mohrer, Project Director, at (212) 294-6143 or e-mail her at fmohrer@yivo.cjh.org.
Yiddish Theater Reborn in the D.P. Camps

David Rogow on Artistic Creativity

IVO linguist and renowned Yiddish theater actor, David Rogow, spoke about the revival of Yiddish theater at the *Life Reborn: Jewish Displaced Persons, 1945-1951* conference held January 14-17, 2000 in Washington, DC. The conference was organized by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and its Second Generation Advisory Board, in association with The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. On the “Artistic Creativity” panel, along with artist Samuel Bak and singer Henny Durmashkin-Gurko, Rogow discussed his work in the theater in Poland and in the Displaced Persons camps. He also described the renewal of Yiddish theater in Austria, in the American zone of Germany and in Bergen-Belsen in the British zone. The theaters were constructed out of S.S. barracks, but there was great enthusiasm and a warm reception everywhere the theater troupes appeared in the bleak D.P. camps.

Noting how difficult it was to find appropriate material because the libraries were J udenrein, he mentioned that in 1946, “I, my wife Nina and two other actors presented, in Szczecin, a Yiddish program of skits and songs which we recalled from before the war because no Yiddish books at all were available then.”

Rogow reviewed the founding of the Munich Yiddish Theater (MIT) in 1946-47; its first director was Israel Beker, and after Beker emigrated to Israel, the theater was directed by Alexander Bardini. The theater was subsidized by the Joint and the Central Committee of Refugees in the American Zone. Among the plays performed were Sholom Aleichem’s *Hard to Be a Jew*, Y. Pintshevski’s *I am Alive*, Aaron Glanz-Leyeles’s *Shloyme Molkho*, Herman Heyermann’s *Hope*, Jacob Gordin’s *Mirele Efros*, and Avrom Goldfaden’s *Two Kuni-Lemls*.

At the opening of the *Kuni-Lemls* in Munich, “the Schausspielhaus (Theater) was packed, standing room only. Many people were turned away. Some young men broke the windows and tried to sneak in. Policemen on horseback had to restore order,” Rogow recalled. The MIT troupe toured the D.P. camps several times; about 400,000 survivors saw the plays performed by the MIT.

The dozens of amateur theater groups were also saluted by Rogow; there was one in almost every camp. The detailed research for Rogow’s remarks was done at the YIVO Institute, from which copies of his full paper can be obtained.

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Ruth Rubin, Yiddish Folk Musicologist, Dead at 93

Dr. Ruth Rubin (1906-2000), scholar, collector and performer of Yiddish folk songs, died on Sunday, June 11, at the age of 93. Rubin was a devotee of Yiddish folk music who produced several books and records on the subject. Her manuscripts, which helped earn her a YIVO Lifetime Achievement Award, are part of the YIVO archives and, hopefully, will soon be published.

In the 1930’s she began collecting Yiddish folk songs, especially those sung by women. Even before the Holocaust, she understood that traditions fade and must be recorded before it is too late. When she became aware of the extent of the Holocaust, she redoubled her efforts to record as much as possible. She dragged a bulky old reel-to-reel tape recorder from house to house to record songs from Jewish immigrants. As she wrote in the preface to her *Voices of a People*, “Eastern European Yiddish folk song reflects vividly the life of a community of many millions over a period of many generations. In the songs we catch the manner of speech…the wit and humor, the dreams and aspirations, the nonsense, jollity, pathos and struggle of an entire people.”

Born Rifke Rosenblatt in Montreal on September 1, 1906, she was the daughter of Bessarabian immigrants. In the 1920’s, she settled in New York, where she studied with Dr. Max Weinreich, and collected field recordings of Yiddish songs in Canada and the United States. She not only studied and collected songs, but also performed them in prestigious concert halls such as Carnegie Hall. These recitals were public links in a chain of cultural transmission. As described by The New York Center for Urban Folk Culture in 1991, Ruth Rubin in her singing “is at once the native informant and the ethnographer of East European Jewish life.”

Her memory will be for a blessing.
Renewed Alliance
YIVO and IWO Strengthen Ties

The renewed alliance between YIVO and its Argentine counterpart, IWO Instituto Judío de Investigaciones, has started to bear fruit for both organizations. During a January visit to Buenos Aires, Yankl Salant, YIVO Director of Yiddish Language Programs, exchanged publications with IWO. Among the items Salant brought to IWO were: Embers Plucked From the Fire, Yiddish in the Warsaw Poster Exhibition catalog, the Bund Exhibition catalog and CD, Poyln, Profiles of a Lost World, College Yiddish, and one volume each of YIVO-bleter: New Series and the YIVO Annual. In exchange, he received El Tango: una historia con judíos; Cuentos y Chistes Judíos; Las Cuarenta; and Los Vientos de la Historia. The organizations will now exchange publications on a regular basis.

Salant was briefed on IWO activities, including efforts to restore and preserve its collection of books, periodicals, photographs, posters and other archival materials following the 1994 terrorist bombing of AMIA, the Buenos Aires Jewish community building in which IWO had been headquartered. IWO also sponsors Yiddish classes, lectures, readings, concerts, films and a weekly radio show on Radio Khai, the only Jewish radio station in Latin America. In addition, IWO publishes materials in Spanish, produces exhibits and makes parts of its collection available to researchers. Among those with whom Salant met were IWO Foundation President Dr. Saúl Drajer, Executive Director Abraham Lichtenbaum and IWO Coordinator Ester Szwarc.

Soon, IWO will face the gargantuan task of recataloguing the library’s materials, since its card catalog was destroyed in the bombing. With some of its materials warehoused since the attack, IWO has been unable to assess its losses. When IWO moves into the new AMIA building later this year, the assessment will continue full speed. By November, IWO’s library expects to publish a list of missing works and to begin filling gaps with duplicates from YIVO and other sources.

Salant toured IWO’s new AMIA headquarters at Pasteur 633, in Buenos Aires. Heavily fortified on the outside, the building is beautiful inside. IWO will have one floor for its library and archives and another for an exhibition hall. It will also have classrooms and offices. Some of IWO’s collections will still need to be warehoused.

Besides his talks at IWO, Salant was a guest speaker at an advanced, 30-student Yiddish class taught in the Scholem-Aleijem Shul.

In 1928, the Asociación Amigos de IWO en Vilna was founded in Buenos Aires to research Jewish life and culture in Argentina. Three years later, the Asociación became an official affiliate of YIVO in Vilna and was named IWO Instituto Científico Judío.

In 1945, IWO “purchased” one and a half stories in the AMIA Jewish community Center in Buenos Aires for $1. Until the 1994 bombing of the AMIA building (which killed 86 Jews and wounded 200) IWO paid no rent or overhead expenses.

The explosion wiped out 30 percent of IWO’s collections, including its catalog. Fortunately, the close connection between IWO and the Alveltlekher Idisher Kultur-Kongres (Association for Yiddish Culture) led to a merger of the two institutions and a new home for the salvaged part of the collections.

AMIA has been rebuilt, but has not offered IWO the same conditions and privileges it enjoyed in the old building. IWO now must finish, furnish, and maintain its own space.

The Argentine Parliament and the City Council of Buenos Aires gave IWO significant subsidies. The organization also signed an agreement with the Province of Entre Ríos, which is subsidizing research into Jewish colonization of that region (Jewish gauchos). IWO still needs additional financial help. To contact IWO Buenos Aires, write to Abraham Lichtenbaum at alicht1@einstein.com.ar.
YIVO is teaming up with IDC Publishers of Holland to create a microfiche record of YIVO's collection on Birobidzhan, the capital of the former Jewish autonomous region in Soviet Russia.

The collection includes more than 30 periodicals published from the late 1920s through the 1940s in the former Soviet Union, Poland, Belgium, France, the United States, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa.

The USSR designated Birobidzhan, near the Chinese border, for Jewish colonization. It sought to establish a Soviet Jewish Republic with Yiddish as a state language.

Among the more interesting publications is the monthly magazine *Nailebn* (New Life), the official organ of the pro-Soviet Jewish organization Icor. It was issued in Yiddish and English from 1928 to 1935 under the title *Icor*, and from 1935 to 1950 as *Nailebn*. The magazine features articles, photos, literary works and other material on the socio-economic and cultural life of the Jewish autonomous Region. Browsing the pages of *Nailebn*, one can even trace the lives of American families who immigrated to Birobidzhan before 1937 and remained. Icor (the organization) had over 10,000 dues-paying members in the early 1930s and focused on aiding in the development of Birobidzhan.

The Birobidzhan collection also contains more than 100 books and booklets published from 1927 to 1950 in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Most are in Yiddish, Russian, English and German. Besides the books and pamphlets, which are mainly propaganda, there are some serious works that objectively analyze the experiment.

The collection recently got a surprise addition. As YIVO was moving to the Center of Jewish History last winter, staff members discovered a set of almost 100 wall newspapers from Birobidzhan. Hand-written or typed, this 1933 set, found in the YIVO Archives, was a supplement to the local newspaper *Birobidzhaner Shtern*. It is the only one of its kind in the world. The information in these newspapers will enable researchers to learn about the lives of Jewish pioneers in Birobidzhan.

YIVO has worked with IDC Publishers in the past. IDC holds the rights to distribute the YIVO Slavic Judaica microfilm collection (350 books dating from the 18th century to the 1940s on Jewish history, religion, culture, and literature written in Slavic languages). This collection remains one of YIVO's best sellers to

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**YIVO Poster Exhibition Opens in Paris**

Krysia Fisher, YIVO film and photo archivist and curator of the exhibition “Power of Persuasion: Jewish Posters from Interwar Poland” recently traveled to Paris for the opening of that exhibition at the Musée d’art et d’histoire du Judaïsme. The exhibition which was on display for a year at the Jewish Historical Institute (ZIH) in Warsaw will now be seen in Paris through September.

Approximately 1500 people attended the opening of the exhibition, which was accompanied by a lavish French language catalogue. The exhibition is part of a Yiddish cultural series that will continue through the summer at the museum.

On the same trip, Fisher attended the London opening of the permanent Holocaust exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. Many of the materials used in the exhibition came from the YIVO Archives. Queen Elizabeth II inaugurated the proceedings. Fisher helped to curate the exhibition and to produce the accompanying films.
Inspired by the outstanding success of our 1999 mission, YIVO sponsored its second Heritage study trip to Lithuania, Poland and St. Petersburg. A group of people — diverse in age and family history — retraced their earliest memories. To all the participants: Rosina Abramson and Jeffrey Glenn, Prof. Samuel Kassow, Pearl and Ralph Kier, Max Lubliner, Charles Rose, Dr. Terry and Jonathan Shapiro, Cindy Stone, Dr. Herman and Myra Treitel, and Jacob Waisbord, this mission took on a very personal perspective. Learning about YIVO’s role in pre-war Europe, it became clear to them that YIVO continues to be the main resource center on East European Yiddish culture and history, documenting the rich aspects of Jewish communal life — past and present.

Rosina K. Abramson (YIVO Board member) and Cynthia Stone (a member of the Leadership Forum), who are sisters, recorded their experiences and their feelings in journals, which they shared with Yedies.

Rosina K. Abramson, Esq.

With Yiddish conversation and songs echoing through our van, the visit began in Vilna (Vilnius), Lithuania, YIVO’s birthplace. We met with representatives of the Jewish community, visited the Jewish Museum, walked the former ghetto’s streets and tried to imagine the Shulhoyf (synagogue courtyard) where a kindergarten now stands. We visited the only functioning synagogue, and saw the site of YIVO’s former home, where the intrepid “Paper Brigade” risked their lives to save Yiddish books from the Nazis. We also visited the monument to the great Vilna Gaon.

In Kovno, my sister and I found where our parents had lived and worked prior to the war, and where they were hidden in Ghetto malines. Armed with a copy of a 1939 phone book, the ever resourceful Assia, administrator of the Jewish Kehilla, made the streets come alive, helping to explain why our parents and their surviving gezelshaft had such fond memories of the vibrant, bustling, pre-war Jewish Kovno. Others found memories of loved ones at grave sites and at the Ninth Fort, the notorious Nazi execution prison.

In Warsaw, we met our scholar-in-residence, Prof. Samuel Kassow, of Trinity College. His mesmerizing lectures on Warsaw, Cracow and Auschwitz helped us to comprehend the incomprehensible, to explain how more than three million Polish Jews could be annihilated by their neighbors, some even after having survived the war.

Perhaps Professor Kassow’s greatest contribution was to demonstrate that, in fact, Jewish traditions have not been erased. Even in countries where our numbers are all but gone, our traditions, cultures, beliefs, practices and innovations still influence the mainstream.

The trip highlighted YIVO’s importance in chronicling Eastern European Yiddish culture. YIVO documents an aspiring, ambitious and empathic community with roots in 1925, but with branches in the post-war Diaspora and Israel.

Building community, helping the disadvantaged, encouraging education, valuing culture and intelligence, respecting our history, stimulating debate, and dreaming of political alternatives all are still alive. They can be found in the little Eastern European Kehillas, in the establishment of the State of Israel, in the varied Jewish communal life in the U.S. and in the emerging Jewish life in St. Petersburg.

A total surprise and brilliant example of the re-emergence of a Jewish community awaited us in St. Petersburg, Russia. After meeting with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the St. Petersburg Jewish Cultural Center, it became clear that this community of more than 100,000 Jews, with youthful leadership, is struggling to define Jewishness to fit their Russian-Jewish history and legacy. I hope that YIVO will build bridges and partnerships to help them in their efforts to connect with the world Jewish community and with their Russian heritage.
I decided to visit Kaunas (Kovno) in honor and respect to both mayne tate-mame and zeyere tate-mame (my parents and grandparents). Their spirit remains ignited in me. Going to Lithuania meant re-igniting that spark. Although I had no one to visit, since all my relatives are long gone, it was so important for me to have the opportunity to see a place they called home. I went on a pilgrimage to search for bobe-zeyde who never were able to touch mayne bekelekh (my cheeks) or mayne kinderlekh bekelekh (my children’s cheeks) or to see our shining, smiling faces here in America.

When I arrived in Vilna I was filled with rage and felt terribly untrusting of the Lithuanian people. I soon realized that I would not get what I wanted out of this experience if I didn’t let go of the rage. I saw nursery school children in their baby bonnets, playing in the schoolyard in the sun over what was once the Vilna Ghetto and perhaps was the graves of Jews who had perished there. I witnessed two young adolescents roller-blading over the Ninth Fort, without respect for the flood of blood, which once flowed under the Fort.

I realized that the apparent Lithuanian complacency was insignificant in comparison to the larger, robust and enduring spirit, which the Jews had before, during and after the war. There are 600-700 remaining Jews in Kovno from the original 40,000 before the war. I realized that, in my family, there was a history of resistance and that not everyone succumbed to being a victim of the Nazis. My uncle, Meishe Gerber, was one of 64 prisoners who escaped the Ninth Fort and fulfilled his role as a partisan. It was the only successful escape from any camp during the Nazi occupation of the Baltic States.

I found the Silva knitting mill, which my father managed in the Kovno Ghetto. It still manufactures Trikotazas ir Kojnes (jerseys and socks), just as he had done. This factory is a monument to his efforts to exchange bread for ammunition and eventually to form a brigade of 111 partisans in the Aleksot woods. I envisioned the ripples that his boat cast, sailing down the Neris River into the woods, as he escaped to freedom.

Although I could not find the exact bathhouse in which my mother and grandfather hid during the last days of the Kovno Ghetto’s burning, we found the location of a former a bathhouse that has since been replaced by a Soviet building. My mother had referred to the bathhouse in which she hid as the “tombstone for the entire Ghetto,” because it was the only building that withstood the fire set by the Nazis before the Russians liberated the Jews in 1944.

At the Kovno Jewish Community Center my sister, Rosina, introduced me to Frida, an elderly woman who invited us into her apartment. The hallway of her building was dusky, with no electricity, but her apartment was like a little palace. She fed us delicacies such as taygolekh and imberlekh (carrot treats). Such delicacies are probably made by just seven people in the entire country, and hers were a labor of love. She sent us home with all that she had and wished she had more to give us. When we said goodbye, she asked when we’d see her again.

I saw the streets where my mother and father lived. My mom’s street was a Baltic version of the Champs Elysees and my dad’s was much like an alte shtetl (old village). Somewhat strange and unbelievable (with Ella Levine’s help), I found the Versal night club where my dad had danced on the night before the Nazis invaded the Kovno airport. It stood there like a musty old saloon. The crystal ball of the dance floor has tarnished but my parents’ love for their culture and their people has not and never will.
The following seven Jewish Studies fellowships have been awarded by the Max Weinreich Center for the year 2000:

• Roni Gechtman, NYU, the Professor Bernard Choseed Memorial Fellow, for “Yidisher sotsializm: the National Program of the Bund in Poland.”

• Daniel Katz, Rutgers University, the Rose and Isidore Drench Memorial Fellow, for “Community Visions: The Activities of the ILGWU.”

• Keith Weiser, Columbia University, the Aleksander and Alicja Hertz Memorial Fellow, for “Noah Prylucki and the Folkspartey in Poland.”

• Marc Caplan, NYU, the Vivian Lefsky Hort Memorial Fellow, for “Modern Yiddish and African literature.”

• Barry Trachtenberg, UCLA, the Abraham and Rachela Melezin Fellow, for “The Use of Old Yiddish Literature by Yiddish scholars in Interwar Europe.”

• Beatrice Lang-Caplan, Columbia University, the Natalie and Mendel Racolin Memorial Fellow, for “The Use of Orthodox Yiddish Literature in Interwar Poland.”

• Rebecca Kobrin, University of Pennsylvania, the Maria Salit-Gitelson Tell Memorial Fellow, for “The Transnational Bialystok Jewish Emigrè Community.”

“These fellowships support high-level Jewish Studies scholarship,” noted Dr. Carl J. Rheins, YIVO Executive Director. “The distinguished researchers honored by our awards are leading the way in exploring the history, language and way of life of the Jewish people in Eastern Europe and America.”

Hanna Krall Awarded 1999 Karski-Nirenska Prize

Polish journalist and writer Hanna Krall has been awarded the annual Jan Karski-Pola Nirenska Prize for 1999. Endowed by Professor Jan Karski in 1992, the $5,000 prize goes to authors of published works documenting Polish-Jewish relations and Jewish contributions to Polish culture.

Krall received the award to honor her literary works and documentary prose, which reflect on the relationship between Poles and Jews in times of sorrow and hope. Her books and stories explore the memories of Jewish Holocaust survivors and their post-war experiences, set against the backdrop of contemporary Polish history.

Born Jewish in 1937 Warsaw, Krall was hidden in private homes during the war. During the rise of the Solidarity movement she was active in dissident groups that opposed Communist rule in Poland.

Krall has authored ten books. Her most famous is Zdazyc przed Panem Bogiem (To Outwit God, 1977), which was published in the U.S. as Shielding the Flame (Henry Holt, 1986) and has gone through 26 editions worldwide. It is based on talks with Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Her books have been translated into English, German, French, Czech, Italian, Hebrew, Swedish and Dutch.

Among her many honors are the Solidarity Award for her autobiographical novel, The Subtenant, the Pen Club Award for the short story collection Hipnosa and the Leipziger Buch Preis (Leipzig Book Award, March 2000) for Inter-European Mutual Understanding.

Professor Jan Karski, who established the prize, served as a World War II envoy of the Polish government-in-exile. He brought the West firsthand testimony about the conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto and in German concentration camps. The prize is also named for Professor Karski’s late wife, choreographer Pola Nirenska.
# 75th Anniversary YIVO Lectures, Cultural Events and Films

## Lectures

YIVO’s Distinguished Lecture Series will include speakers on literature, politics and Jewish culture in Eastern Europe from Imperial Russia to post-glasnost.

### Oct. 19, 2000 at 8:00 PM
Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Jewish History, Emory University  
**Holocaust Denial: A New Form of Anti-Semitism.**

### Nov. 21, 2000 at 8:00 PM
Yehuda Bauer  
Visiting Professor of Holocaust Studies at Clark University; Director, International Institute of Holocaust Research  
Yad Vashem Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Memorial Authority, Jerusalem  
**The Shoah in Historical Perspective.**

### Dec. 11, 2000 at 8:00 PM
Neil Jacobs  
Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures of Ohio State University  
**Negotiating Jewish Modernity Verbally: Yiddish, ‘not-Yiddish,’ and the linguistic roadmap of Ashkenazic Jewry.**

## Events

### YIVO Colloquium
Nov. 29, 2000
**Emmanuel Ringelblum Remembered**  
Dr. Samuel Kassow, Trinity College (Coordinator)

### YIVO 75th Anniversary Exhibit
YIVO Exhibit Space  
**9:00 AM–5:00 PM Daily**

## Film and Discussion Series

**Monday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.**
New York City 35mm Premiere!  
**The Assistant,** 1998, 105 minutes, 35mm  
Director: Daniel M. Petrie  
Based on Bernard Malamud’s powerful 1957 novel. During the Great Depression, drifters Frank Alpine and Ward Minogue rob a Jewish-owned grocery store. Shaken by the anti-Semitism and violence exhibited by his partner, Frank suffers remorse, and, incognito, takes a job with the grocery. He is drawn to the grocer’s beautiful daughter, but as a non-Jew, is viewed with suspicion by her mother. Speaker: Daniel M. Petrie, Director

**Wednesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.**
New York City Premiere!  
**The New Klezmorim: Voices Inside the Revival of Yiddish Music,** 2000, 70 minutes, Video  
Director: David Kaufman  
A penetrating look behind the scenes of the klezmer revival that examines the roots of the genre, its modern-day performers, and the audiences. Featuring thoughtful interviews with and performances by leading klezmer performers and bands.

**Thursday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.**
New York City Premiere!  
**Too Early to be Quiet, Too Late to Sing,** 1995, 53 minutes, Video  
Director: Nadav Levitan  
Singer-songwriter Chava Alberstein’s tribute to the small circle of Yiddish poets in Israel. Bunem Heller, Rokhl Boimviel and other poets read their work and are interviewed. Alberstein draws on their poems to create Yiddish songs, several of which she performs in the film. Speaker: Josh Waletzky, Filmmaker and Composer

**Monday, January 29 7:30 p.m.**
New York City Premiere!  
**All About People: Haika Grosman,** 2000, 25 minutes, Video  
Director: Rina Papish  
**Transnistria: The Hell,** 1996, 41 minutes, Video  
Director: Zoltan Temer  
Three documentaries produced for Israel’s Educational Television network.  
The first two, from the series All About People, examine the lives of two extraordinary women. Hannah Szenes (1921-1944), a Hebrew poet who parachuted into her native Hungary on an Allied mission in 1943, was captured and executed. Hannah Szenes focuses on her exploration of her Hungarian-Jewish-Israeli identity in her life and work.  
Haika Grosman (1919-1996) was a member of the Jewish resistance in Bialystok, Poland, who emigrated to Israel and eventually served as a member of Knesset (Parliament). Haika Grosman documents her heroism during the Holocaust and her long career of political activism.  
**Transnistria: The Hell** chronicles the tragic fate of 300,000 Jews from Romania, Bessarabia and Bukovina who were deported to the southern Ukrainian region of Transnistria during WWII.  
Speaker: David Engel, Prof of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University.

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**Admission to all events is free. Seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis.**
Preserving the legacy of Eastern European Jewry
Library Rebuilds Slavic Judaica Collection

As Russian Jewish scholarship begins to blossom again and concern grows over preserving the legacy of centuries of Eastern European Jewry, the YIVO library has been replenishing its Slavic Judaica collection.

Since December 1999, the YIVO library has obtained 62 books and seven periodicals from Russia and other former Soviet Republics. The publications exhibit the growing interest in Jewish scholarship in the Former Soviet Union.

The books cover a wide spectrum of history and culture of Eastern European Jewry, including the Holocaust.

Here is a sampling of titles:
- Fridboim, Khedva, To chto ia pomniu (The Things I Remember) Iaroslavl, 1997, a personal account of the persecution of Jews in Poland.
- Alekseev, Valentin, Varshavskogo getto bolshe ne suscheestvuet (There is No More Warsaw Ghetto), Moscow, 1998.

Materials of the scientific conference: Bogoslovie posle Osventsima i ego sviaz’ s bogosloviem posle GULAGa (Christian Theology after Auschwitz and its Relation to the Theology after Gulag), St. Petersburg, 1998.

Several books that were recently acquired explore the Jewish history of Russia and governmental policy towards Jews, including such issues as anti-Semitism and pogroms. These include:
- Eliahevich, D. A., Pravitel’stvennaia politika i evreiskaia pechat’ v Rossii, 1797-1917 (Government Policy and Jewish Printing in Russia), St. Petersburg, 1999. This includes an English summary, bibliography and index.
- Dokumenty po istorii 1 kul’ture evreev v arkhivakh Moskvy (Jewish Documentary Sources in Moscow Archives), Moscow, 1997. Includes indexes and table of contents in English.
- Serhiichuk, V., Pohromy v Ukraini 1914-1920 (Pogroms in the Ukraine 1914-1920), Kiev, 1998. This book includes materials from the Ukraine archives about these tragic events. Index included.

Another recent acquisition is a precious gift sent recently from Mr. Sharf of Canada: a Yiddish book published in Moscow in 1945, Dos yidishe folk in kamf kegn fashizm (The Jewish People in the Struggle against Fascism). It consists of materials of the third anti-Fascist meeting (April 2, 1944) and the third plenary session of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of the USSR (April 8-11, 1944). The book gives a detailed account of both events and is an important document for researchers.

Among other new acquisitions is Iudaika v stranakh SNG i Baltii (Judaica in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States), a directory, with indexes included, of Jewish educational and cultural institutions published in Moscow in 1999. Also, levreiski adresy Kyieva (Jewish Addresses in Kiev), Kiev, 1998, which acquaints the reader with places of Jewish interest.

Two publications are devoted to the Soviet Jewish writer Isaac Babel:
- Povartov, Sergei, Prichina smerti – rasstrel (The Cause of Death is Execution), about the last days of the Soviet Jewish writer, Moscow, 1996.

Another important addition to the collection of Slavic Judaica is Ivanov, V.V., Russkie sezony: teatr Gabima (Russian Seasons: “Habima” theater), about the first years of the world-famous Hebrew-speaking theater. Includes a bibliography and index. [continued on page 21]
YIVO Receives $200,000 Grant To Catalog Strashun Library Collection

YIVO has received a $200,000 grant from The Waber Fund of New York City. It will be used to preserve and digitally catalog the books in the historic Strashun Library Collection, permanently housed at YIVO.

Tanya Corbin and Irwin Jacobs, two of the trustees of The Waber Fund, are direct descendants of Mathias Strashun (1819-1885), one of Lithuania’s most prominent intellectuals and Talmudic scholars. Corbin and Jacobs have chosen to fund the preservation of the Strashun Collection, which originated as Mathias Strashun’s personal library, to honor their famous ancestor and to share the valuable books with the broader Jewish community.

The 40,000-item Strashun Collection contains 25,000 volumes of Hebrew rabbinics, 1,000 volumes of Yiddish rabbinics, 8,000 volumes of secular Hebrew books and 5,000 volumes of secular Yiddish material. A recent survey showed that about 15,000 books of the Strashun Collection at YIVO are unavailable at any other library.

“We are very proud and grateful to receive this grant,” Bruce Slovin, Chairman of the YIVO Board, commented. “The Waber Fund, together with Ms. Corbin and Mr. Jacobs, is working with YIVO to preserve the collection and to make these historic volumes more accessible to the public.

Tanya Corbin observed that the family has a long tradition of love for books, encouraged by their Russian grandmother Rebecca Strashun Jacobs.

Aviva F. Astrinsky, Head Librarian of YIVO, pointed out that the Strashun Collection started as a private library, which Mathias Strashun then bequeathed to the Jewish community of Vilna.

“Placing the collection catalogue on the World Wide Web helps fulfill Mathias Strashun’s goal of sharing his library and will make it available to the Jewish community globally,” Astrinsky noted.

Slavic Judaica

YIVO also has acquired many new periodicals, including publications from Jewish scientific centers:
- *Korni: vestnik narodnogo universiteta evreiskoi kul’tury v tsentral’noi Rossii I Povolzh’e* (Roots: Bulletin of People’s University of Jewish Culture in Central Russia), Saratov. This is a semi-annual publication begun in 1994. The YIVO library has numbers 2 and 3-4.

Includes summaries and table of contents in English.

YIVO also has obtained a unique publication for genealogists: *Mishpokha*, Vitebsk. Begun in 1995, it deals with the Jews of Belarus, their past, present and future. It consists of numerous articles about Jewish family histories. The YIVO library has numbers 3 and 5.
The papers of Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward (Forverts) for the first half of the 19th century, offer a complex look at the weakening of Yiddish culture in the United States, the fracturing of the Jewish Socialist movement, and other aspects of Jewish life during this fascinating period.

YIVO staff recently catalogued a major portion of the papers, which, according to one story, were rescued from the trash by an archivist after the Forward moved from its building on East Broadway in 1974.

Cahan was editor of the paper from 1903 to 1951, when the Forward became the largest and most influential Yiddish daily in the world. He supported the newspaper’s coverage of the ideologies and activities of the Jewish, American and international socialist and trade union movements. Also under his guidance, the Forward played a dual role in the cultural evolution of immigrant Eastern European Jewry in the United States. The newspaper preserved Yiddish language, literature and the arts, while encouraging linguistic and cultural Americanization.

Cahan was born in Podbereze, near Vilna, in 1860 and died in New York City in 1951.

The Abraham Cahan Papers are divided into two sections because they were acquired by YIVO at different times from different sources. Part I was formed in 1983 from Cahan materials in the papers of Mendel Osherovitch and Ephim H. Jeshurin. Part II was separated from the Bund Archives in 1990, when those archives became a part of the YIVO collection. It is believed that these papers were retrieved from the trash by Bund archivist Hillel Kempinski.

YIVO staff have divided Part II of the papers into a series, from I to X, with materials sorted into 147 folders. The series includes:

• Forward office correspondence (Series I and II), dated from 1914-1951 (although the major portion is from the 1930s and 1940s). These include letters to and from Editor-in Chief Abraham Cahan in Yiddish and non-Yiddish languages as well as letters to and from other members of the Forward editorial staff to a wide range of correspondents. Series III is a special correspondence between Cahan and Managing Editor Hillel Rogoff.

• Typescript and handwritten manuscripts (Series IV) submitted to the Forward by Yiddish writers such as Isaac Bashevis, Ossip Dimov and Nathan Meisel. The manuscripts were either edited or rejected.

• Cahan’s own writing (Series V) ranging from poems he wrote for the Arbeter tsaytung as early as 1890 to Forward articles appearing in 1945.

• Articles, essays, and reviews (Series VI) about Cahan written during his lifetime between 1910 and 1950, including a scrapbook dedicated to reviews of his classic 1917 work, The Rise of David Levinsky.

• Personal materials (Series VII) related to him and his wife Anna’s medical conditions as well as condolence letters on the death of Anna.

• Photographs (Series VIII) of Cahan with Anna and with other journalists.

• Obituaries (Series IX) and posthumous articles from 1952-1987 (Series X) about Cahan written after his death. Some of these materials were collected at the Forward and some in the time the collection resided at the Bund Archives.

[continued on page 23]
Compared to Part I of the Cahan papers, Part II holds a considerably larger portion of the Forward office letters, particularly from the 1930s and ‘40s, and offers a complex picture of the daily life and involvements of the editorial staff, including the editor-in-chief himself. From this correspondence, one can obtain information on the relationships between Cahan and his general readers, between Socialist and trade union leaders in the United States and Europe, as well as among aspiring writers. One especially learns about the influences under which Yiddish journalists developed their political and literary strategies, the way female journalists were treated, and the interaction between Yiddish journalists in the United States and those in Eastern Europe. For instance, in a letter Cahan wrote to Max Winter on November 21, 1934, the editor suggests that, “The Forward is a Yiddish daily published under peculiar conditions. Journalistic conditions in this country are extremely unique, utterly unlike those dominating the field of European journalism.”

The strength of the collection resides in its coverage of Cahan’s ideas and activities in the 1930s and ‘40s. The papers shed light on the momentous events that encompassed Cahan’s later life: the weakening of Yiddish culture in the United States, the fracturing of the Jewish Socialist movement under pressures of American anti-radical politics and the Soviet experiment, the Depression, the rise of Nazism, the Second World War, the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel.


The Cahan papers are limited in various ways. They deal only with his last decades, although the preceding seven decades were his most creative ones. Also, they primarily document parts of his public life and do not include materials related to his private life such as diaries or personal correspondence.

Even taken together, Part I and Part II of the Abraham Cahan Papers are not a complete collection. No doubt, a substantial portion of the materials disappeared when the Forward disbanded its office in the 1970s.
New Accessions to the YIVO Archives

HISTORY

- Samuel D. Levine donated documents and photographs of his father, Pinchas, who was a Rabbi and ritual slaughterer in Western Canada at the turn of the century and in Ramat Gan, Palestine, in the 1920's.

- Prof. Stanley Lebergott donated a 1907 U.S. government report on conditions in Russia as they affected immigration to America.

- Prof. Samuel Abrahamsen donated his papers, which include extensive documentation on the history of the Jewish communities in Scandinavia. The papers also contain a nearly-complete set of Nazi and collaborationist documents on the deportation of the Jews from Norway.

- A. Rosen donated a Nazi document from November, 1940, on the elimination of Jews from the French economy.

- Ditta Silverman donated an anonymous, 125-page, incomplete testimony on the Buchenwald concentration camp in the 1930's.

- Leonard and Herbert Maletz donated a list of survivors from the town of Pruzhany, Poland.

- Amira Hagani donated a 1947 letter from the leadership of the Hashomer Hatzair Zionist youth movement in Poland in 1947.

- Drs. Arnold Richards and Leon Anisfeld donated their study of survivor guilt. It is titled, “The Replacement Child.”

- Irena Rose Kepfisz donated materials on Mikhl Klepfisz, a Bund leader of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, as well as materials on the Australian Bund activist, and Yiddish writer, Hershl Bachrach.

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- The Australian Bund and Socialist activist, Jacob Kronhill, donated autobiographical materials.

- Dr. Lucja Glicksman donated the papers of her late husband, Dr. Jerzy Glicksman. He was an economist and Bund activist in interwar Poland who spent WW II in Soviet labor camps. The Bund Archives already has his collection of books and documents on the latter subject.

- Dr. Leah Davidson donated documentation on her uncle, Shmuel Arthur Zigelbojm, the Bund’s representative in the Polish parliament-in-exile. He took his life to protest the world’s indifference to the Holocaust.

- Records of the Bund’s Coordinating Committee were donated by Dr. Benjamin Nadel. Roni Gechtman donated his study of Bund-sponsored sport activities in interwar Poland.

- Donations relating to the history of prewar and postwar YIVO were made by Dr. Chava Lapin Reich, Beatrice (Bina) Silverman Weinreich as well as by Esther Kuznitz.

- The papers of YIVO’s beloved librarian, Dina Abramowicz, have been donated by Kalina Gotman.

- Additional materials to existing historical collections were made by Ann Weisman (to the papers of Herman Bernstein), Aaron A. Hafkin (to Waldemar Mordechai Haffkine), Naomi F. Pile (to Morris Moishe Freilicoff), Irena P. Narell (to Abraham Penzik), Prof. Martin Warmbrand (to his own papers) and Bettijane Eisenpreis (to the American Jewish Public Relations Society).

LANDSMANSHAFTN AND GENEALOGY

- The New York State Department of Insurance donated the records of twenty landsmanshaftn and fifty landsmanshaft seals. The availability of these materials will be announced in future issues of this publication. Special thanks to Philip Imperiale for preserving and facilitating this donation.

- Norman Kagan donated, in memory of his father, Wolf, a set of bulletins of the Kremenitzer and Shumsker landsmanshaft in Israel.
New Accessions to the YIVO Archives

• Martin Leff donated the records of the First Nemerover Benevolent Society.
• Esther Seidler donated the records of the American Committee for the Lomzher Pinkas.
• Jill A. Zornberg and Fred Siegel donated the pinkas (minute book) of burial society of the Fabianicer Progressive Young Men’s Society.
• Jeanette and David Meyers donated the records of Branch 519, Workmen’s Circle, in Chicago.
• Marcia Posner donated the diary of Jennie Pearlman’s trip to Europe in the 1920’s. It was translated by Joseph Machlis.
• Marilyn Radoms Satolof donated family letters, while Barry D. Saretzky donated the memoirs of Raya Westerman Mazin.
• Prof. Jacob Eli Goodman donated the papers of his father, the Yiddish-English essayist and educator, Saul Goodman.
• Frieda Loew donated, via Lennart Kerbel, the papers of her father, the Soviet Yiddish writer, Ziskind Lyev. Lyev lost his life during the Great Purges of 1937; his widow managed to hide papers from the authorities.
• The National Yiddish Book Center, via Neil Zagorin, has donated the papers of Prof. Nathan Susskind, an editor of the Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language.
• Herbert Danska donated the papers of his father, the American proletarian Yiddish poet, Lazar Dinsky.

LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND FOLKLORE

• Our devoted zamlers have been hard at work lately. Hank Bayer, Howard Young and, especially, Eiran Harris have provided the Archives with both ephemera and significant documents. Harris has donated an 18th-century manuscript Passover haggadah from North Africa.
New Accessions  (continued from page 25)

- Rabbi Yakov and Miriam Jacobs donated the papers of the Yiddish writer, Isaac Metzker, who for many years edited the “Bintl briv” feature in the Jewish Daily Forward.
- Esther Birenzweig donated the papers of the Yiddish writer K. Kharmats, whose stories are almost entirely Holocaust related.
- Natalie Schlosser donated the papers of her husband Zalman, who edited the California Yiddish magazine, Kheshbn.
- Dr. Paul (Hershl) Glasser donated a collection of manuscripts sent to the Yiddish monthly, Tsukunft.
- Peter Lavinger donated supplementary materials to the papers of Yiddish poet Mani Leib.
- The Israeli Yiddish writer, Abraham Majerkewicz donated autobiographical materials.
- Betty Brandes donated supplementary materials to the papers of her mother, the Chicago Yiddish activist Sonia Rockler.
- Jeanne Feldman donated manuscripts of the Rhode Island Yiddish writer, Solomon Lightman.
- Anna Shternshis donated a set of forty-eight interviews with elderly immigrants about popular Soviet Yiddish culture.
- Fela Glaser donated her collection of over two thousand American-Jewish jokes.

THEATER AND ART

- Edward Rosenthal donated the music to the Yosef-shpil (Joseph play) which has been performed, in Yiddish, in the Jewish community of Miskolc, Hungary, for many generations. He also donated photographs of the performances.
- Dror Abend-David donated a CD-ROM he made of a dozen Yiddish translations, all in YIVO’s holdings, of Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice.
- The actress, Mina Bern, donated additional materials to her papers and those of her husband, Ben Bonus.
- Selma Cherkas donated additional materials to the papers of Molly Picon, the Yiddish-English actress.
- Gloria Beth Rubin donated a Yiddish play by her father, David Cohen.
- Andrew Marum donated artworks by his father, Hans Marum.
- Special thanks to members of the staff of the Jewish Museum for donating a set of original artworks, including those by Feiga Blumberg, Benjamin Kopman and Jennings Tofel.
- National YIVO Board member, Leo Melamed, donated an antique Yiddish typewriter.

MUSIC

- The David Nowakowsky Foundation, via David and Nancy Novack, has donated well over a thousand manuscript compositions of the Odessa-based cantor-composer, David Nowakowsky (1848-1921), one of the leading cantorial composers of his time. During the Holocaust years these manuscripts were hidden in occupied France; they have been arranged and cataloged by Cantor David Lefkowitz of
the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York.

• Leo Summergrad donated, via Henry Sapoznik, music manuscripts which belonged to Aaron Hantin, a Yiddish singer and radio announcer in New York.

• Madelin Simon donated a banner, photographs and music manuscripts which she used as a conductor of the Jewish People’s Philharmonic Chorus in New York.

• Mark Cherniavski donated supplementary materials to the papers of the composer-conductor, Joseph Cherniavski.

• Beatrice Rubin donated 379 Jewish music recordings, many of which are new to YIVO’s collections.

• Carol Nussbaum donated fifty 78 rpm recordings. Fifteen are new to YIVO’s collections.

• Lloyd Finkel donated, via Richard Marcus, forty-four 78 rpm recordings. Nineteen are new to YIVO’s collections.

• Henry Sapoznik donated one hundred 78 rpm recordings, many new to YIVO’s collections.

• Lorin Sklamberg donated eighty unplayed 78 rpm recordings, some new to YIVO’s collections.

• Philip Sperber donated his late father’s collection of fifty-seven 78 rpm recordings. Most are in near mint condition, and nineteen are new to YIVO’s collection.

• Barbara Davidson donated forty-three 78 rpm recordings, several of which are new to YIVO’s collections.

• Isabel Belarsky donated recordings and broadcast tapes of her father, the basso Sidor Belarsky.

• Prof. Bella Hass Weinberg donated fifty-two LP recordings as well as materials relating her family.

• Donations were also received from Aaron Shelden (twenty-one 78 rpm recordings), Stephen Greenbaum (twelve 78 rpm recordings, including rarities), Janet Grey (sixteen 78 rpm recordings), Manny Hillman (ten LP recordings) and Emily R. Birnbaum.

**VISUAL MATERIALS**

• Faye Itzkowitz donated photographs of the Labor Zionist Hechalutz group in Goniadz, Poland.

• Abe Sloma donated photographs of Bund activities in Lublin, Poland.

• Ada Sherer Tuszyński donated family photographs. Her father, Dr. Emmanuel Sherer, was a Bund leader in prewar Poland.

• Barbara Arion donated photographs of the Lovers of Zion group of New Haven, Connecticut, in 1915, as well as other materials relating to the Zionist movement.

• Herman Grackin donated photographs of the Jewish People’s Relief of the Bronx, as well as family materials.

• Bernard Gotfryd donated an additional thirteen photographs, with negatives, for the photographic collection in his name already in the YIVO’s holdings.

• Raphael Blumenfeld donated photographs of recent Yiddish cultural activities in Ashkelon, Israel.

• Antique Jewish postcards were donated, separately, by Dinah Lindauer and Gerson Jerus.

• Martha Kaplan also donated antique Jewish postcards, as well as family photographs.

• Nadav Levitan donated Chava Alberstein’s film, “Too Early to Be Quiet, Too Late to Sing,” about living Yiddish poets.

*Teacher Saul Goodman with a Workmen’s Circle School class, Dumont Avenue, Brooklyn, February 1941. Donated by Goodman’s son, Prof. Jacob Eli Goodman,*
The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research thanks the following donors for helping to preserve our Jewish heritage through their generous support. In the last issue, Yedies acknowledged gifts of $1000 - $4999. This issue recognizes donors of $5,000 and above from June 1, 1999 - May 31, 2000. Donors of $1,000 - $4,999 will appear in the next edition of Yedies.

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- Stephen A. Cozen

Each issue of Yedies will feature items from the YIVO collection. The following photos are from Poland's Bialystok area in the interwar period.

Outdoor meal time at Yehudia Summer Camp for Orthodox Children. Dlugosiadlo, Poland, circa 1930.

Young men posing amongst trees. Grodno, 1929.
From June 1, 1999 - May 31, 2000

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[continued on page 30]
Gifts of $5000 and Above

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Left Photo: A group of girls at the Yehudia Summer Camp for Orthodox children. 1930.

Right Photo: Woman on the right is actress Celia Kulbotskaya. [Herman Joblokow collection]
We encourage our readers to write (by regular mail or e-mail) with comments and responses to Yedies.

Mourning Dina Abramowicz

Dear Editor: The Board of Directors and membership of the Medem Library in Paris wish to express their sadness at the passing of Dina Abramowicz, who for decades was the loyal and efficient head librarian of YIVO.

Dina Abramowicz’s name will always be linked to the noblest traditions of YIVO, to its Vilna roots and to Max Weinreich’s leadership in the field of Yiddish. Her devotion to her work is exemplary to us all and an inspiration to everyone with any connection to the world of Yiddish books, wherever they may be.

Please convey our sympathies to the family.

Yitskhok Niborski
Vice-Chairman, Medem Library (Paris, France)

Dear Editor: We have learned, with sorrow, of the passing of our friend Dina Abramowicz, YIVO librarian. We know the importance of her work, which she performed conscientiously and competently. We remember well the kindness and the help she gave to so many of our students and researchers. The Centre Culturel Vladimir Medem wishes to convey to YIVO our deep sorrow.

Jacqueline Gluckstein, Henri Minczeles
Cercle Amical - Arbeter Ring
Centre Culturel Vladimir Medem, Paris, France

Thanks to Music Archivist

Dear Editor: I wanted to thank Chana Mlotek of the YIVO Music Archive for her help with my thesis. She encouraged me to dream and gave me the resources to bring the dream to life. I have found a great passion in not only performing Yiddish songs, but also in examining them as great sources of Jewish experience.

Amy Lefko,
New York, NY

Dear Editor: I would like to thank YIVO’s Chana Mlotek for her advice with regard to Klezmer music. On my visit to YIVO, she showed me materials that were very valuable to me. I had much trouble obtaining information about Klezmer music in Japan and was glad to have gotten that information from you in New York. Thank you Mrs. Mlotek for your time and the benefit of your experience.

Hiroko Harano
Graduate student in musicology
Osaka Educational University, Japan

Reactions to New Web Site

THAT IS ONE GREAT LOOKING WEB SITE! Very nice indeed.

Abigail Yasgur, Director
Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles

I checked out the new YIVO site. Wonderful work, easy to navigate, and filled with great information. Congratulations to all of you!

Arthur Kiron, Curator
Judaica Collections
University of Pennsylvania Library

Research Help

Dear Editor: I take this opportunity to thank YIVO for the very kind help with my dissertation research. The YIVO staff prepared for me a microfilm of twelve manuscripts containing translations of The Merchant of Venice into Yiddish. Over the past year, I patiently scanned the microfilm and stored the manuscripts in computer files that I later collected on a compact disk. This method renders them accessible and they are easily reproduced, not only for the benefit of my own project, but also for other researchers. In fact, I have already received requests from scholars who would like to see some of the manuscripts.

I am therefore very pleased to send YIVO a compact disk that contains the twelve manuscripts. I hope that this collection will be as helpful to others as it has been for my own work. Of course, the rights to use and reproduce these materials belong to the YIVO Institute.

Dror Abend-David
Comparative Literature
New York University

Zamler Project

Dear Editor: I was very impressed by your last issue of Yedies. Clearly all kinds of good things are happening at YIVO. I was particularly interested in the study being done in the Hasidic communities, and I wanted to suggest a fascinating article that deals with the subject. It is called “Diabolus Ex-Machina: An Unusual Case of Yuhasin,” by Hannah G. Sprecher, who lives in Brooklyn. It was published in the Jewish Law Association Studies VIII: The Jerusalem 1994 Conference Volume.

Professor Edward Goldman
Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, OH

Thank you for your suggestion. By the way, the Zamler Project is featured on page 11 of this issue.

Editor
 noticias de Amalia y Prayitchuk

1876-1978
en forma de
la revista

YIVO News Summer 2000

Argentina and the United States. A Study on the History of Jewish Immigrants and their Descendants, 1900-1940

by A. A. Milne

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1900-1940

1900-1960

1900-1960
בניה והניציונט ארויס ארוי פונסיפ

2000-1918

עוזי תמיר

עוזי תמיר, בעיתון ליטראריש אמירת מספר ענה לו.
אף הוא הקומיקאי, אשר התפרסם ב iq הפנטזיה והתחנה המודרנית, וד~.
מאמר היה ב flareהארצר-.rem של תומך או אביו, ובעזרת
ארגניזציה אינופו אופיט(BigInteger תומך בעיבודו, ובעזרת
בוגרונות, שיאפשרו לשון גם בוז וכרות, לקיים מקים

בסיים של עונת 1999, הוקם ארגניזציה אנסטנס לבמה.
זוהי הארגון, המתעד את פציעתו של אברט, השבוע
היא ארכיקומיקאי, קהילה של תומכי אברט, ואת
אותה ארגניזציה, מתעד את פציעתו של אברט. זה
היה מועיל, והתועד על כל תומכי אברט.

שנ נכנס הבמה, עם דיבורים, והם לא י겐 לא
עוגן את הגנתו של אברט, ואילו שגיא, ולא
מוכן על ידו של אברט. זה מכיל את העונת
הניציונט ארויס ארוי פונסיפ.
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נוכחות יהודית בארצות הברית: מחקרי ישראל מ-1900 עד ימינו

 להיות ארץ מתפתחת 건ושה ושיפון, ישראל התמך במזון של ידיעות, ומנפרדUSES שלפני בלעט

ديرار أراغنطيره يورا

أصبحت يورا من خلالها سياسياً على غرار فاطمة الحسين...

ننوع العبدتطل فنوع يوغا

ننوع عبادة يوغا...

ملحى ارجوس وعنى بما يؤجج فيه بعضنا!

يعود فلسفته ويتزعمها قسم!

أول aden أثبت على ما أثاثه وادت إلى ما تجاوزه

فلم تأتيه أثرى بشرى نجاحاً.

ألف سيدب قائم به فما كان!

فلم تأتيه أثرى بشرى نجاحاً.

أول aden أثبت على ما أثاثه وادت إلى ما تجاوزه

فلم تأتيه أثرى بشرى نجاحاً.

أول aden أثبت على ما أثاثه وادت إلى ما تجاوزه

فلم تأتيه أثرى بشرى نجاحاً.
באנקוט

(ספרון פ' קשמיר)

5 года Александра Александровича, бывшего волостного
отделчика ставропольского уезда, и его жены, бывшего учителя
стачечного отдела, П. А. Александровича. Александрович
был учитель волостного отдела в ставропольском уезде, где
работал в течение 15 лет. Александрович был убежденным
социалистом, а его жена - волостной учитель, также
участником социалистических революций.

5 יוהנשה לייפשטיין (1902-2000)

בראשית סבתה

יוהנשה לייפשטיין (1902-2000)

נולדה ב-1902 ומידיה לבאה ב-2000. לייפשטיין ידועה כמי שהשתתית
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