

YIVO
INSTITUTE
FOR JEWISH
RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER
Fall 2026

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SUPPORT YIVO TODAY!

YIVO is proud to offer access to our archival materials and most of our public programs free or for a minimal fee. However, the work of sustaining our collections requires real resources. Your support makes it possible for YIVO to continue sharing our collections and creating meaningful and informative programming that encapsulates the histories of Eastern European Jews.

Please make your gift today and help sustain YIVO's vital work in shaping our understanding of Jewish history and its future. With your commitment, YIVO can continue preserving, studying, and sharing this knowledge for generations to come.

From all of us at YIVO, thank you for being part of our global community!

Donate online at yivo.org/rosh-hashanah-2026.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

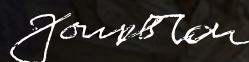
YIVO's work is filled with life, inspired by history and imagination, and always looking toward the future. This issue of our newsletter reflects that spirit. Within these pages, you will find young people discovering their heritage, scholars uncovering new perspectives, archivists and librarians preserving irreplaceable collections, and educators bringing Jewish history to life for learners of all ages.

Together, these efforts reflect an institution that honors its remarkable legacy while embracing new possibilities. Whether completing long-term projects, launching new initiatives, expanding educational opportunities, or fostering meaningful conversations about Jewish history and culture, YIVO continues to grow while remaining true to its mission.

I am especially proud of YIVO's work in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Poland, where we have built partnerships to safeguard Jewish history for future generations, even as we have expanded our work at home through new exhibitions, increased access to our archives, and developed innovative public programs and educational resources.

Ultimately, this work is about people. Every document preserved, every story recorded, every object conserved, and every student inspired helps ensure that the richness of Jewish life endures. In a world where history can too easily be forgotten or distorted, preserving our culture is both an urgent responsibility and a hopeful investment in our shared future.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our community and Board of Trustees. Your belief in our mission makes this work possible.



Jonathan Brent
Executive Director & CEO

COVER:

Students from the Bard Conservatory Graduate Vocal Arts Program visit the YIVO Learning and Media Center, May 2026.

BACKGROUND:

A tray set with butterfly wings, owned—and perhaps created—by Yiddish writer H. Leivick. Provenance unknown, ca. 1935. YIVO Archives. Featured in *100 Objects from the Collections of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research*.



**38 awards
& counting!**

**Do you have
your copy yet?**

Delve into Jewish history through 100 objects drawn from the YIVO Archives and Library. This gorgeously illustrated coffee table book highlights unique manuscripts, photographs, objects, and other ephemera. With accompanying essays by leading scholars, the book offers a captivating journey through Jewish history and traces YIVO's role in documenting key moments in modern Jewish history and culture through its 100 years of collecting.

“ [The objects] serve as fascinating windows, all the more tantalizing for the ordinary roles they once played in people's lives... a book to dip in and out of repeatedly, humbled each time by the weight of history.

*THE WASHINGTON POST,
Book Club, Ron Charles*

***100 Objects from the Collections of the
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research***

Edited and with introductions by Stefanie Halpern
Published in 2025

Available from the YIVO Store:
yivo-institute.myshopify.com

SEPTEMBER

- 10** | 1:00pm Ruth Rubin and the Study of Yiddish Folksong Today
- 24** | 1:00pm Yiddish Scholarship Comes to America: The YIVO Institute at 100
- 30** | 1:00pm Jewish Songs and Dances for Piano: Joseph Achron's *Children's Suite*

OCTOBER

- 05** | 1:00pm Bennett Cerf and the Publishing House He Built
- 08** | 1:00pm Modern Jewish Identity in the Age of Empire
- 11** | 1:00pm Nusakh Vilne Memorial: Songs of Eliakum Zunser
- 14** | 1:00pm Yiddish Poetry and Jewish Identity in 1930s America
- 20** | 1:00pm The Origins, Flowering, and Documentary Afterlife of Yiddish Cinema
- 22** | 7:00pm An Evening with Alex Weiser and Andrzej Ciepliński: A Celebration of *Tfiles* and its Carnegie Hall Premiere
- 25** | 11:00am Yiddish Theater Walking Tour (see PAGE 9)
- 28** | 1:00pm Understanding the Documents of YIVO's Hersh Wasser Collection

NOVEMBER

- 02** | 6:30pm My Name is Stramer
- 03** | 7:00pm More than a Symbol: The Jewish Labor Bund in History (see PAGE 15)
- 11** | 7:00pm A Staged Reading of *The Dybbuk*
- 12** | 7:00pm Diamonds of the Night
- 16** | 7:00pm *World of Our Fathers* at 50
- 17** | 1:00pm Modern Yiddish Literature
- 23** | 7:00pm Fania's World of Flavors, Smells, and Colors
- 30** | 7:00pm New from *Yiddish Voices: Mississippi and Hasidic Warsaw*

DECEMBER

- 01** | 1:00pm History of Yiddish
- 06** | 3:00pm Hanukkah Concert
- 10** | 1:00pm Through the Eyes of Jewish Child Survivors from Poland
- 15** | 7:00pm Immigrant Songs: Yiddish Theater and the American Jewish Experience
- 21** | 7:00pm A Very Jewish Christmas: Christmas in Yiddish Tradition

NEW SCHOLARSHIP & TRANSLATIONS

THU
**SEP
24**
1:00pm ET

Yiddish Scholarship Comes to America: The YIVO Institute at 100

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM | Kalman Weiser provides a comprehensive history of YIVO's post-war years, detailing its longstanding efforts to preserve Eastern European Jewish culture during a century of genocide and mass emigration, in a discussion moderated by Andrew Silow-Carroll.

MON
**OCT
05**
1:00pm ET

Bennett Cerf and the Publishing House He Built

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM | Gayle Feldman, in a conversation moderated by Jonathan Brent, details how Bennett Cerf, co-founder of Random House, transformed American publishing and became one of its most influential cultural figures.

THU
**OCT
08**
1:00pm ET

Modern Jewish Identity in the Age of Empire

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM | In a discussion led by Jeremy Dauber, Ofer Dynes and Svetlana Natkovich explore the intertwined histories of Jewish literature, identity, and nationhood in the Partitions of Poland and the Russian Empire, revealing how Jews used their artistic work to grapple with shifting political and social landscapes.

WED
**OCT
14**
1:00pm ET

Yiddish Poetry and Jewish Identity in 1930s America

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM | Itay Zutra offers a comparative study of the poetry written by the modernist group of New York Yiddish poets known as *Inzikh*, or the "Introspectivists," in a discussion led by Justin Cammy.

MON
**NOV
02**
6:30pm ET

My Name is Stramer

BOOK TALK | IN PERSON & ON ZOOM | Mikołaj Łoziński, in a conversation led by Irena Grudzinska Gross, tells the tragic story of the interwar years in Poland through the ordinary triumphs and struggles of a sprawling Polish-Jewish family. CO-SPONSORED BY THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE NEW YORK.

MON
**NOV
30**
7:00pm ET

New from *Yiddish Voices: Mississippi and Hasidic Warsaw*

BOOK TALK | IN PERSON & ON ZOOM | Celebrate the release of the two latest volumes in YIVO and Bloomsbury Academic's *Yiddish Voices* series—*Mississippi: A Yiddish Play* about the *Scottsboro Affair* and *Hasidic Warsaw: Reb Zalmen and the Aleksander Shtibl*. SUPPORTED BY THE FAMILY OF HARRIET R. YASSKY.

THU
**DEC
10**
1:00pm ET

Through the Eyes of Jewish Child Survivors from Poland

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM | Drawing on children's diaries, letters, testimonies, and memoirs, Joanna Beata Michlic illuminates how children experienced and remembered trauma under Nazi occupation, in a conversation led by Samuel Kassow.

MON
**DEC
21**
7:00pm ET

A Very Jewish Christmas: Christmas in Yiddish Tradition

BOOK TALK | IN PERSON & ON ZOOM | Have yourself a very Jewish Christmas with YIVO and learn about how Christmas celebrations once flourished in the Yiddish language. A kosher Chinese food dinner will follow the presentation.

YIDDISH CIVILIZATION 101 SERIES

TUE
**OCT
20**
1:00pm ET

The Origins, Flowering, and Documentary Afterlife of Yiddish Cinema

LECTURE | ON ZOOM | J. Hoberman delves into the history of Yiddish cinema, a unique chapter in film history and an international enterprise that created a national cinema without a nation-state, speaking to Ashkenazi audiences.

TUE
**NOV
17**
1:00pm ET

Modern Yiddish Literature

LECTURE | ON ZOOM | Anita Norich traces the development of Yiddish literature from the early 19th century onward, examining its writers, movements, and cultural contexts.

TUE
**DEC
01**
1:00pm ET

History of Yiddish

LECTURE | ON ZOOM | Dovid Katz provides an introduction to Yiddish's origins, evolution, dialects, literature, and cultural history, separating enduring scholarly consensus from persistent myths and debates.

SPECIAL COLLABORATIONS

THU
**OCT
22**
7:00pm ET

AMERICAN COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA

An Evening with Alex Weiser and Andrzej Ciepliński: A Celebration of *Tfiles* and its Carnegie Hall Premiere

DISCUSSION | IN PERSON | Join us for an intimate evening of conversation celebrating the American premiere of *Tfiles*, a clarinet concerto by composer Alex Weiser, to be performed by clarinetist Andrzej Ciepliński. PRESENTED BY AMERICAN COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA, AMERICAN FRIENDS OF POLIN MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS, ASSOCIATION OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, ADAM MICKIEWICZ INSTITUTE, POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE NEW YORK, YIVO, AND AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC.

WED
**OCT
28**
1:00pm ET

MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

Understanding the Documents of YIVO's Hersh Wasser Collection

LECTURE | ON ZOOM | Samuel Kassow investigates YIVO's Hersh Wasser collection and the insights it offers into the workings of the *Oyneg Shabes* archive that was organized in the Warsaw Ghetto, one of the most successful examples of cultural resistance in all of Nazi-occupied Europe. CO-SPONSORED BY THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE, THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, AND THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE NEW YORK.

WED
**NOV
11**
7:00pm ET

NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE FOLKSBIENE

A Staged Reading of *The Dybbuk*

PERFORMANCE | IN PERSON | Directed by Mikhl Yashinsky, this reading will feature S. An-ski's legendary 1916 drama of spiritual possession and predestined love, inspired by ethnographic work. CO-SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE FOLKSBIENE.

MON
**NOV
16**
7:00pm ET

TENEMENT MUSEUM

World of Our Fathers at 50

PANEL DISCUSSION | IN PERSON & ON ZOOM | In a discussion moderated by Annie Polland, Tony Michels, Sam Adler-Bell, and Hasia Diner reflect on the legacy of Irving Howe's *World of Our Fathers*, a classic history of Eastern European Jewish immigrant life in America. CO-SPONSORED BY THE TENEMENT MUSEUM.

MUSIC

THU
**SEP
10**
1:00pm ET

Ruth Rubin and the Study of Yiddish Folksong Today

PANEL DISCUSSION | ON ZOOM | Join us for a discussion featuring new scholarship drawing on Ruth Rubin's work by Isabel Frey and Miriam Borden, moderated by Mark Slobin, in honor of what would have been Rubin's 120th birthday.

WED
**SEP
30**
1:00pm ET

Jewish Songs and Dances for Piano: Joseph Achron's *Children's Suite*

SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES | YOUTUBE PREMIERE | Ryan MacEvoy McCullough performs Joseph Achron's *Children's Suite*: a collection of 20 character pieces for piano depicting the world of children.

SUN
**OCT
11**
1:00pm ET

Nusakh Vilne Memorial: Songs of Eliakum Zunser

LECTURE & CONCERT | IN PERSON & ON ZOOM | For 2026's commemoration of the Jewish community of Vilna, Alyssa Quint discusses the work of folk bard and songwriter Eliakum Zunser, followed by a performance of Zunser's music by Maximillian Jansen and Daniel Schlosberg.

SUN
**DEC
06**
3:00pm ET

Hanukkah Concert

CONCERT | IN PERSON | Always a popular event, the annual Hanukkah concert celebrates this joyous holiday with music, story, and song. PRODUCED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC.

FILM SCREENINGS

THU
**NOV
12**
7:00pm ET

Diamonds of the Night

FILM SCREENING | IN PERSON | Join us for a screening of Jan Němec's *Diamonds of the Night*, a film about two young Jewish men who escape from a train taking them to their death during the Holocaust. CO-SPONSORED BY THE ARNOŠT LUSTIG FOUNDATION.

MON
**NOV
23**
7:00pm ET

Fania's World of Flavors, Smells, and Colors

FILM SCREENING | IN PERSON | Join us for a documentary about the Polish Jewish vegetarian chef Fania Lewando, who operated a Vilna restaurant frequented by a variety of celebrity guests, including Marc Chagall and Jonas Turkow. CO-SPONSORED BY THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE NEW YORK AND AMERICAN FRIENDS OF POLIN MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS.

TUE
**DEC
15**
7:00pm ET

Immigrant Songs: Yiddish Theater and the American Jewish Experience

FILM SCREENING | IN PERSON | Enjoy a documentary tracing the history of Yiddish theater from its origins in Eastern Europe and early developments in America to the present day, detailing how musicians with humble origins became the voices of an entire immigrant generation. CO-SPONSORED BY THE MILKEN ARCHIVE OF JEWISH MUSIC.

Unable to attend our programs?
Watch past events at: yivo.org/video

Spring 2026

Program Highlights

The Fall of the Weimar Republic

Hundreds of people joined *The Fall of the Weimar Republic*, the keynote lecture for the 2026 YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization, featuring Sir Richard J. Evans, a renowned British historian specializing in 19th and 20th century European history. Evans explored the many factors that contributed to the fall of the Weimar Republic and what he believes ultimately caused its collapse in 1933—the shallow and weak roots of democratic political culture in Germany.

Yiddish Civilization 101 Series

YIVO launched the *Yiddish Civilization 101* series, featuring expert scholars exploring key topics in Ashkenazi history and culture. In *The Shtetl: Myth and Reality*, Samuel Kassow challenged romanticized stereotypes by presenting the realities of shtetl life in Eastern Europe. Eddy Portnoy's *English Jokes, Yiddish Punchlines* examined the uniquely American phenomenon of English-language jokes ending with Yiddish punchlines. Darra Goldstein's *Ashkenazi Jewish Food* explored how Ashkenazi Jews adapted unfamiliar ingredients in America while preserving the flavors and traditions of the Old Country. Together, the three lectures drew more than 2,200 registrants.

Poland vs. Holocaust History Series

YIVO's *Poland vs. Holocaust History* series examined how Holocaust distortion in Poland reshapes or minimizes the historical record, often emphasizing Polish victimhood while obscuring instances of local collaboration, participation, or indifference. The series explored political rhetoric, memory laws, public commemorations, attacks on critical scholarship, and other issues while situating the Polish case within a broader European context. In *Denialism: Polish Style*, Elżbieta Janicka argued that Polish cultural institutions practice a form of Holocaust denialism by obscuring Polish involvement in the Holocaust. Jan Grabowski's *Holocaust Distortion in Poland: A Comparative European Perspective* compared developments in Poland with those in other European countries. The concluding panel, *The Future of Holocaust Memory: Poland and Beyond*, featured Jan T. Gross, Janicka, and Grabowski discussing the challenges facing Holocaust remembrance amid political polarization, historical revisionism, and generational change. The series drew about 2,000 registrants.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS:
SPRING 2026



49 public programs

16.5K+ registrations

932.7K+ YouTube views

Over **155,000** YouTube subscribers!

Carnegie Hall YIVO's 100th Anniversary



Ensemble Connect Up Close with clarinetist David Krakauer, a concert partnering YIVO with Carnegie Hall. New York, 2026. Photo by Stephanie Burger.



Hall celebrates 100th birthday!

In May 2026, Carnegie Hall celebrated YIVO's centennial with a special concert featuring clarinetist David Krakauer and Ensemble Connect. The program, curated by Krakauer, ranged from works by Alexander Krein and Osvaldo Golijov to Krakauer's compositions and arrangements. A fitting tribute to the breadth of YIVO's music collections, the concert explored Jewish and other folk traditions and crossed boundaries between folk music, liturgical music, and classical composition.

Spring 2026 also included YIVO's participation in Carnegie Hall's *United in Sound: America at 250* festival, celebrating Jewish contributions to American music. This included four events: a concert performance of Joseph Rumshinsky's *Khantshe in Amerike* by students of the Bard Graduate Vocal Arts Program and a webinar lecture series with Walter Zev Feldman (*Klezmer and Other Displaced Musics in America*), Jeremiah Lockwood (*The Cantorial "Golden Age" in America*), and Ronald Robboy (*Yiddish Theater, George Gershwin, and the Birth of an American Sound*).

This year's collaborations with Carnegie Hall mark the latest iteration of an ongoing institutional partnership. Over the past decade, YIVO has regularly joined Carnegie Hall's citywide festival programming—tracing the intertwined threads of Yiddish and Latin American music during the *Nuestros Sonidos* festival (2025) including a performance with Arturo O'Farrill and his Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble; spotlighting Yiddish writers, Little Magazines, and Yiddish and Hebrew songs of the Weimar Republic for the *Fall of the Weimar Republic: Dancing on the Precipice* festival (2024); offering scholarly context on Jewish women in opera, a discussion of Molly Picon's work as a lyricist, and a musical celebration of the legacy of Chana Mlotek during Carnegie Hall's season-long celebration of the many contributions that women have made to the world of music (2023); presenting Holocaust survivor testimony songs and Holocaust literature during their *Voices of Hope: Artists in Times of Oppression* festival (2021); exploring Yiddish's place in the *Beethoven Celebration* festival (2020); and bringing historical perspective to the *Migrations: The Making of America* festival (2019).

Learning and Media Center



Inside an Archival Box

This spring, the YIVO Learning and Media Center (YLMC) debuted a new entry in its ongoing series of Archival Box Lessons. Throughout the YLMC's pilot phase and our first year of operation, the subject of the Yiddish theater has been a frequent topic for visiting school groups—whether for classes dedicated to theater, New York, or European history. To kick-start our new series dedicated to the Yiddish theater, we chose the namesake of our Theater Museum Collection, Esther-Rachel Kaminska, as our first subject. Using an excerpt from Kaminska's memoirs, the YLMC has curated a lesson filled with reproductions from Record Group 8: Esther-Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum Collection. This lesson captures the exciting early days of the Yiddish theater using everything from photographs of the early Yiddish theatrical performances staged in the Polish countryside to fan letters addressed to Kaminska, delivering breathless praise to the "mother of the Yiddish theater."

Here are a few documents featured in these new boxes:

TOP:
Sheet music for Avrom Goldfaden's operetta *Shmendrik*.

MIDDLE:
A fan letter given to Kaminska in the 1920s by the Dvinsker Youth Theater Group.

BOTTOM:
Photos of Esther-Rachel Kaminska, taken from *Briv fun Ester-Rokhl Kaminski*, which was published posthumously in 1926.



26 visits
469 visitors
18 groups & classes

PUBLIC WALKING TOUR

SUN
**OCT
 25**
 11:00am ET

Yiddish Theater Walking Tour

WALKING TOUR | IN PERSON | Join YLMC Educator Susannah Trubman for a two-hour walking tour dedicated to the history of the Yiddish theater in the Lower East Side.



Students from The Frisch School in New Jersey visit the YLMC, June 2026.

Visitor Testimonials from Educators

“ I would like to thank you and your team for the fascinating visit to YIVO. Thank you for taking the time to host us and for providing such an inspiring glimpse into your remarkable collections and the extensive work being done at YIVO. The students were deeply impressed—not only by the richness of the archives and the institution's mission, but also by the dedication, professionalism, and passion of the staff members they met. The visit offered a meaningful perspective on the preservation and study of Jewish history and culture, and it left a lasting impression on our group. I am certain that many of our students will return in the coming years to conduct independent research and make use of the extraordinary resources that YIVO provides.

CHAGIT HIRSCH (SHVARZMAN)
 Program Coordinator, Haifa University

“ Thank you so much for yet another wonderful visit. The students, as always, got so much out of it and had glowing things to say. This is even true of the students who visited previously with [my] Zionism course. The new presentation meant they were seeing a different side of the YIVO collection. Thank you so much for adapting each visit to the course so that this field trip could function both as an introduction to most of the students and as a meaningful step deeper for the handful who were there last semester or the semester before.

BENJAMIN BERMAN-GLADSTONE
 Fellow, Columbia University

“ We wanted to take a moment to thank you again for your superb presentation and workshop. The information you shared was so beautifully rich, and your immense expertise shone through. The students were engaged and invested in the material and no doubt came away from the lesson with much deeper knowledge about the lives of teenagers in Poland in the 1930s. We are so grateful for the time and care that you put into [our] visit. We hope to partner with you and YIVO again in the future.

SAMANTHA FLEETER
 English Teacher, The Dalton School

Are you interested in bringing a class to visit the YIVO Learning and Media Center?
 Contact Susannah Trubman at strubman@yivo.org to schedule your visit today!



[L-R] Kyrylo Vyslobokov, Director, Archival Information Systems; Dr. Lyubov Dubrovina, Director-General, V. I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine; and Jonathan Brent, Executive Director & CEO, YIVO.

YIVO Signs Agreement to Digitize the Vernadsky National Library's An-ski Collection

In March 2026, YIVO Executive Director Jonathan Brent and Chief of Staff Shelly Freeman traveled to Kyiv to formally sign a contract between the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine (VNLU), Archival Information Systems—a

Ukraine-based digitization company—and YIVO to digitize and preserve VNLU's An-ski Collection.

During the visit, Brent and Freeman also met with representatives of the Ukrainian State Archives, which holds extensive Jewish materials, to discuss a memorandum of understanding aimed at the digitization of these collections and expanding their global accessibility. They were accompanied on the trip by Gal Beckerman of *The Atlantic*, who reported on YIVO's work as well as on daily life in Kyiv.

Jonathan Brent Speaks at London Book Week

Jonathan Brent took part in the prestigious London Book Week festival in an online event on March 3, 2026. In

conversation with German historian Christoph Dieckmann, he examined YIVO's vital role in preserving European Jewish culture, while reflecting on how history and scholarship continue to confront the Holocaust's profound impact on European civilization and humanity. The session was moderated by Bodley's Librarian Richard Ovenden.

New Partnership Connects Ukrainian Students with YIVO's Yiddish Program

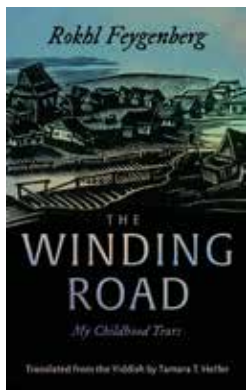
In spring 2026, YIVO launched a new initiative in partnership with Ivan Franko National University in Lviv, Ukraine. Named the Lilka Scholarship and funded with generous support from the Kronhill Pletka Foundation, this

initiative enables students at Ivan Franko University to enroll—for full university credit—in online Yiddish language courses taught by YIVO's distinguished faculty at the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies.

This program creates a rare and meaningful exchange between Eastern Europe and North America. Students study alongside peers from around the world, gaining not only linguistic skills but a deeper understanding of the role Yiddish played in shaping the societies of Eastern Europe. Students will in turn bring this knowledge back to their own communities—strengthening local research, cultural institutions, and public engagement with Jewish history.

The initiative carries particular urgency at this time for students in Ukraine, who continue to pursue their university education under the strain of war. By providing access to YIVO's courses, the program offers both academic continuity and vital intellectual support. For the first pilot of this initiative, YIVO was proud to welcome 15 students from Ivan Franko University, with more expected to participate in the upcoming fall semester and beyond.

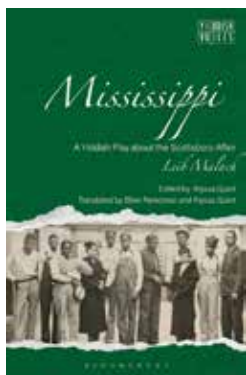
Summer Program Graduate Becomes Published Translator



YIVO was proud to welcome back Yiddish translator Tamara Helfer for a talk on her recently published translation of *The Winding Road: My Childhood Years*, an autobiographical debut novel by Rokhl Feygenberg originally published in 1905. The novel, a fictionalized account of Feygenberg's childhood in a small shtetl in the 1890s, was published when the author was only 20 years old. Tamara, who learned Yiddish at YIVO, is a four-time graduate of the YIVO-Bard Summer Program ('20, '21, '22, and '23) and was a Yiddish Book Center Trans-

lation Fellow in 2023. A former research astronomer and science educator, Tamara has since turned her focus from the stars to Yiddish translation. She spoke to the 2026 cohort of Summer Program students about Feygenberg's novel, the process of translation, and her journey to becoming a professional Yiddish translator following her studies at YIVO.

Two New Volumes Published in the Yiddish Voices Series



YIVO has published two new volumes in its *Yiddish Voices* series, an ongoing collaboration with Bloomsbury Academic that brings important works of Yiddish literature to English-language readers for the first time. *Mississippi: A Yiddish Play about the Scottsboro Affair* was published in July, followed by *Hasidic Warsaw: Reb Zalmen and the Aleksander Shtibl* in August.

Together, the books showcase the remarkable breadth of Yiddish literature, exploring subjects from racial injustice in the United States to everyday Hasidic life in prewar Poland. *Mississippi*, by Leib Malach and translated by Ellen Perecman and Alyssa Quint, is the first English translation of the playwright's 1935 work inspired by the Scottsboro Affair. *Hasidic Warsaw*, by Yechiel Hofer, is the first English translation of *Reb Zalmen*, offering a vivid portrait of prayer, community, and

daily life in Warsaw's Aleksander Hasidic community.

Made possible through the generous support of the family of Harriet R. Yassky, the *Yiddish Voices* series is curated by Alyssa Quint and Elissa Bemporad.



YIVO Learning and Media Center Educator Susannah Trubman gives a walking tour of the Lower East Side in New York.

YIVO Participates in the Municipal Arts Society's Annual "Jane's Walk" Festival

On May 1 and May 3, YIVO participated in the Municipal Arts Society's annual "Jane's Walk" festival. Each year, MAS hosts over 200 in-person and virtual walking tours around New York City related to its history. This year, for the festival, YIVO Learning and Media Center Educator Susannah Trubman created a walking tour dedicated to Yiddish theater history in the Lower East Side. The walk began at the former site of Jacob Adler's Grand Theater and finished in Union Square Park, not far from the site of the Modicut Puppet Theater Workshop. Along the way, Trubman used scans from YIVO's vast theater collections to help illustrate the rich history of Yiddish performance. Each walk sold out and had long waitlists. If you missed them, Trubman will be hosting the program again this fall, on October 25.

Ben Kaplan Presents at the JCC Manhattan's Paul Feig z"l Tikkun Leil Shavuot

On May 21, 2026, YIVO's Director of Education Ben Kaplan presented a lecture entitled, "The Jewish Photographers of Eastern Europe and America," for the JCC Manhattan's Paul Feig z"l Tikkun Leil Shavuot, an annual event celebrating the holiday of Shavuot through study, film, music, dance, conversation, and more. The lecture focused on two Jewish photographers whose collections are housed at YIVO: Alter Kacyzne and Menachem Kipnis. The presentation addressed the history of Jewish photographic practice in Eastern Europe and its subsequent continuation in the United States, where Jewish photographers had a major influence on the development of photography in the 20th century.

2026 Lithuania and Poland Study Tour

by TERRI MOSS

To say that the YIVO study tour of Eastern European Jewish History was a capstone in my understanding and feeling of what it means to be Jewish suggests that, yes, it clearly added that missing piece deep within me. But it also implies that the experience and its impact were finite, which is inaccurate. This trip and its implications resonated so deeply on all sensory levels, including intellectual, emotional, and spiritual, that its reverberations and value will continue to evolve over perhaps the rest of my lifetime. And that's not hyperbole.

On the superficial end, the trip was logistically well planned, and the tour leader, Dariusz, added immeasurably not only to our comfort, but also gave color commentary on the history, politics, and culture of Lithuania and Poland, as only a Polish native could. Professor Samuel Kassow was the primary source of knowledge gleaned from decades of study and instruction, nuanced and made real through stories from his personal life. I had never heard of Professor Kassow as we didn't run in the same circles, but I quickly understood the basis of his reputation and following. He presented a comprehensive view of Jewish history, life, culture, politics, and much more as we toured Lithuania and Poland. I couldn't have imagined the depth and richness of this learning.

Irene Kronhill Pletka, Vice Chair of the YIVO Board, accompanied our group. Witnessing her targeted, intentional contributions to organizations and museums to ensure a Jewish legacy and reincarnation of Jewish life in Lithuania and Poland was inspirational. I was surprised and motivated by her and the tremendous influence and actions that YIVO has exerted and continues to make to ensure that Jewish history and life in Eastern Europe are preserved and communicated to current and future generations. I cannot recommend this trip enough for people looking to increase their knowledge of their Jewish heritage or Eastern European Jewish history.

2026 Balkans Study Tour

This July, travelers joined YIVO's study tour of the Balkans, visiting Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina over 13 days. The tour was led by renowned historian and YIVO's Visiting Research Historian Dr. Samuel Kassow and noted author and photographer Edward Serotta. Through expert lectures, personal testimonials, and visits to sites of remembrance and cultural renewal, this tour helped to illuminate the lesser-known story of this region's Jewish communities.

“The brochure warned that border crossings might be slow. It failed to add that, on a YIVO trip, no border is simply crossed. It is dated, contested, and supplied with three earlier names. What moved me most was the strange scale of things. A small manuscript in Sarajevo holds a civilization's wanderings. A narrow tunnel holds a city's determination to remain alive. A grave in Stolac becomes a place of pilgrimage. In Split, a synagogue survives within the walls of an emperor's palace. The emperor had marble; the Jews had memory. We may draw our own conclusions about which proved more durable.

BENJAMIN BALINT

Vienna-based author of books on Franz Kafka and Bruno Schulz



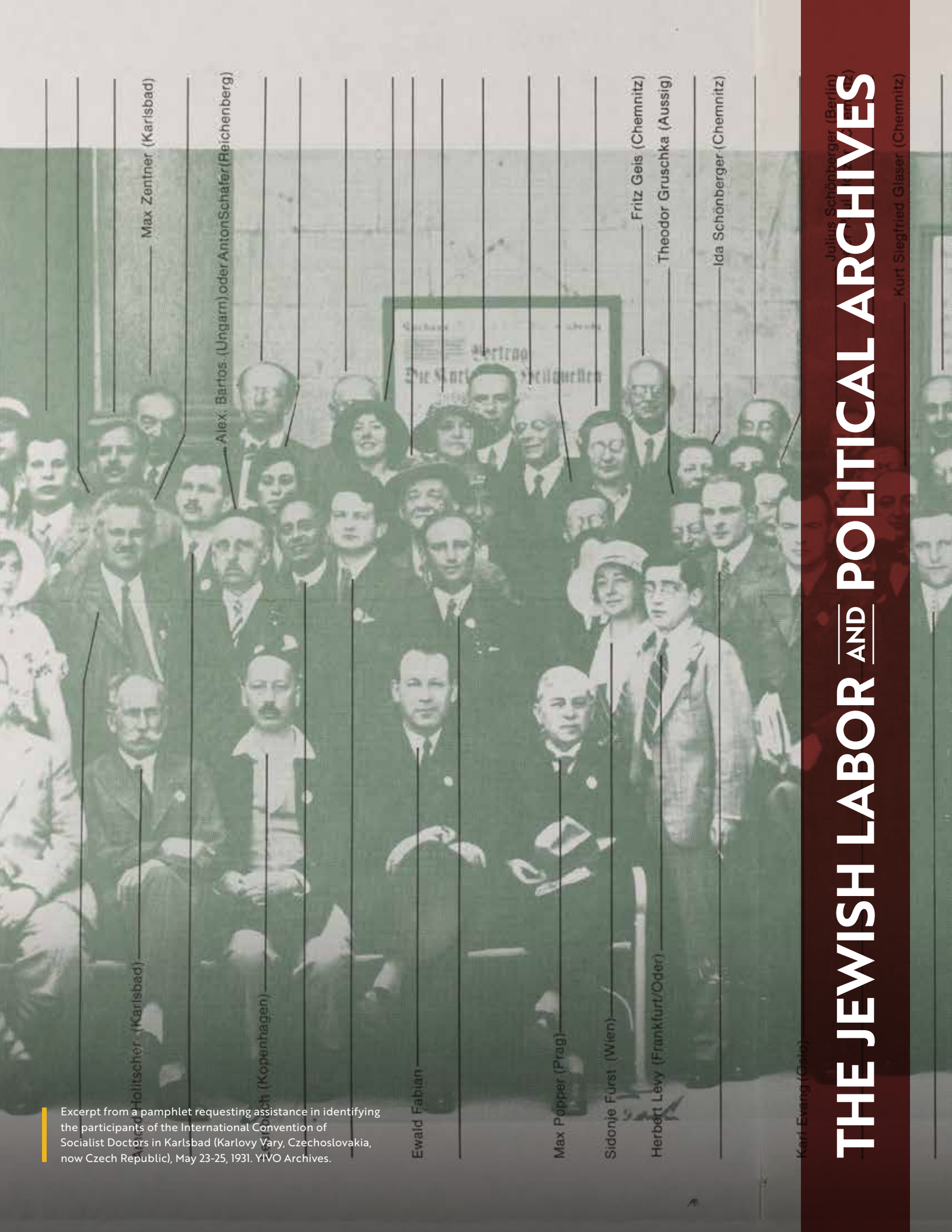
LITHUANIA AND POLAND STUDY TOUR:
Terri Moss at ŻIH (Jewish Historical Institute)
in Warsaw, pointing on a map to where her
ancestors came from.



BALKANS STUDY TOUR:
Participants at a dinner in Dubrovnik, Croatia.



BALKANS STUDY TOUR:
The Sarajevo Synagogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Max Zentner (Karlsbad)

Alex. Bartos. (Ungarn) oder Anton Schafer (Reichenberg)

Fritz Geis (Chemnitz)

Theodor Gruschka (Aussig)

Ida Schönberger (Chemnitz)

Wolff (Kopenhagen)

Ewald Fabian

Max Popper (Prag)

Sidonie Furst (Wien)

Herbert Levy (Frankfurt/Oder)

Karl Evang (Oslo)

Julius Schönberger (Berlin)

Kurt Siegfried Glaser (Chemnitz)

Excerpt from a pamphlet requesting assistance in identifying the participants of the International Convention of Socialist Doctors in Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia, now Czech Republic), May 23-25, 1931. YIVO Archives.

THE JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVES

אקטיוויזם
די שטער קולטור - קאנגרעס
ל"ט - צוזאמענפאר
1969
3rd WORLD CONFERENCE ON JEWISH CULTURE



Nechama Lifshitz at the 1969 World Conference of the Congress for Jewish Culture

The ongoing digitization of the close to 900 tapes of audio material belonging to the Jewish Labor and Political Archives is uncovering fascinating moments in history. The recordings capture things like union meetings, in particular of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; recordings of the Bund World Conference over the years; commemorative events; and literary evenings. Some recordings include live performances of remarkable artists, such as a noted 1969 recital given by the Soviet and Israeli soprano Nechama Lifshitz at the Third World Conference of the Congress for Jewish Culture. This performance followed Lifshitz's immigration from Kaunas to Israel which enabled her to tour in the United States. Accompanied on piano by Renee Salomon, the "Nightingale of Yiddish Song" performs songs in Yiddish and Hebrew, in a singing style that reflects her classical voice training. The day after her performance, Lifshitz spoke about the difficult circumstances of the Jews in the Soviet Union, taking part in the appeal to pass resolutions calling for the Soviet government to allow Jews to immigrate to Israel and abroad.



Listen to the archival recordings at:

► yivo.org/lifshitz-artifact



ABOUT THE PROJECT

YIVO's Archival team continues to pour its efforts into the Jewish Labor and Political Archives Project (JLPA)—now more than halfway through the project. Consisting of nearly 200 collections totaling 3.5 million pages of archival documents, the JLPA is the world's most comprehensive body of material on Jewish social and political activism in Europe and the United States. Spanning the years 1870 to 1992, the JLPA tells the story of Jews' involvement in the European political and revolutionary movements of the 20th century and resistance to the Holocaust, as well as their impact on the American labor movement and the fight for fair wages and workers' rights.

As of July 24, 2026, the JLPA project has raised over \$7.5 million toward its \$8.5 million goal. There is still time for you to support the digitization of the JLPA! Please consider directing a contribution to the JLPA to ensure this historic archival resource is available to a global audience. Your commitment will be matched by a challenge grant from an anonymous foundation, amplifying your support!

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

For more information and naming opportunities, please contact Melissa S. Cohen at **212.294.6156** or via email at mcohen@yivo.org.

FALL 2026 JLPA PROGRAM

MON
NOV
03
7:00pm ET

More than a Symbol: The Jewish Labor Bund in History

LECTURE | IN PERSON & ON ZOOM | Joshua Meyers provides an overview of the Bund, rooted not in our world or imaginations, but in the reality of the party's own members, while exploring its legacy and that of Diaspora Socialism in the 21st century. THIS EVENT FORMS PART OF A SERIES HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIGITIZATION OF YIVO'S JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVES (JLPA).

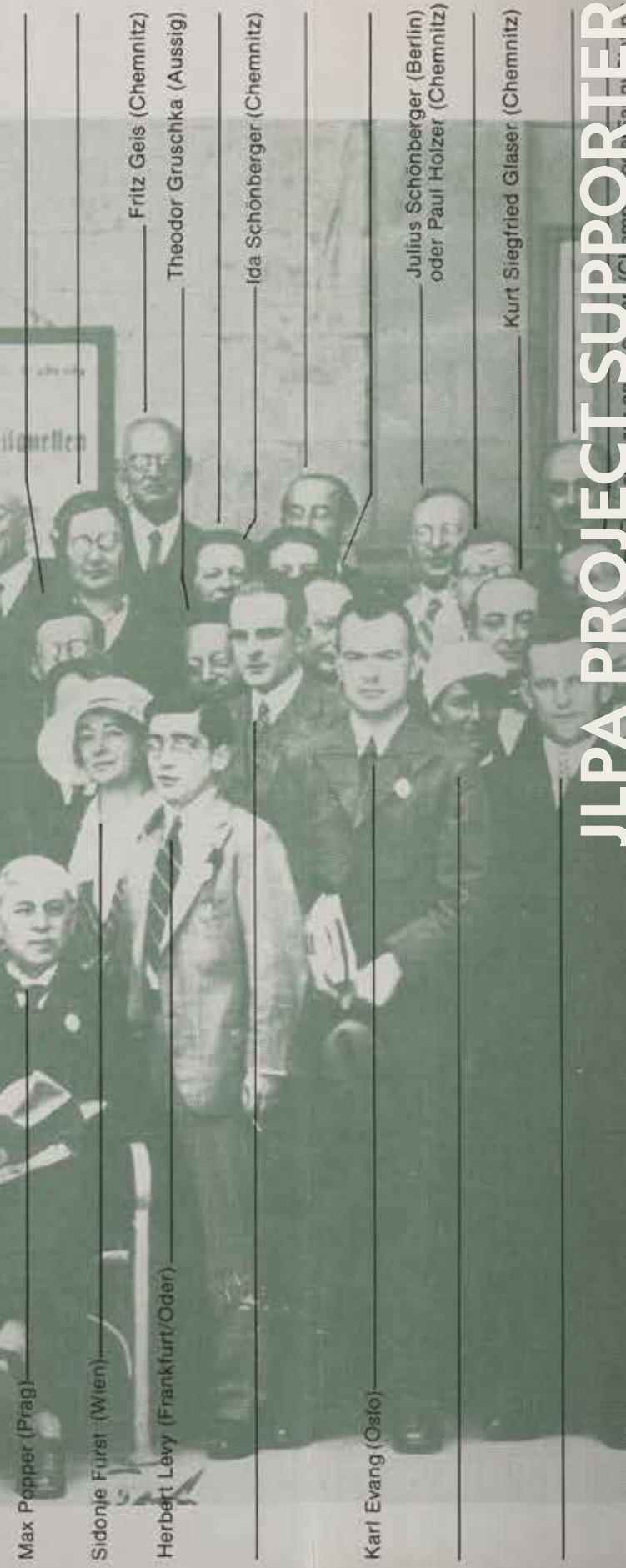
JLPA BY THE NUMBERS: TO DATE



Approximately
3.5 million
pages in the collection

90% conserved
66% processed
39% digitized and
available online

JLPA PROJECT SUPPORTERS



\$1,000,000+ Builder

Anonymous
Ruth and David Levine
Irene Pletka

\$500,000+ Partner

Anonymous

\$100,000+ Benefactor

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, The
German Federal Ministry of Finance, and the Foundation
Remembrance, Responsibility and Future
Institute of Museum and Library Services: Save America's Treasures (IMLS)
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

\$50,000+ Patron

Anonymous
The Slomo and Cindy Silvan Foundation, Inc.

\$25,000+ Sponsor

Harri Hoffmann Family Foundation

\$10,000+ Supporter

Atran Foundation
The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation
The Hittman Family Foundation
Deborah K. Holmes Family Foundation
Janet Pavloff and Lisa Kartzman
The Alice Lawrence Foundation, Inc.
Myra and Harry Wagner & The Wagner Family Foundation

\$5,000+ Contributor

Julius C. Spiegel

\$1,000+ Friend

Ellen Odoner and Edward Kerson

As of JULY 24, 2026

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please report any corrections to mcohen@yivo.org.



Funded by:



on the basis of a decision
of the Bundestag

With Assistance from the Conference on
Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Supported by the German Federal Ministry of
Finance and the Foundation Remembrance,
Responsibility and Future



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the
Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

From the YIVO Collections

FEATURED ARTIFACT

An Amateur Film Reel from Camp Boiberik

An amateur film reel in YIVO's collection has recently been digitized and made available for viewing for the first time in over 85 years. Titled *Tsores in Boiberik oder Oi, Trouble* (Problems in Boiberik, or Oh, Trouble), this film was produced in 1940 at Camp Boiberik, a secular Yiddish summer camp founded in 1919 by the Sholem Aleichem Folk Institute. The film features Boiberik's longtime director, Leibush Lehrer, and a character named "Milly," a mischievous camper who burns down the camp cabins to build a new Boiberik for the summer of 1941.

The two reels that comprise this film are among a collection of 85 amateur reels produced on behalf of the Camp Commission which capture various camp activities and rituals. These films would have been shown at the annual winter reunions held almost each year from 1934 to 1979.

The films can be viewed here:

► archives.cjh.org/repositories/7/archival_objects/1600983



LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT

Oliver Twist in the Soviet Union

The "School and Pioneer Library" was a Yiddish-language series of literature published by the Kultur-lige Press in Kyiv in the mid-1920s. Intended for a young Soviet readership, the series included excerpts or abridged versions of literature from writers such as Sholem Aleichem, Leon Trotsky, and Mark Twain. The Yiddish used in this series adheres to Soviet Yiddish orthography of the 1920s, whereby words of Hebrew-Aramaic origin are spelled according to phonetic Yiddish, although word-final letters were still in use.

Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* appeared as the fourth number of this series in 1925 under the editorship of the pedagogue, author, and translator Lipe Reznik. Bright colors and sharp angles of the unattributed cover design evoke Russian avant-garde art of the period, while the text tells the tale of poverty and the criminal underworld in industrial England.

This excerpt of the novel spans the period from Oliver's birth to his arrest for stealing a handkerchief. The criminal ringleader Fagin makes several appearances in this Yiddish version, although his Jewish identity—mentioned hundreds of times in Dickens' original, leading to accusations of antisemitism—is omitted.





The Culmination of Years of Work and the Beginning of My Yiddish Journey

by OLA SZARAPANOWSKA, *Summer Program '26*

The six weeks I spent at YIVO were, on one hand, the culmination of several years of work, and on the other, the beginning of my Yiddish journey.

Already during my MA Studies (Jewish History and Culture, University of Warsaw), I heard great stories about the Summer Program since several members of our faculty are alumni. I knew, though, that without a scholarship, I would not be able to attend.

During the last couple of years, I was lucky enough to gain experience working at the Jewish Historical Institute and embark on my PhD journey at the University of Warsaw. I want to study—and write and publish—about all facets of Jewish life in Poland, and I knew that YIVO would be the best place to start.

Over the course of six weeks, I've read hundreds of pages of Yiddish literature, attended classes that ranged from the Yiddish press to Ashkenazi cuisine, discussed modern Jewish Orthodox culture, visited the grave of Sholem Aleichem, and attempted to determine the exact origin of converbs in Yiddish. I got up every morning excited for what the day would bring. Even the mounds of homework we were assigned every day did not deter my excitement. On the contrary, after a couple of weeks, when I first noticed the improvement in my reading ability, I knew that it was all working.

I leave New York feeling more confident than ever in my ability to pursue Yiddish further, and I plan on applying my knowledge to both research and archival work in Poland. Unexpectedly, I've also developed an interest in post-war Yiddish literature. I know that, thanks to YIVO's Summer Program, Yiddish will be central to my research, and I am deeply grateful for this opportunity.



Thinking—and Even Dreaming—in Yiddish

by VERA GERANPAYEH, *Summer Program '26*

This summer did far more than strengthen my language skills. It changed the way I understand my intellectual work, my relationship to Yiddish, and even my sense of myself as a writer.

I arrived at YIVO hoping to improve my reading knowledge so that I could work more confidently with Old Yiddish texts as part of my research in medieval Germanic vernacular literature. By the middle of the program, I realized that I was beginning to think—and even dream—in Yiddish.

The summer also expanded my sense of what I might be able to do with the language. Through the generosity of teachers who took my ideas seriously, Yiddish has become a language in which I can increasingly think, speak, and create. I hope to continue bringing Yiddish into my research and teaching and, wherever my career may take me, eventually to teach courses on Yiddish literature myself.

On a personal level, Yiddish was the language of my great-grandparents in Ukraine and is also part of my husband's family history in Canada. As I have continued learning, my mother has begun recalling the Yiddish her grandparents spoke and the few phrases her father retained. My studies have therefore prompted memories and conversations across both of our families. Their histories were shaped by pogroms, displacement, and migration through Ukraine, Germany, Austria, Mandatory Palestine, Canada, and the United States. Through Yiddish, I feel that I am helping to carry forward a shared language and culture that endured across borders, even when its transmission was interrupted. My participation in the program was both an academic opportunity and a deeply personal act of continuity.

I leave the program with new research projects, new mentors, and a renewed commitment to Yiddish language and literature.

PROGRAM IN YIDDISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE



This year's Summer Program was the first since 2019 to take place entirely in person in NYC!



64 students
8 countries
13 U.S. states

Students, faculty, and staff attend the **סיים** (*siem* [graduation]) for the 2026 YIVO-Bard Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture. Photos by Melanie Einzig.

מזל-טוב!
Congratulations to the class of 2026!

YIVO Hosts Inaugural Summer Semester

This July, YIVO offered the Summer Semester, a mini-semester designed to bridge the months-long gap between the Fall and Spring semesters. The semester offered review courses at the Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels to help students transition to their next level of learning, as well as seminars exploring topics in history, literature, culture, and more. The incredible international faculty included Moishele Alfonso, Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz, Lucas Fiszman, Samuel Glauber, Rose Mintzer-Sweeney, Eliezer Niborski, Philip Schwartz, Vera Szabó, Karolina Szymaniak, and Michael Wex. Overall, the semester featured 13 classes taken by 163 students from 32 U.S. states and across 14 countries.

YIVO's Shine Online Educational Series

YIVO's Shine Online courses
are **free** and available to
take **at your own pace**.

Learn about Jewish history
and culture with experts in
the field and explore YIVO's
unique archival collections.

5
classes

30K+
students registered

Students from **76 countries**
and **all 50 states**

YIVO.ORG/SHINE

GET STARTED TODAY!

Fall Classes

*All classes are 12 weeks, 12 total sessions,
1.5 hours each unless otherwise noted:*

- ▲ 5 weeks, 5 total sessions, 1.5 hours each
- * 10 weeks, 10 total sessions, 1.5 hours each
- 12 weeks, 24 total sessions, 1.5 hours each

BEGINNER YIDDISH

BEGINNER I YIDDISH

(Wednesday)

Sep. 23 – Dec. 9 | 10:00am-11:30am ET

Instructor: Ethel Niborski

(Wednesday, In-person in NYC)

Sep. 23 – Dec. 9 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET

Instructor: Yoykhtse Silverstein

(Thursday)

Sep. 24 – Dec. 17 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET

Instructor: Lucas Fiszman

BEGINNER II YIDDISH

(Monday)

Sep. 28 – Dec. 14 | 10:00am-11:30am ET

Instructor: Philip Schwartz

(Tuesday)

Sep. 22 – Dec. 8 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Nina Warnke

BEGINNER III YIDDISH

(Sunday)

Oct. 11 – Dec. 27 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Malena Chinski

BEGINNER IV YIDDISH

(Sunday)

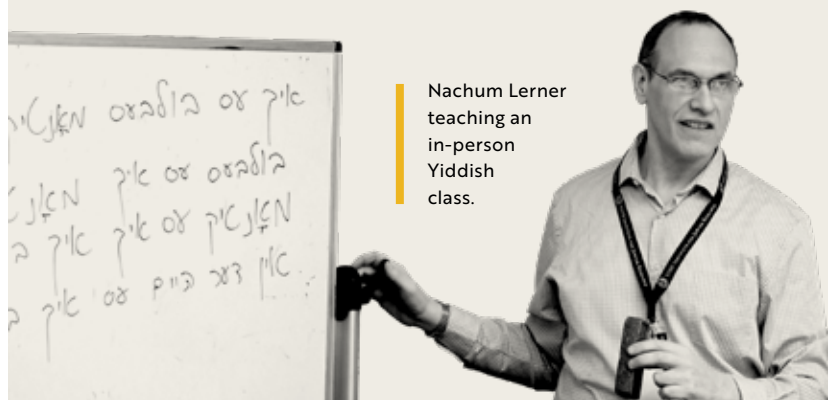
Oct. 11 – Dec. 27 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET

Instructor: Nina Warnke

(Thursday)

Sep. 24 – Dec. 17 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET

Instructor: Lucas Fiszman



Nachum Lerner
teaching an
in-person
Yiddish
class.

This fall we are offering 24 courses, all held remotely on Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Join us and students from around the world! Space is limited and classes fill up quickly, so be sure to register today.

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

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

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS:
SPRING 2026



277 students
14 countries
30 U.S. states

INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH

INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH

(Monday) Sep. 28 – Dec. 14 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Malena Chinski

(Tuesday, In-person in NYC)

Sep. 22 – Dec. 8 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Nachum Lerner

INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH

(Sunday) Oct. 11 – Dec. 27 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH

(Tuesday) Sep. 22 – Dec. 8 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Nina Warnke

INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH

(Thursday)

Sep. 17 – Dec. 17 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Malena Chinski

ADVANCED YIDDISH

ADVANCED I YIDDISH

(Sunday)

Oct. 11 – Dec. 27 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

■ (Tuesdays & Thursdays, Twice-a-week)

Sep. 22 – Dec. 15 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

ADVANCED II YIDDISH

(Tuesday)

Sep. 22 – Dec. 8 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

ADVANCED III YIDDISH

(Monday)

Sep. 28 – Dec. 14 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó

ADVANCED V YIDDISH

(Sunday Afternoon)

Oct. 11 – Dec. 27 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

(Sunday Evening)

Oct. 11 – Dec. 27 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

ADVANCED TOPICS IN YIDDISH LITERATURE & GRAMMAR

The Yiddish Underworld

(Sunday) Oct. 11 – Dec. 27 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN ENGLISH)

Pogroms and Jewish Self-Defense in the Russian Empire, 1881–1921

* **(Sunday)** Oct. 11 – Dec. 20 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Netta Ehrlich

Bodies, Desire, and Sexuality in Eastern European Jewish History

▲ **(Tuesday)** Oct. 6 – Nov. 3 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Aleksandra Jakubczak

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN YIDDISH)

Spiritual Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Oyneg-Shabes Archive

▲ **(Tuesday)** Nov. 3 – Dec. 1 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Samuel Kassow

The Memoirs of Puah Rakovsky

* **(Wednesday)**

Sep. 23 – Dec. 2 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó



Visitors at the opening program of *Jews Are Magic*, May 2026.

Jews Are Magic: Occult Practices from Palmistry to Professional Psychics

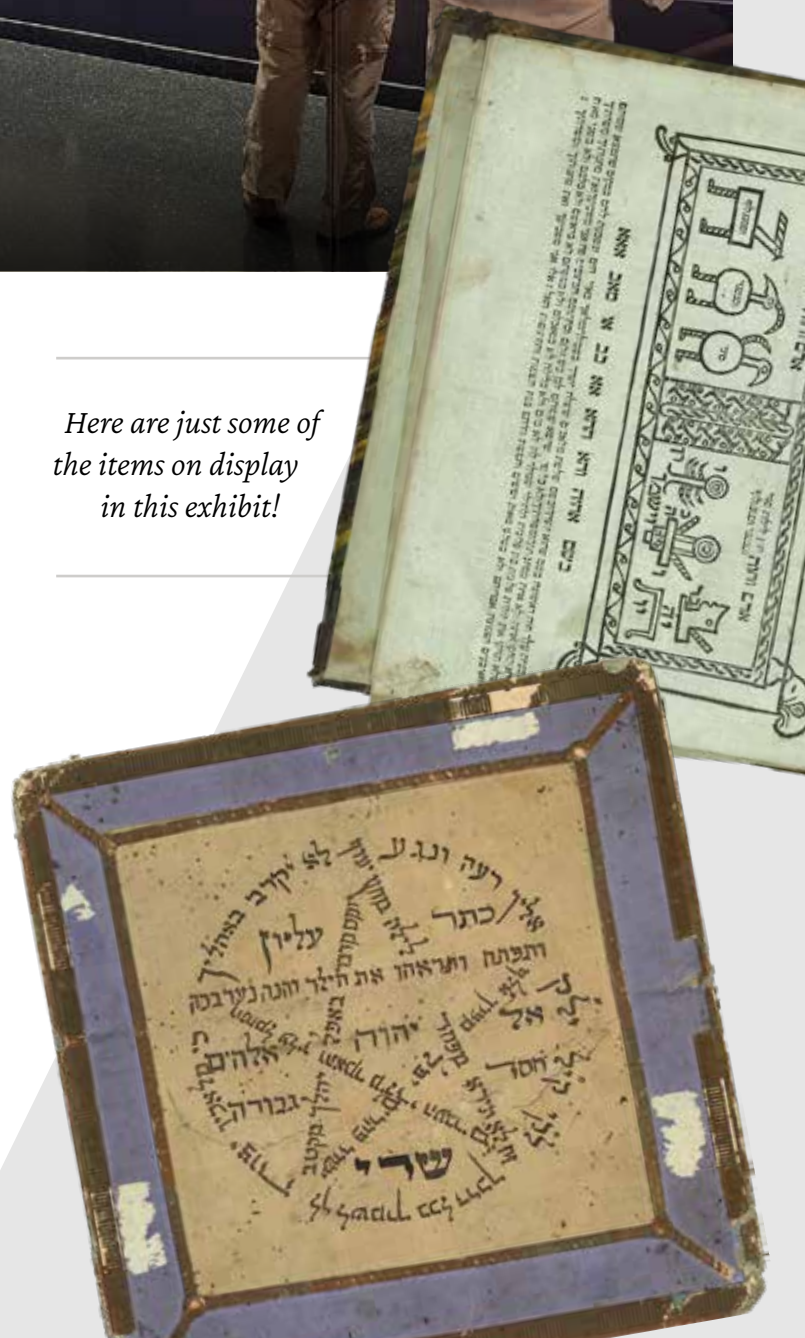
On view May 26 – December 31, 2026

PRESENTED BY YIVO

From palm and face reading to phrenology; from reading tea leaves and coffee grounds to lead and wax pouring practices; through to mind-reading, hypnosis, and mentalism, these unsanctioned practices have been a fascinating part of Jewish culture since the Biblical era and evolving across centuries of diaspora life. The Jewish experience with the occult is a rich field for exploration that continues into the present.

YIVO's exhibition, *Jews Are Magic: Occult Practices from Palmistry to Professional Psychics*, unveils an intriguing world of rare kabbalistic amulets, palmistry manuals, lot-casting texts, and other occult manuscripts drawn from YIVO's vast archive of 24 million items and its renowned library. The exhibition also brings to life the stories of professional Jewish psychics in the 20th century, including Naftali Herz Imber—the poet behind "*Hatikvah*" ("The Hope"), which later became Israel's national anthem.

Here are just some of the items on display in this exhibit!





TOP:
Khokhmes hayad oder di simonim fun der hant
 (Wisdom of the Hand or the Lines of the Hand) by
 Eliyohu Moyshe Galino. Warsaw, 1882. YIVO Library.

MIDDLE:
 Pages from *Sefer Raziel HaMalakh* (The Book of Raziel the
 Angel). The image on the left shows a talisman intended to
 protect newborns from Lilith. The figures are meant to be
 angels. The image on the right is intended to protect women
 from difficult childbirth. Kapust, 1820. YIVO Library.

BOTTOM:
 Pentacle amulet for the protection of a child. Eastern
 Europe, n.d., ca. 19th century. YIVO Archives.



Psychedelicatessen: A Powerful Dose of Art by Steve Marcus

On view July 9 – December 31, 2026

PRESENTED BY YIVO AND THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

Take a long, strange trip into NYC artist Steve Marcus' cartoon universe of kosher folk art with a new series of works of Jewish pop art inspired by a parodic fusion of the psychedelic counterculture of the 1960s with Judaism and Jewish culture. Marcus' hand drawn works on paper and handmade objects are colorful and comical flashbacks that take the viewer on a mystical tour on the magic bus, down an irreverent and insightful road that reveals a quirky sense of humor and a passion for his own roots and culture. Marcus' new project seamlessly marries his Jewish spirituality with his past work in the counterculture and the cannabis reform movements, putting a modern spin on Jewish topics that creates alternative cultural classics for a new generation of Jews. Turn on, tune in, drop in and enjoy, laugh, and space out on Steve Marcus' kabbalistic Jewish artwork inspired by underground comics, Hasidism, Jewish tradition, and the psychedelic art of the free love era. Shalom and Ahava.



Yiddish Leads to Forever Friends

In February 2021, as the COVID pandemic spread and most people were sequestered at home, a handful of eager Yiddish learners found a new community and life-long friendships through a YIVO Beginner I Yiddish class on the then-relatively unknown digital platform Zoom. Some of them had heard Yiddish in their childhood homes; others wanted to learn *a bisl* more about their family roots. For more than five years now, this group of devoted friends has continued studying together in numerous YIVO classes, schmoozing together over coffee and Yiddish articles every Sunday morning, and visiting each other here and abroad. Connected by their mutual love of the *mame-loshn*, they've shared simchas, grief, worries, and joys (in addition to meals, advice, dog training tips, travel suggestions, and *a sakh gelekhter!*). This special *khevre* includes Sherry Brandt-Rauf, Stacey Hader Epstein, Susan Rose, Edie Rothschild, Joe Silber, and, until very recently, their beloved Bob Weisberger z"l. These devoted friends, brought together by Yiddish, remain committed to learning and creating memories together. *Biz hundert un tsvantsik!*

ABOVE:
Photos of the Yiddish cohort: Sherry Brandt-Rauf, Stacey Hader Epstein, Susan Rose, Edie Rothschild, Joe Silber, and Bob Weisberger z"l.

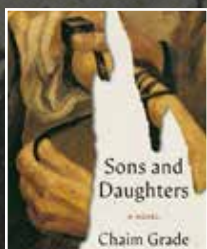
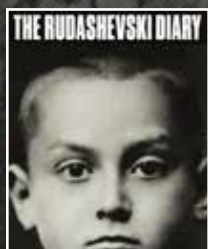
Staff Highlight

by MELANIE MEYERS, *Development Officer*



I have had a long professional history in the world of Jewish libraries and archives, and I am now very happy to be entering a new phase of my career, not as a collection manager, but as a development officer. I began at YIVO in July of this year, as a Development

Officer for Institutional Giving, to focus on grant writing and organizational gifts. I most recently served as an instructor in the JTS/Columbia Judaica Librarianship Program, where I taught the class on Jewish Archives and also supervised student independent study projects. Previously, I was also an adjunct instructor at the Palmer School at Long Island University, teaching a variety of classes for the Rare Book and Special Collections program. I have worked with special collections in a variety of settings, including private, non-profit, and academic institutions and have served as an outside evaluator and consultant for organizations seeking to improve their public services and access. My previous collection management position was Deputy Director and Chair of Collections and Engagement at the American Jewish Historical Society. Prior to joining AJHS in 2018, I was the Senior Manager for Reference and Outreach at the Center for Jewish History, New York City, where I managed public access for the Reading Room and Genealogy Institute, which is where I first became acquainted with the YIVO collections and staff. I am delighted to be part of the team, and I hope to help YIVO grow and thrive in its second century.



YIVO STORE יִוּוֹ-גֶעשעפֿט

Bring a piece of YIVO home!

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

yivo-institute.myshopify.com

In the Media

Here are some of YIVO's media highlights from spring 2026:

Kveller (AUGUST 5, 2026)

This Jewish Artist Is a Little
Hasidic, a Little Counter-Culture

Moment Magazine

(AUGUST 3, 2026)
'Psychedelicatesen' Reimagines
Tradition at YIVO

The Times of Israel

(JULY 26, 2026)
'Rabbinic trips': NY exhibit
blends groovy psychedelic
counterculture, Jewish tradition

Forward (JULY 16, 2026)

Sex, drugs and Torah scrolls: At
the Psychedelicatesen, visitors
receive a powerful dose of art

The New York Sun (JULY 14, 2026)

Steve Marcus Redraws the Visual
Narrative of Jewish Pop Art

Forward (JULY 13, 2026)

Looking for the right Yiddish
word? This 1950 reference
book finds it for you

St. Louis Jewish Light

(JULY 13, 2026)
What do Maimonides, the
Grateful Dead, bagels and Dr.
Brown's soda have in common?

PRINT Magazine (JULY 3, 2026)

The Daily Heller: Celebrating the
Lost Tribe of Alphabet City

Haaretz (JUNE 18, 2026)

Amulets, Psychics and
Miracle Rabbis: New York's
Forgotten Jewish Occult

JNS (JUNE 16, 2026)

Abra-Kabbalah: YIVO exhibit about
Jews and magic includes psychic who
located 'missing' Jewish husbands

Forward (JUNE 3, 2026)

Jewish witchcraft isn't as
weird as it sounds

San Diego Jewish World

(JUNE 2, 2026)
Michael Tilson Thomas and the
Yiddish Theater: A Firsthand View

JTA (MAY 24, 2026)

Jewish psychics and wonder
rabbis are the stars of a
new museum exhibit

Forward (MAY 13, 2026)

1912 Yiddish operetta tackles class
conflict and women's rights

Seen and Heard International

(MAY 10, 2026)
Clarinetist David Krakauer and
Ensemble Connect bridge past and
present music of the Jewish diaspora

Opera Wire (MARCH 13, 2026)

Mezzo-Soprano Sharon Harms
& Talea Ensemble to Present NY
Premiere of 'Muriel's Songs'

Forward (MARCH 6, 2026)

In a new opera, Tevye's forgotten
daughter takes the spotlight

The Times of Israel

(MARCH 1, 2026)
As US Jews reckon with
antisemitism uptick, a NY institution
doubles down on education

In geveb (JANUARY 21, 2026)

A Repository for All: YIVO's New
Learning and Media Center

In geveb (JANUARY 12, 2026)

On fliterlekh, Without
Sequins: A Review of *The
Mother of Yiddish Theatre*

Hadassah Magazine

(JANUARY 2026)
YIVO Seeks to Demystify
Prewar European Jewish Life

NBC (JANUARY 7, 2026)

Preserving the past with treasures
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Centennial Honor Roll

In formation | As of AUGUST 1, 2026

To commemorate our 100th anniversary, we launched a **\$40 million Centennial Campaign**. We are grateful to all those who have participated to date! With under \$750,000 remaining before the Campaign concludes at the end of 2026, there is still time to join this historic effort and help sustain YIVO's work for generations to come.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions.
Please report any corrections to mcohen@yivo.org.

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* The list above reflects gifts and pledges received for the Centennial Campaign, which will be featured on YIVO's Centennial Honor Roll in perpetuity.

Support YIVO

Creating a Legacy and Enriching the Future

Longevity. Individuals who established endowments or included the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in their estate plans or through life income gifts long ago still sustain our work today. We invite you to become a member of the **1925 Legacy Society** and create a planned gift that will endow your personal vision for the future, inspiring future generations to continue your generous example. Establishing a will is your way to protect your loved ones, ensure your wishes are honored, and create a legacy for the missions you care about. By choosing to include a gift to YIVO in your will, you'll ensure that we can continue to conserve, preserve, and share the rich history and culture of Eastern European Jewry for years to come.

Participation includes:

- Invitations to special events
- Recognition in YIVO's spring newsletter and on our website

If you have already included YIVO in your will, trust, or estate plans, please let us know, so we can add you to the 1925 Legacy Society.

BEQUESTS

Making a bequest—a gift made in your will or living trust—to YIVO will have a deep impact on YIVO for years to come. Bequests can be a specific amount, percentage, or remainder of assets.

Sample language might be stated as follows: *I give and bequeath to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research _____ % of my total estate.* Or, you can state a specific dollar amount.

We always suggest seeking legal consultation.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

A beneficiary designation allows you to make a substantial gift, often larger than what you could afford during your lifetime. Designate YIVO as the primary or contingent beneficiary for your:

- IRA Account*
- Life Insurance
- 401(k)/403(b)
- Payable on death (POD) account

*Since YIVO is a tax-exempt organization, there's an added benefit of saving valuable tax dollars.

Supporting YIVO Today*

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QCDs, also known as IRA Charitable Rollovers, are a savvy way for individuals 70 ½ or older to maximize their charitable impact. In 2026, the annual limit for QCDs is \$111,000 per individual or \$222,000 for a married couple.

CASH

By making a cash gift, you'll see your generous gift in action, and when you itemize, you'll receive a federal income tax charitable deduction. Cash gifts can also be given in tribute of a loved one.

STOCK GIFTS

Gifting stock allows you to make a larger impact and save on your taxes. A donation of appreciated stock can be up to 20% more valuable than selling and donating cash.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

You can recommend how much and how often funds are granted to YIVO.

* YIVO's Centennial Campaign recognizes donors \$1,000 and up, over and above their annual and membership commitment, on the Centennial Honor Roll.

We are here to assist you and your advisors. Please contact Melissa S. Cohen at **212.294.6156** or mcohen@yivo.org.



YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011-6301
LOCATED IN THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

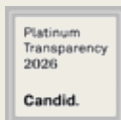
Fall 2026

ABOUT YIVO

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



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***By appointment only*