Dear Friends,

From educational classes, public programs, exhibitions, digitization projects as well as extensive research and translation assistance, YIVO continues its commitment to protecting our common heritage and ensuring that our traditions can be passed on to future generations. Yet as this newsletter amply testifies, over the past decade YIVO has begun to expand its activities and programs in exciting ways: from programs on the recent shuttering of Memorial (the Russian institution that addressed the crimes of the Soviet regime) and discussions of the war in Ukraine; an exhibition on Jews and Cannabis; to classes on the East European literary avant-garde, South American Jewish literature, tyranny in the modern world; and the world of Bruno Schulz—and much more. For the first time, YIVO presented at the prestigious Oxford Literary Festival in Oxford, England; as well as before the Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament). Finally, schools around the globe—from Stuyvesant High School in New York City to The Sholem Aleichem College in Melbourne, Australia—have been using YIVO’s Online Museum to teach Jewish history and the Holocaust.

These new initiatives—and there are more to come!—reflect YIVO’s vibrant staff and community of scholars, teachers, students, researchers, poets, artists, musicians who deepen their knowledge of themselves and the world, past and present, through YIVO. Join our community and become part of this exciting future.

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director & CEO
PROGRAMS

Fall Season

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

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

SUNDAY
SEP 11
1:00PM ET
ANNUAL MEMORIAL
IN PERSON & LIVESTREAMED ON ZOOM

NUSAKH VILNE MEMORIAL
For 2022’s commemoration of the Jewish community of Vilna, Justin Cammy discusses the poetic legacy of Yung-vilne and Avrom Sutzkever. A mini concert featuring musical settings of poetry of Avrom Sutzkever will follow Cammy’s presentation.

TUESDAY
SEP 13
1:00PM ET
PANEL DISCUSSION
LIVE ON ZOOM

THE YIVO SOUND ARCHIVE AT 40: A CELEBRATION
YIVO explores the history of the YIVO Sound Archive, important areas of the collection, projects facilitated by the Sound Archive, and other interesting stories from the past 40 years. Co-sponsored by the Klezmer Institute.

WEDNESDAY
SEP 14
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

THE DANCER AND THE HOLOCAUST: A BIOGRAPHY OF POLA NIREŃSKA
In her book Tancerka i Zagłada (The Dancer and the Holocaust), Weronika Kostyrko uncovers the story of dancer Pola Nireńska (1910-1992) whose career was repeatedly interrupted by antisemitism and fascism. YIVO Executive Director Jonathan Brent joins Kostyrko to discuss this important new biography.

THURSDAY
SEP 22
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

HIDDEN HERETICS: JEWISH DOUBT IN THE DIGITAL AGE
Ayala Fader investigates the doubt, digital media, and “double lives” of married ultra-Orthodox Jewish men and women in 21st century New York.

THURSDAY
SEP 29
1:00PM ET
WORKSHOP
LIVE ON ZOOM

HOW TO DO RESEARCH AT YIVO: WHAT IS AN ARCHIVE?
Join YIVO archivist Hallel Yadin for an overview on how to do research at YIVO. The program will cover key terminologies as well as the basics of how to search for material at YIVO.

THURSDAY
OCT 06
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

DINEH: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL
Yermiyahu Ahron Taub discusses his English translation of Ida Maze’s haunting Yiddish portrait of her rural, village, and small-town life in White Russia at the turn of the 20th century.

THURSDAY
OCT 20
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
PREMIERING ON YOUTUBE

HUGO KAUDER: COMPOSER, MUSICAL PHILOSOPHER, MUSIC THEORIST
YIVO Director of Public Programs Alex Weiser and biographer, scholar, and pianist Karin Wagner discuss Viennese Jewish composer Hugo Kauder, his work, and his legacy. Co-sponsored by Hugo Kauder Society, Leo Baeck Institute, and American Society for Jewish Music.

THURSDAY
OCT 27
7:00PM ET
CONCERT
IN PERSON & LIVESTREAMED ON ZOOM

MUSIC OF HUGO KAUDER
This concert explores a selection of Viennese Jewish composer Hugo Kauder’s vocal music, piano music, and chamber music, including the newly available Violin Sonata in a minor. Co-sponsored by Hugo Kauder Society, Leo Baeck Institute, and American Society for Jewish Music.

MONDAY
OCT 31
1:00PM ET
WORKSHOP
LIVE ON ZOOM

HOW TO DO RESEARCH AT YIVO: ACCESSING DIGITIZED MATERIALS
Join YIVO archivist Hallel Yadin for an overview of how to access YIVO’s digitized holdings. This program will go over the portals that contain digitized archival and library materials, as well as tips for navigating each portal effectively.

WEDNESDAY
NOV 03
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

THE GOLDEN PEACOCK: THE VOICE OF THE YIDDISH WRITER
Sheva Zucker discusses a special project with bilingual audio recordings and texts of twelve Yiddish writers, including Kadya Molodowsky, Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman, and Elie Wiesel.

WEDNESDAY
NOV 09
7:30PM ET
CONCERT
IN PERSON

KRISTALLNACHT AND ITS AFTERMATH
A fitting tribute to those whose lives forever changed Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938, “The Night of Broken Glass,” this concert will feature pieces by three composers who were forced to re-start their promising young careers as immigrants in new countries. Co-sponsored by American Society for Jewish Music, Center for Jewish History, and Leo Baeck Institute.

WEDNESDAY
NOV 16
7:00PM ET
FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION
IN PERSON

“VER VET BLAYBN?” (WHO WILL REMAIN?) — A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT AVROM SUTZKEVER
Join us for the New York premiere screening of Ver Vet Blaybn? (Who Will Remain?), an award-winning documentary about the life and survival of Yiddish poet Avrom Sutzkever, featuring his granddaughter, actress Hadas Kalderon. A Q&A with the filmmakers will follow the screening. Co-sponsored by the Yiddish Book Center.

TUESDAY
NOV 29
7:00PM ET
FILM SCREENING
IN PERSON

I AM FREE ... BUT WHO IS LEFT?
A new documentary created by Joanne Weiner Rudof and Lawrence Langer tells the story of a family that thrived in pre-war Poland and what happened to them when the Nazis invaded. Co-sponsored by Yale Fortunoff Video Archive For Holocaust Testimonies.

WEDNESDAY
NOV 30
12:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

YIDDISH PARIS: STAGING NATION AND COMMUNITY IN INTERWAR FRANCE
Nick Underwood explores how left-wing Yiddish-speaking emigrants from Eastern Europe created a Yiddish diaspora nation in Paris in the 1920s and 1930s.
Lesbian poet, child Holocaust survivor, and political activist Irena Klepfisz discusses her newly published book, the first and only complete collection of her work. In collaboration with The Workers Circle.

HANUKKAH CONCERT
This annual Hanukkah concert showcases songs and stories that charm and delight, both familiar and new. Co-sponsored by American Society for Jewish Music, Center for Jewish History, and Leo Baeck Institute.

A VERY JEWISH CHRISTMAS: JESUS AND SHABBATI ZVI, FROM HERETIC TO HERO
David Biale examines how modern Jewish culture has remembered Jewish Messiahs such as Jesus and Shabbati Zvi, revealing how Jews in the 19th and 20th centuries thought about heretics in Jewish history and how they transmuted heretics into modern heroes.

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

CONTEMPORARY YIDDISH CREATIVITY IN ISRAEL
With Mendy Cahan (founder of the YUNG YiDiSH Library and Cultural center in Tel Aviv).

YIDDISH SONGWRITING TODAY
With Adah Hetko, a Yiddish singer, songwriter, and educator.

YIDDISH IN RIO
With Sonia Kramer, Professor at Pontific Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro/PUC-Rio and coordinator of the Núcleo Viver com Yiddish [Lebn far Yiddish Center]: research, courses, and cultural projects.

Visit yivo.org/YiddishClub for details.

Spring 2022
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HOW SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT FREEDOM?
(JANUARY 5) Freedom is the main idea of American political life, but no one knows what it means. What would it take to have a country of free speakers and free people? In this lecture, Timothy Snyder defined freedom and presented a vision of a future where Americans are far freer than we are today, and in which their freedom leaves them more secure and more capable of addressing the ecological and other existential threats we face as a species. This program has over 5,600 views on YouTube.

THE SHUTTERING OF MEMORIAL, A RUSSIAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP
(JANUARY 18) In 1989 in Moscow an NGO called Memorial was founded to document and publish the crimes of the Soviet regime. In late 2021, the Russian Supreme Court and Moscow’s City Court ordered Memorial to shut down. Russian prosecutors claimed that Memorial defied Russia’s “foreign agents” law and stoked support for extremists. Historians and international diplomats called this an attack on civil society and human rights. YIVO’s Jonathan Brent, journalist and author Masha Gessen, Russian researcher and journalist Grigory Okhotin, and author Anna Nemzer discussed Memorial and the meaning of the Russian government’s actions. This program has over 700 views on YouTube.

FROM THE VILNA GHETTO TO NUREMBERG: MEMOIR AND TESTIMONY
(JANUARY 27) After escaping the Vilna Ghetto and surviving winter in the forest among partisan fighters, Avrom Sutzkever was airlifted to Moscow in 1944. The renowned Yiddish poet detailed his two years in the Vilna Ghetto, writing about the Nazi occupation and establishment of the ghetto, daily life in the ghetto, and mass killings at Ponar. He also details armed Jewish resistance, how Jews organized collectively to retain their dignity, and demand for historical justice. Originally published in Yiddish 1946, Sutzkever’s memoir has been translated into English for the first time by professor of Jewish studies and world literatures Justin Cammy. Cammy and YIVO’s Jonathan Brent’s discussion on the great poet’s account of the Holocaust has over 1,000 views on YouTube.

AN EVENING OF YIDDISH THEATER IN TRANSLATION: CELEBRATING NAHMA SANDROW’S YIDDISH PLAYS FOR READING AND PERFORMANCE
(FEBRUARY 17) Yelena Shmulenson, Allen Lewis Rickman, Shane Baker, and Jakob von Eichel performed scenes of romance, political symbolism, and low comedy from Nahma Sandrow’s translations. The program reflected the variety and range of Yiddish theater repertory, which Sandrow’s new book, Yiddish Plays for Reading and Performance, illustrates through three full plays and nine independent scenes, with directors’ notes. Sandrow introduced and narrated the program, putting the scenes in the context of Yiddish theater history and dramaturgy. Nearly 700 people registered to attend in person and on Zoom.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

44 public programs in Spring 2022
17,000+ registrations
~70 countries registered
1,000,000+ views on YouTube achieved early this year
YIDDISH Folksong FESTIVAL

(MAY 9–26) The largest music festival of its kind, Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today celebrated Yiddish folksong with performances including the live premiere of newly commissioned classical works alongside a wealth of lesser-known compositions from YIVO’s archival collections. Among the commissioned composers and performers are Grammy Award winners, a Pulitzer Prize recipient, and Guggenheim fellows. Many of the composers and performers have studied Yiddish at YIVO.

4 concerts
12+ premiers
30+ performers
~2,000 registrations
5,000+ views on YouTube
In 1975 I was a student at Cornell University with an abiding interest in labor history. I had written a research paper about the “Uprising of the 20,000,” the historic 1909 strike of garment workers in New York. Somehow (perhaps a notice on a school bulletin board) I learned of the Weinreich Summer Program. I applied and was accepted, with a scholarship to boot.

That summer I began to learn Yiddish. Although my grandparents were all Yiddish speakers born in Ukraine, and Yiddish was the first language of my Bronx-born mother, I had very little knowledge of the language. Thanks to the program’s teachers and the help of College Yiddish, I got a basic grounding in Yiddish, enough to update my research paper by reading the 1909 strike coverage in the Forverts on microfilm. The change in perspective from the Times to the Forverts was enlightening!

Later, during a year of graduate study in history at Columbia, I was privileged to continue my Yiddish education for a semester with Professor Mordkhe Shaechter. What a pleasure it was to learn from him. I also participated in a graduate history seminar at YIVO. I have very fond memories of days spent in research at the former YIVO building on Fifth Avenue as a graduate student.

Fast forward a few decades. I became an employment lawyer in Boston, not a labor historian in New York. But I have always kept in touch as a member of YIVO, making annual contributions to help preserve this wonderful institution.

Last year I participated in one of YIVO’s online Yiddish classes and was pleased to find that I had retained much of what I had learned in the zummer program and in Professor Shaechter’s class. There is no better way to connect with the history and culture of Ashkenazic Jewry than learning Yiddish.

What will I do next with Yiddish? I can’t say for sure, but I hope to enroll in in-person classes at YIVO as we move from pandemic to endemic. I am deeply grateful to YIVO and plan to continue to support it as I can.

Caleb Sher, Summer Program ’22

I came into the summer program having not spoken or read Yiddish for the better part of a year, and yet I left feeling as if I had been speaking non-stop Yiddish for the last three years. The staff, faculty, and fellow students were all united in building a true yidishe svive, a Yiddishland.

Perhaps the greatest strength of the YIVO summer program compared to other Yiddish intensives in which I have taken part, is the program’s community of truly dedicated, engaged, and top-quality faculty. Besides the numerous opportunities to get to chat with and learn from the stars of the Yiddish world via the lecture series, informal shmuess krayzlek, and the like, the core faculty seemed constantly engaged and invested in their students’ journey with Yiddish. Just as when one begins learning a language, it is valuable to be willing to consider oneself a child, and to have faculty willing to guide one through the language as if one were a child, as an advanced student, it was both invigorating and confidence-building to work with faculty who treated us as capable, engaged scholars. While their teaching styles varied widely, all faculty shared in the ability to engage with us at the right level, and to push us to go beyond that level.

Moreover, the quality of resources available to me as a YIVO student was unlike any other Yiddish intensive in which I have taken part. While I do not necessarily consider myself an advocate for klal shprakh, I cannot deny that as a heritage learner of the language, being at the heart of standard Yiddish helped build in me a solid basis for going out into the wider world and finding my Yiddish.

The academic rigor, the camaraderie of the students and faculty, combined with the program’s location in NYC—if I may be so bold, the true center of Yiddish life in the 21st century—really did make me feel like I was living in Yiddishland for six weeks. On the whole, I spent more time during my six weeks at YIVO speaking Yiddish than I did speaking English: to me, there are few joys as great as that.
For the first time ever, the YIVO Summer Program took place both in person and online in 2022.

Congratulations to the class of 2022!
### FALL CLASSES

This fall we are offering 41 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](http://yivo.org/Classes).

Questions? Visit [yivo.org/Class-FAQ](http://yivo.org/Class-FAQ) to help determine which class is right for you!

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**BEGINNER I YIDDISH**

- **(Sunday AM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET  
  Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

- **(Sunday PM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

- **(Monday)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET  
  Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

- **(Wednesday)** Sep. 14 – Dec. 14 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Miri Koral

- **(In-person)** Sep. 22 – Dec. 15 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Noa Tsauhlu

  ▶️ This class is held in-person at YIVO in NYC.

**BEGINNER II YIDDISH**

- **(Sunday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

- **(Monday I)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 5:00pm-6:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Nina Warnke

- **(Monday II)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Miri Koral

- **(Tuesday)** Sep. 13 – Dec. 27 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

- **(Thursday)** Sep. 15 – Dec. 15 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
  Instructor: Nina Warnke

**BEGINNER III YIDDISH**

- **(Sunday AM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 11 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
  Instructor: Philip Schwartz

- **(Sunday PM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET  
  Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

- **(Friday)** Sep. 23 – Dec. 16 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**BEGINNER IV YIDDISH**

- **(Sunday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

- **(Monday)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

- **(Thursday)** Sep. 15 – Dec. 15 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

**INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH**

- **(Sunday AM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

- **(Monday)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Vera Szabó

**INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH**

- **(Saturday)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET  
  Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

**INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH**

- **(Saturday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 1:30pm-3:00pm ET  
  Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

**INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH**

- **(Saturday)** Sep. 13 – Dec. 27 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Dovid Braun

**ADVANCED I YIDDISH**

- **(Saturday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET  
  Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

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**ONCE-A-WEEK YIDDISH**

- **12 weeks**
- **12 total sessions**
- **1.5 hours each**

Filming is underway for our next Shine Online course, *Is Anything Okay? The History of Jews and Comedy in America*. The class will be released in 2023. Stay tuned for more updates!

All of YIVO’s Shine Online Educational Series courses are free of charge.

GET STARTED TODAY!

YIVO.ORG/SHINE
### Reading Yiddish

**Beginner I Reading Yiddish**
- Sep. 14 – Dec. 14 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
- Instructor: Josh Price

**Intensive Beginner I & II Yiddish**
- Sep. 15 – Dec. 18 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
- Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

**Intensive Beginner III & IV Yiddish**
- Sep. 15 – Dec. 19 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
- Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**Intensive Intermediate I & II Yiddish**
- Sep. 15 – Dec. 18 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
- Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

**Intensive Intermediate III & IV Yiddish**
- Sep. 15 – Dec. 19 | 9:00am-10:30am ET
- Instructor: Vera Szabó

**Intensive Advanced I & II Yiddish**
- Sep. 13 – Dec. 20 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
- Instructor: Sheva Zucker

**Intensive Advanced III & IV Yiddish**
- Sep. 13 – Dec. 20 | 6:00pm-4:30pm ET
- Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

### Conversational Yiddish

**Beginner I Conversational Yiddish for Heritage Learners**
- These classes meet for 12 sessions.
  - **(Morning)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
    Instructor: Lila Thielemans
  - **(Afternoon)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 2:30pm-4:00pm ET
    Instructor: Alexandra Polyan

**Beginner II Conversational Yiddish for Heritage Learners**
- These classes meet for 12 sessions.
  - **(Sunday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
    Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)
  - **(Wednesday)** Sep. 14 – Dec. 14 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
    Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**Intermediate I Conversational Yiddish for Heritage Learners**
- These classes meet for 6 sessions.
  - **(Morning)** Sep. 11 – Oct. 16 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
    Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky
  - **(Afternoon)** Sep. 11 – Oct. 16 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
    Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

### Seminars & Electives (in English)

**Seminars & Electives**
- Sep. 28 – Dec. 14 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
- Instructor: Vera Szabó

**Seminars & Electives (in Yiddish)**
- Sep. 28 – Dec. 14 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
- Instructor: Dovid Braun

**Yiddish Folktales**
- Oct. 12 – Dec. 21 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET
- Instructor: Tetyana Yakovleva

**Polish Jewish History After the Holocaust, 1944 - Present**
- Oct. 12 – Dec. 21 | 5:00pm-6:30pm ET
- Instructor: Frankee Lyons

**Between Two Worlds: Women in Yiddish Literature**
- Oct. 7 – Dec. 16 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
- Instructor: Sheva Zucker

**Yiddish Reference Works and How to Use Them**
- Oct. 7 – Dec. 16 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
- Instructor: Dovid Braun

### Education by the Numbers

- **42** classes (an increase of 83% from spring 2021)
- **446** students (an increase of 26% from spring 2021)
- **119** Beginner I Yiddish students (an increase of 33% from spring 2021)
- **17** countries
- **37** U.S. states
Historian, scholar, and philologist Nachman Blumental contributed greatly to the study of Polish Jewry before the war, and during and after the Holocaust. Blumental collected ethnographic and historical documents before World War II for YIVO. After surviving the Holocaust in a non-German occupied part of the Soviet Union, he travelled around Poland in order to collect all documents and materials (no matter how seemingly insignificant) related to ghettos, camps, sites of mass murder, and Holocaust survivors. Among these materials were survivor testimonies, eyewitness accounts, official Nazi documents, as well as songs, poems, jokes, and children’s schoolwork written during the war, often in camps and ghettos. Many of these documents served as evidence in high-profile post-war trials against Nazi perpetrators in Poland, and Blumental himself appeared as an expert witness in numerous trials. The documents, in German, Yiddish, Polish, Russian, and Hebrew, also served as source material for Nachman Blumental’s ambitious and life-long linguistic project – a dictionary of German Nazi terminology, as well as a collection of words and expressions used by Holocaust victims. Blumental considered Nazi language to have been a powerful tool that played a huge role in facilitating Nazi persecution and extermination policies.

The Nachman Blumental Collection has undergone conservation and is currently being arranged and described. The entire collection will be digitized and available for use online in 2023.


TOP RIGHT: Nachman Blumental’s dictionary cards. YIVO Archives.
RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The YIVO Archives has successfully launched a new paid Research Assistant program which pairs patrons with one of YIVO’s highly skilled researchers to help answer in-depth inquiries that require searching not only the YIVO Archives, but also repositories around the world. YIVO’s seventeen research assistants, who specialize in topics as varied as genealogy, art and music, rabbinic texts, and more, are capable of conducting archival research in over a dozen languages including Yiddish, Hebrew, Polish, Russian, Lithuanian, and even Serbo-Croatian.

This latest reference offering from the YIVO Archives further builds on our remote research sessions and complimentary reference photo service in an effort to continue providing enhanced access to patrons who are unable to visit YIVO in person. These combined services have allowed YIVO to assist over 300 remote patrons and provide nearly 40,000 reference photos in the past year free-of-charge.

To learn more about and sign up for our Research Assistance Program and our other remote reference services, please visit yivo.org/Remote-Research or email reference@yivo.org explaining your research needs.

YIVO CATALOGS 500 COLLECTIONS

The YIVO Archives has just completed a project to catalog 500 collections that were donated over the past several years. Descriptions of these collections are now available through our online catalog, making them fully discoverable and available for use by researchers in the Reading Room. Some notable materials include the papers of prominent Yiddish writer and granddaughter of Sholem Aleichem, Bel Kaufman, consisting of manuscripts, photographs, and sound recordings; the Harry Kamel Collection which contains nearly 2,500 slides containing images of 500 synagogues from the United States and Eastern Europe; the Jody Rosen collection containing antisemitic drawings, cartoons, postcards, and sheet music from the late 1800s to the 1920s; and the Lazare Saminsky Collection which includes manuscript and published music scores, programs, photographs, and correspondence from the well-known composer of Jewish music.


BELOW: YIVO summer intern Ezra Lebovitz fulfilling a complimentary reference photo request using an overhead document camera.
North Carolina, in June 2022. The session was titled “Our new reliance on the digital world: The intersections of Holocaust education, virtual learning, and digitized resources”. Ms. Ziulkoski presented the first exhibition of YIVO Cernia Slovin Online Museum, called “Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl” and participated in a discussion with Dr. Lauren Granite, Director of US Educational Programs at Centropa, Ellen Resnek, Educational Programs and Outreach Manager at Classrooms Without Borders, and Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather, Director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

They talked about the reliance on the digital world and some of the many changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the online museum to a room full of Holocaust educators and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

YIVO’s delegation, which also comprised Shelly Freeman, YIVO’s Chief of Staff, and Alex Weiser, YIVO’s Director of Public Programs, was generously treated to tours of the Bodleian’s beautiful facilities, including the Bodleian Library’s digitization and conservation studios and its Leopold Muller Memorial Library which is a part of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

The visit included a private show and tell led by Merchán-Hamann featuring some of the beautiful illuminated Tanakhs and Makhzors and incredible early print and manuscript Yiddish works from YIVO’s collections at the Bodleian Library’s Oxford Literary Festival. Catriona Kelly and César Merchán-Hamann from the University of Oxford provided complementary presentations focusing on Russian-language Jewish children’s books and Hebrew children’s books from the Bodleian’s collections.

At the opening of the Lithuanian Art Centre TARTLE’s new exhibition, Vilnius Forever. A Dialogue of Artworks and Guides to the City

in Vilnius celebrating the heritage of Lithuanian Jewry.

The second was the opening the Lithuanian Art Centre TARTLE’s new exhibition, Vilnius Forever. A Dialogue of Artworks and Guides to the City, for which YIVO Institute loaned materials from its archives. The exhibition explores how the touristic profile of Vilnius was formed in the middle of the 19th century, and how it changed over more than a century. The materials loaned by YIVO include eight drawings representing Vilnius by the Ukrainian-born American Jewish artist Lionel Reiss from the 1920s, and a photograph with a view of the Old Town from the side of the City Hall from the 1930s. These works have never been exhibited either in Lithuania or, to YIVO’s knowledge, anywhere in the world, and will hopefully give visitors knowledge about Jewish Vilnius and a wider picture of the city’s multicultural character.

YIVO was invited to participate in the prestigious Oxford Literary Festival. Held in April, this annual event in Oxford is sponsored by the UK Financial Times. YIVO’s Executive Director & CEO, Jonathan Brent, delivered a master class on the history of YIVO and its recent landmark achievement in reuniting its pre-war archive. Brent was joined by the head of the Bodleian Library, Richard Ovenden, to discuss why an organization established nearly one hundred years ago is still as relevant and important as ever.

Stefanie Halpern, Director of the YIVO Archives, led a public workshop for the Literary Festival on Yiddish children’s books from YIVO’s collections. As a part of the same workshop Catriona Kelly and César Merchán-Hamann from the University of Oxford provided complementary presentations focusing on Russian-language Jewish children’s books and Hebrew children’s books from the Bodleian’s collections.

YIVO’s Chief Curator of the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum and Director of Digital at YIVO, speaks at the 35th Annual Association for Holocaust Organizations Conference.

Jonathan Brent, YIVO Executive Director & CEO, gives remarks before the Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament) at the opening ceremony for the 5th World Litvak Congress.

At the opening of the Lithuanian Art Centre TARTLE’s new exhibition, Vilnius Forever. A Dialogue of Artworks and Guides to the City.

Stefanie Halpern, Director of the YIVO Archives, presents children’s books from YIVO’s collections at the Bodleian Library’s Oxford Literary Festival.
Here are some of YIVO’s media highlights from Spring 2022:

**YIVO ARCHIVES**

*In Geveb* (MARCH 9, 2022)
Three Giants of Modern Jewish Literature at YIVO: Excerpts from the Diary of Ezekiel Lifschutz

*Jewish Boston* (JANUARY 24, 2022, MENTION)
Graphic Novel Rescues Part of Holocaust History From Oblivion

*Jewish Renaissance* (WINTER 2022)
Back to Nature

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

*Tablet Magazine* (JUNE 24, 2022)
Yiddish Folk Song in Classical Music

*The Jewish Standard* (MAY 11, 2022)
Reviving forgotten Yiddish folk songs

*Broadway World* (MARCH 31, 2022)
YIVO Yiddish Folksong Festival Returns with Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today

*The Jewish Standard* (MARCH 31, 2022)
The diary of Zelig Kalmanovich

**EXHIBITIONS**

*Times of Israel* (MAY 11, 2022)
Is weed the Chosen People’s drug of choice? These artifacts suggest it may be

*Gothamist* (MAY 4, 2022)
Menorah bongs and Talmudic toking: The secret history of Judaism and cannabis

*The Forward* (MAY 3, 2022)
The history of Jews and marijuana goes back a lot farther than you think

*Time Out* (APRIL 20, 2022)
Am Yisrael High: The Story of Jews and Cannabis

*Social Education* (MARCH/APRIL 2022)
Connecting the Past to the Present: A Digital Exhibition about One Jewish Girl’s Life in Eastern Europe

*The Algemeiner* (MARCH 14, 2022)
New Jersey Exhibit Examines Lives of Holocaust Survivors After World War II, UN Response

**EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA ONLINE COLLECTIONS**

*NPR* (JANUARY 27, 2022)
Here & Now: The largest archive of Jewish history is now online

*Haaretz* (JANUARY 27, 2022)
The Holocaust Left a Brutal Absence at the Heart of American Jewish Culture. Until Now

*BBC Worldwide News* (JANUARY 10, 2022)
Preserving Jewish History

*The Jewish Chronicle* (JANUARY 6, 2022)
The Paper Brigade’s death-defying mission

YIVO Institute Makes Archives of Yiddish Life Available Online
EXHIBITIONS

THE STORY OF JEWS AND CANNABIS BEGINS IN ANCIENT TIMES AND CONNECTS TO RELIGION, SCIENCE, MEDICINE, AND LAW. IT’S A STORY THAT CONTINUES TO EVOLVE.

— EDDY PORTNOY
YIVO’s Senior Academic Advisor & Director of Exhibitions

Am Yisrael High: The Story of Jews and Cannabis opened this past May. YIVO’s first on-site exhibition since COVID, it will be on view at YIVO (in the Center for Jewish History building at 15 West 16th Street, New York) through the end of the year.

Surprising to some, there is a rich history and long relationship between Jews and cannabis. References to this plant appear in the Bible, the Talmud, and numerous other Jewish texts. Rabbis, from Rambam to R’ Moshe Feinstein, have considered it in their writings. Cannabis has been used by Jews in religious ritual and for medicinal purposes from ancient times until today.

More recently, Jews have been at the forefront of scientific research and medical applications of cannabis. Many Jews have also been deeply involved in the counterculture and medical marijuana movements, both of which strove for legalization in different ways. Commercial aspects of the modern cannabis industry, from horticulture to distribution to paraphernalia, have also involved numerous Jewish businesspeople.

The exhibit explores the contributions Jews have made in the field of cannabis by showcasing materials from medieval documents to dozens of contemporary artifacts ranging from rare original art to menorah bongs.

Am Yisrael High kicked off with a full house on opening night, which featured a panel discussion moderated by the exhibit’s creator Eddy Portnoy. Panelists included horticulturist, educator, and legalization activist Ed Rosenthal, attorney Adriana Kertzer, Rabbi/Dr. Yosef Glassman, and journalist Madison Margolin. Their discussion considered the many connections of the Jews to cannabis — religious and spiritual, historical, scientific, and more. Over 1,300 people registered to attend the opening night program, which has almost 2,000 views on YouTube.

ENRICHING THE FUTURE

Individuals who have included the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in their estate plans or through life income gifts become members of YIVO’s 1925 Legacy Society. These donors’ legacy of giving ensures we can continue preserving our cultural heritage, inspiring generations 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.

Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity – usually cash or stocks – allows you to support the YIVO’s mission while receiving a tax deduction and a fixed flow of income for the rest of your life. Payments depend on age at the time of the donation.

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
- 401K
- 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

IRA Charitable Rollover

If you meet the age for a required minimum distribution, you can give up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to YIVO without paying income taxes on the money.

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

Stock gifts provide a tax-advantaged way to support YIVO. Contact your financial advisor to kick-start your legacy.

Donor-Advised Funds

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

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

AMPLIFY YOUR IMPACT

The High Holidays are just a month away. We are delighted to share that Board Member Lisa New and her husband Larry Summers are generously providing a matching gift opportunity.

Donations received online (or postmarked) on or before September 7 will be matched 3:1 up to $50,000!

CALLING ALL SUMMER PROGRAM ALUMNI!

We invite alumni of the Zumer-program to unite and join the newly formed YIVO Alumni Association today! To learn more and sign up, please visit summerprogram.yivo.org/Alumni.

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ABOUT YIVO

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is dedicated to the preservation and study of the history and culture of East European Jewry worldwide. For nearly a century, YIVO has pioneered new forms of Jewish scholarship, research, education, and cultural expression. Our public programs and exhibitions, as well as online and on-site courses, extend our global outreach and enable us to share our vast resources. The YIVO Archives contains more than 23 million original items and YIVO’s Library has over 400,000 volumes—the single largest resource for such study in the world.

CONTACT

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Photo/Film Archives | PHOTO@YIVO.ORG
Sound Archives | SOUND@YIVO.ORG

Library Inquiries
REFERENCE@YIVO.ORG

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination (at least 14 days after your final vaccine dose) with matching ID is required for all visitors 5 and older. For the most up-to-date vaccination and masking requirements, go to yivo.org/Visit.

HOURS [closed on major federal and Jewish holidays]

Gallery Hours
Sun 11:00am-5:00pm
Mon–Wed 10:00am-4:00pm
Thu 10:00am-8:00pm
Fri 10:00am-3:00pm
Sat CLOSED

Administrative Hours
Mon–Thu 9:00am-5:00pm
Fri 9:00am-4:00pm

Reading Room Hours
Mon–Thu 10:00am–4:00pm

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is located in the Center for Jewish History at 15 West 16th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, New York, NY 10011.

by subway
14 St / Union Sq.  L 7 4 5 6 8 9
14 St + 6 Ave  F L M PATH  18 St + 7 Ave  7
14 St + 7 Ave  7 3 4 5 6 7 8
14 St + 8 Ave  A C E L

by bus
M2, M3, M5, M7, M14

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