Dear Friends,

New generations will have access to sources of knowledge of our languages, our traditions, the actual stuff and complexity of our history unimaginable to me growing up in post-World War II Chicago. This knowledge will become the vital core of a renewed strength in Jewish identity and purpose throughout the world.

YIVO today is playing a major role in creating this new world of knowledge and freedom. The digitization of our archives and library, YIVO’s Online Museum, and the new Learning and Media Center have unlocked YIVO’s riches for thousands throughout the United States and worldwide. YIVO’s in-person and online educational programs provide first-class instruction in the Yiddish language and general history; and through in-person and online public programs and on-site exhibitions our shared history is distilled and presented for scholars and the general public across the United States and around the world.

Join us in building this vibrant future. Become a member of YIVO, help support our programs, volunteer in one of our divisions, connect YIVO with your friends, family, schools, synagogues, and community groups so that future generations will discover the fullness and strength of their own inheritance.

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director & CEO

Thanks to YIVO’s generous Board Member, Elisa New, and her husband Larry Summers, all gifts given through October 1 will have an even greater impact.

Don’t miss out on your chance to maximize your support this fall. The increased portion of your contribution will be matched 1:1 up to $50,000!

Your support will provide global resources, education, social connections, and cultural nourishment. Every gift is significant and very much appreciated.

From all of us at YIVO, thank you for being part of our global community!
Unable to attend our programs? Watch past events at yivo.org/Video.
SUMMER CAMP AND JEWISH CULTURE IN POSTWAR AMERICA
(FEBRUARY 27) Sandra Fox discussed her latest book, The Jews of Summer: Summer Camp and Jewish Culture in Postwar America, with Philissa Cramer from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Fox delved into the profound influence of sleepaway camps on American Jewish life, exploring how these camps emerged as a response to the fear that growing affluence and suburbanization threatened the future of Jewish life. Fox examined the experiences of campers and counselors, uncovering how adult aspirations and young campers’ desires shaped camp life and shedding light on the untold stories behind this rite of passage that remains a significant influence on American Jewish life. This program has been viewed nearly 1,000 times on YouTube.

WOMEN IN MUSIC CELEBRATION WITH CARNEGIE HALL
(MARCH 7, MARCH 14, MARCH 23) In honor of Women’s History Month in March, YIVO partnered with Carnegie Hall to celebrate women’s outstanding contributions to music. YIVO hosted three events throughout the month: Molly Picon as Lyricist, in which Ronald Robboy explored Molly Picon’s lesser recognized accomplishments as a lyricist, American Jewish Women and New York Opera Culture, in which Samantha M. Cooper shed light on the enduring relationship that Jewish women had with New York opera culture from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, and Chana Mlotek: Celebrating a Life of Yiddish Song, honoring the memory of musicologist, song collector, writer, and longtime YIVO Music Archivist Chana Mlotek with performances featuring Chana’s son Zalmen Mlotek, grandchildren Avram Mlotek, Elisha Mlotek, Sarah Mlotek Dar, Marissa Mlotek Schonbrun, and other special guests. The month-long celebration was part of Carnegie Hall’s season-long exploration of the many contributions made by trailblazing women in every facet of music. These programs have been viewed over 2,000 times on YouTube.

MAX WEINREICH AND THE MEANING OF YIDDISH
(JUNE 15) This captivating panel discussion, moderated by Kalman Weiser and featuring Naomi Seidman, Kenneth Moss, and Jeffrey Shandler, explored Max Weinreich’s legacy in the field of Yiddish studies. Participants examined Weinreich’s lifelong dedication to building a modern, secular Yiddish culture, from his studies in Germany to leading YIVO in post-WWII New York City. Panelists delved into Weinreich’s evolving understanding of Yiddish as a vital component of Jewish life, particularly in the aftermath of the destruction of the traditional Yiddish heartland in Eastern Europe. They contemplated whether Weinreich would recognize the current landscape of Yiddish studies and its significance for American and world Jewry today. Over 400 people registered for this program.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

- 45 public programs in Spring 2023
- 13.3K+ registrations
- 78K+ YouTube views

Visit yivo.org/YiddishClub for details.
This spring, the YIVO Learning and Media Center (YLMC) held pilot programs with the Frisch School (a modern Orthodox school) and the Riverdale Country School (a pre-K through grade 12 independent school).

In May, 54 students visited from the Frisch School in Paramus, New Jersey. Their trip focused on YIVO’s history, the nature of archives, working with primary source documents, and interwar Jewish life in Eastern Europe. Students read excerpts from YIVO’s 1934 and 1939 Youth Autobiography contests, which were each paired with a curated archival box filled with museum-quality reproductions of photos, school assignments, posters, and more from YIVO’s archives. Students encountered primary source artifacts of the Jewish past while learning about archives and the kinds of items they preserve.

The lesson concluded by turning the question of archives to the students: what would they want to save for the future? Their answers — their own Shabbat rituals, material culture, hobbies, and family’s stories — were a poignant testimony that the lesson helped the students bridge the gap between their experiences and the Jewish world of the past preserved by YIVO with its collections.

In June, eight students came from the Riverdale Country School in New York City. The youngest was a recently graduated 8th grader and the oldest was a rising high school senior. These students were part of an optional intensive program exploring Jewish history and heritage in New York. In four, 2-hour lessons, the students learned about YIVO’s history, archival research methods, landsmanshaftn (Jewish mutual aid organizations), and Yiddish theater. The lessons utilized museum quality reproductions, a tour of the archives, and encounters with authentic archival materials introduced to the students by archivists at YIVO.

Following these lessons the students returned for three more visits, this time as researchers. Using what they had learned, the students worked on research projects inspired by their time in the archives. One student wrote a short story inspired by historical figures encountered in his research. Another student created art based on archival materials she encountered.

These programs, the first of many, give students the tools to engage with archival materials and bring Jewish history to life in a whole new way.

**IT WAS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT OUR HISTORY, THE DIRECT PRIMARY SOURCES TELL US SO MUCH ON EVENTS AND LIFE THROUGHOUT JEWISH HISTORY.**

— Ahava Bak, Frisch Student
Participants’ pre- and post-class surveys revealed that viewing the exhibition increased understanding of Jewish life in Eastern Europe and the events of the Holocaust. The responses also showed an increase in the importance students placed on different areas of study, particularly regarding stories of individuals, especially children, who experienced the Holocaust, Jewish life in Eastern Europe before the war, and past and present antisemitism. Ambassadors then created lesson plans following their states’ curricula, which will be freely available online soon. The results reveal the importance of making Holocaust education resources easily accessible, and the effectiveness of teaching this subject through personal accounts.

The Online Museum’s second exhibition, focused on the life of fourteen-year-old Yitskhok Rudashevski who lived in the Vilna Ghetto, will launch in early 2024.

**YIVO CERNIA SLOVIN ONLINE MUSEUM COMPLETES AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

The YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum recently completed an Ambassador Program developed with the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Center. The program aims to spread awareness about and use of our exhibition, “Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl,” in public, private, and charter middle and high school classrooms across the United States. Educators from the tristate area, Florida, and North Carolina were selected as ambassadors and tasked with expanding knowledge of the Online Museum and its resources, introducing and encouraging use of the museum and its resources to educators, and creating related middle and high school lesson plans.

In March, Ben Platt visited YIVO to view letters and materials in the YIVO Archives about Leo Frank, whom he played in the Broadway show *Parade*. Among the materials he looked at was a series of letters from Leo Frank to Abraham Cahan, the founder and editor of the *Forverts*. Seeing the letters, Platt said, “You just feel an instant connection to someone when you see their penmanship and the way they speak and the actual object – it is so irrefutable.” Platt’s reaction to these materials highlights the importance of YIVO’s collections and the unique way these primary sources bring our history and culture to life.

**YIVO BRINGS YIDDISH TO THE 2023 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIKE FESTIVAL**

This summer, YIVO participated in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Hosted annually by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the Festival honors contemporary living cultural traditions and celebrates those who practice and sustain them. YIVO organized several events for the Festival, including a mainstage concert featuring Yiddish folksongs and classical works from its Archives alongside newly commissioned works by Judith Shatin, Aaron Kernis, Lainie Fefferman, and Alex Weiser (Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer and YIVO’s Director of Public Programs). The concert, inspired by YIVO’s 2022 festival Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today, featured Lorin Sklamberg (YIVO Sound Archivist and Grammy-award winning artist), Lucy Fitz Gibbon, Ryan McCullough, and Yurie Mitsuhashi. YIVO also arranged food workshops led by Gefilteria’s Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz on blintzes and pickling, as well as singalong and listening/discussion workshops exploring Yiddish music from the YIVO collections led by Lorin Sklamberg and Alex Weiser.

**YIVO YIDDISH CLASSES COME TO VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

Through a new educational initiative, YIVO will again be an academic force in the city of its youth, as students enrolled at Vilnius University will be able to attend online YIVO Yiddish classes for academic credit, studying alongside the Institute’s international student body. The first set of classes, to be launched shortly, are Intensive Beginner I & II Yiddish (Fall 2023) and Intensive Beginner III & IV Yiddish (Spring 2024). These will provide a vital academic service for a society 2,000 miles away that needs Yiddish to study its own history. YIVO’s physical home and headquarters of operation during the period between the two World Wars was in today’s capital of Lithuania, then part of Poland and known in Yiddish as Vilne, nicknamed *Yerusholaim deLite* (‘the Jerusalem of Lithuania’) for the prominence of its Jewish community.

**JONATHAN BRENT SPEAKS AT INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE PANEL**

On June 12, 2023, YIVO Executive Director and CEO Jonathan Brent participated in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) first plenary of the year which was held in Dubrovnik. Brent spoke at the Museums and Memorials Working Group panel: Distortion risk in the post survivor’s era. The documentation YIVO holds is a vital resource for IHRA delegates and institutions as they seek to uphold the commitments to the 2000 Stockholm Declaration, which commits its members to strengthening efforts toward education, remembrance, and research of the Holocaust.

The IHRA has thirty-five member countries and ten observer countries. Each country has a delegation of government officials, leading educators, academics, and representatives of museums and memorials. Up to twice a year, delegates meet for plenary meetings where decisions and recommendations are adopted by IHRA to further Holocaust education, research, and remembrance.

YIVO’s 2022 festival Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today, featured Lorin Sklamberg (YIVO Sound Archivist and Grammy-award winning artist), Lucy Fitz Gibbon, Ryan McCullough, and Yurie Mitsuhashi. YIVO also arranged food workshops led by Gefilteria’s Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz on blintzes and pickling, as well as singalong and listening/discussion workshops exploring Yiddish music from the YIVO collections led by Lorin Sklamberg and Alex Weiser.

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A JOURNEY THAT SURPASSED ALL EXPECTATIONS: YIVO STUDY TOUR TO LITHUANIA AND POLAND, JUNE 19-JULY 3, 2023

by Genia Neuhaus

I wasn’t looking for this trip – it found me. It literally landed on my lap(top) in the form of an email from YIVO announcing upcoming programs.

My mother was from Lithuania and my father from Poland. It was as if YIVO had designed a trip just for me!

It was very special to be guided in the POLIN Museum by Professor Samuel Kassow, not only because of his impressive scholarship but also because of his personal involvement in creating this museum – including having designed two of the exhibitions he showed us. Everywhere we went, Professor Kas-

sow’s lectures engaged us in all aspects of Ashkenazi history and Yiddish culture.

At Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the fields where Jews were massacred in Ponar and the 9th Fort, I prayed and shed a tear for all the lost souls, and joined in singing the Partisan song with people who remembered all the words in Yiddish.

This trip was full of surprises that shook me to the core. I found my maternal grandmother’s grave and was able to say kaddish for her. I visited the town where my mother was born and stood in all the places featured in her stories. I saw where my father and his family lived before the War and found my paternal grandmother’s name in the Book of Names in Auschwitz.

And I learned that the family of our Lithuanian tour guide had sheltered members of my family in Kaunas (Kovno) during the War – something that was confirmed when we saw their pictures on the Wall of the Righteous at the 9th Fort.

We met journalists, writers, diplomats, and activists working toward greater awareness of their countries’ past and increased opportunities for learning about Jewish culture. And we had front-row seats to the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, the biggest in Europe!

I would not have had these transformative experiences had I gone on my own. The resources and relationships that YIVO brought to bear gave us unmatched access and a serious level of scholarship – and also made the trip fun. This journey surpassed all my expectations.

1 Jonathan Brent speaks at the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s Museum and Memorials Working Group panel.

2 Ryan McCullough, Lucy Fitz Gibbon, Yurie Mitsuhashi, and Lorin Sklamberg perform in YIVO’s mainstage concert at the 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

3 Letter from Leo Frank to Abraham Cahan, March 27, 1914. Ben Platt (photo by Emilio Madrid), who played Frank in Parade on Broadway, viewed a series of these letters during his visit to the YIVO Archives.

4 Participants of YIVO’s 2023 Study Tour to Lithuania & Poland.
YIVO is delighted to announce that David Braun has been named Academic Advisor in Yiddish Language, Pedagogy, and Linguistics of the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, YIVO’s education department. Braun will guide the faculty recruitment, curation of YIVO’s Yiddish course catalog, the standardization of Yiddish language levels of study, development of course materials, and more. He will continue serving as Academic Director for the YIVO-Bard Uriel Weinreich Summer Program.

Braun, who studied at the University of Pennsylvania and MIT, has taught at YIVO’s intensive summer program since 1990. He inaugurated and taught in the intensive summer programs of the Yiddish Book Center (Amherst, MA) and Jewish Historical Institute (Warsaw, Poland). He has taught Yiddish language, Yiddish linguistics, and/or general linguistics at Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Gratz College, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He serves as co-president of the Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center (Bronx, NY), the only Greater NYC venue devoted exclusively to public Yiddish cultural events.

YIVO and the National Library of Israel (NLI) are delighted to announce the completion of the digitization of the Papers of Chaim Grade and Inna Hecker Grade. Making this collection available online will enrich the lives of lovers of Jewish and Yiddish literature throughout the world. The collection includes literary manuscripts and typescripts of prose, poetry, lectures, speeches, essays, newspaper clippings, galleys, personal notebooks, correspondence, and photographs spanning the years 1910 to 2010.

After World War II, Grade emerged as one of the most prolific and defining Yiddish voices in post-war literature. The power and depth of his works is unparalleled. The collection illustrates Grade’s literary development and impact on Yiddish literature, from his earliest poetic works written in Vilna and the Soviet Union to his prolific and accomplished prose work composed mainly in the United States. The collection also illuminates Inna Grade’s intellectual and academic accomplishments, as well as the integral role she played in the editorial and logistical aspects of Grade’s literary output.

Publishing projects of Grade’s works are now underway with Schocken Books and with various publishers around the world. The entire archive is now publicly accessible at archives.cjh.org/repositories/7/resources/556.

YIVO MOURNS THE PASSING OF CHAVA LAPIN, TEACHER & BOARD MEMBER (1933-2023)

The Board of Directors and staff of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research express our deep sorrow at the passing of our dear colleague Chava Lapin z”l. Chava was affiliated with YIVO and its mission for over fifty years. As a teacher, Chava generously shared her unparalleled knowledge of Yiddish language and culture with generations of scholars, students, and the general public. Her passing is a profound loss and she will be deeply missed. Our heartfelt condolences to her sons Hayim, Avraham, and Dov and their entire family.
Illustration depicting the march towards a 30-hour work week, from the program book of the 1937 International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU) Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. YIVO Archives.
YIVO has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for $349,524 to process and digitize four collections from YIVO’s Jewish Labor and Political Archive (JLPA). These four collections focus on the Jewish immigrant involvement in the labor movement in the United States including: the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union Collection, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America Collection, the Jewish Labor Committee Collection, and the United Hebrew Trades Collection.

The membership and leadership of these organizations were infused with the ideas and ideals of members of the Jewish Labor Bund who immigrated to America after the failed Russian Revolution of 1905, changing and molding the American labor movement. These organizations also provided educational opportunities and English language and citizenship classes, thus playing an Americanizing and educational influence among Jewish immigrant workers.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

YIVO’s Jewish Labor and Political Archive (JLPA) encompasses more than 100 collections (3.5 million pages of documents). The materials cover geographic locations across the United States and Europe from 1870 to 1992. They are rich in correspondence between major political and labor leaders; materials about revolutionary cells; illegal press and pamphlets circulated during the Holocaust, manuscripts of speeches delivered by figures in the Jewish Labor Bund; leaflets and flyers calling for protests and boycotts; posters advertising rallies and marches; and sound recordings of members of the US labor movement.

The collections illustrate how the transnational activities of the Jewish working class were instrumental in the international labor movement. Jews who immigrated to the United States during the period of mass immigration brought their political ideologies, social consciousness, and demand for labor reform to the new and fertile ground of the American working class, joining other ethnic groups in the fight for fair wages and workers’ rights. The collections provide valuable insights on the impact of the Jewish immigrant community on American culture and serve as a bridge to understanding the evolution and diversity of the American Jewish experience.

THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES’ GARMENT WORKERS’ UNION (ILGWU) COLLECTION

Many collections in YIVO’s Jewish Labor and Political Archive help illuminate the role of the immigrant Jewish community in American trade unions, labor organizations, and political groups. One such collection is that of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU).

Founded in 1900 by members of seven local unions in New York City representing mainly newly arrived Jewish and Italian immigrants, the ILGWU grew to become one of the largest labor unions in the United States. During the union’s early years, the ILGWU became an important force in establishing the rights to unionize, bargain collectively, and work under safe conditions.

The union staged several successful strikes including the “Uprising of 20,000” of 1909, at that time the largest strike by women in US history, and the “Great Revolt” of 1910 in which 60,000 cloak makers staged a walkout. In 1910, in the wake of these contentious battles, the ILGWU negotiated and successfully adopted the “Protocol of Peace,” a system of regulations between the union and the garment industry that attempted to ensure stability, limit strikes, and maintain production.
continuity by creating an arbitration system for settling disputes between union members and factory bosses.

The union also took an active role in improving the lives of its workers beyond the factory walls. The ILGWU organized educational opportunities to train workers in subjects such as history and economics and even provided English language and citizenship classes; became the first American union to negotiate an unemployment compensation fund; and established a health care program for its members.

Between the 1930s and 1960s, the ILGWU more than doubled its membership, organizing Black, Latino, and Asian garment workers across the United States, often in areas where union representation was weak or non-existent.
YIVO WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT OF THE JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVE PROJECT (JLPA)

To date, the project has raised over $1.2 Million towards its $8.5 Million goal. This diverse collection includes items related to the Holocaust, labor unions, Jewish political activism, and much more. Together they offer invaluable insights into how Jews in Europe and the United States responded to the momentous events of the 20th century.

Join us on this journey as we make this historic archival collection available to a global audience.

Levels of support:

- $1,000,000+ Builder
- $500,000+ Partner
- $100,000+ Benefactor
- $50,000+ Patron
- $25,000+ Sponsor
- $10,000+ Supporter
- $5,000+ Contributor
- $1,000+ Friend

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

YIVO gratefully acknowledges and thanks Ruth and David Levine, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation for their generous support of this project.

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

The National Endowment for the Humanities:
Democracy demands wisdom.
Recent Accession

THE ILAN STAVANS COLLECTION

by Abe Gold, Archives Intern

This photo is the first page of Mi Diario, an autobiographical work by Ilan Stavans’s paternal grandmother, Bela Stavchansky. Ilan Stavans, prolific writer, translator, editor, critic, and the Lewis-Sebring Professor of Humanities and Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College, donated his archive to YIVO this spring, and my first job as a summer intern for the YIVO Archives was to process, arrange, and digitize it. Stavans’s grandmother and her works are well represented in the collection. “Yo naci in a kleyn shtetl,” Mi Diario begins, an example of the multilingualism Stavans was raised in and has so frequently written about (“Yiddish, for me, was truly the mother tongue, whereas Spanish, the street language, was the father tongue,” he writes, in his English-language memoir). The collection itself spans six languages. Most of the documents are connected to Mexico City, where Stavans’s grandparents immigrated to from Eastern Europe and where Stavans grew up. When I noted to one of the archivists the difficulty in processing a collection that includes languages I didn’t know, he said that language acquisition “comes with the need,” a sentiment about archiving that I found quite beautiful (although it didn’t help in deciphering the Polish postcard in my hand). I learned so much in the past month and am very grateful to YIVO and the archivists there that helped and taught me.
Yael Horowitz, Summer Program ’23

In 2018, I made a commitment to myself that I would do deep learning of Yiddish. I wanted to learn Yiddish to ground my art practice, my connection to heritage and history, and as an entry way into Yiddishkayt. I was able to do all of these things this summer at the YIVO-Bard Summer Program.

Each day this summer, I came into YIVO in person to learn with extremely knowledgeable teachers and dedicated classmates. Every day I felt like my brain was melting out of my ears in the best possible sense. From week to week and even day to day, I noticed changes and advancements in my Yiddish. The classes all built off of each other seamlessly and I was able to put into practice, immediately, in afternoon classes the things that I had learned that morning – the power of immersion!

My class gelled into a unit. With our instructors, we co-created a supportive and enjoyable learning environment. I looked forward to being in the classroom with my classmates every day. I have never laughed so much in a classroom while simultaneously learning so much. Our instructors were instrumental in creating a space of questions and exploration, they adapted each day’s lessons based on the needs of our class, they managed to create classrooms that were both rigorous and flexible. It felt like we were doing more than just rote language learning, we were learning culture, history, and Yiddish ways of being.

Learning a new language is a profoundly humbling experience. In order to learn you have to actively make mistakes and fumble, doing so at YIVO felt safe and encouraged. The care that the instructors, the students, and the YIVO staff has for Yiddish learning is palpable. Leaving this summer, I feel extremely motivated to continue learning Yiddish and to put it to use as I begin a Ph.D. program in performance studies this fall. This summer felt like a pivotal moment in my Yiddish life.

Lila Fabro, Summer Program ’16, ’19 and ’23

From the beginning, my learning of Yiddish—which began with a six-week trip from Buenos Aires to New York for the 2016 Summer Program—has been characterized by a bit of distance. I remember my return to Argentina feeling strange after that first summer. I felt a bit tired, a bit confused and overwhelmed by a language I still didn’t know what to do with, but was suddenly missing.

After some distance, I returned to the program in 2019, where I gladly realized Yiddish is my path forward. This year, I participated in the Summer Program online from Baltimore. As a Ph.D. student interested in Argentine Yiddish literature and in the mixing of Spanish and Yiddish, I had a much clearer relationship with Yiddish, which has become part of my daily life.

And so I think of my previous summers at YIVO: learning the alef-beys and grammatical structures with Sheva Zucker, hearing the first lullabies in Perl Teitelbaum’s amazing voice, tasting the first kosher coffee that Eve Jochnowitz taught us to make (with an egg!), discovering Holocaust literature in Yiddish and the first erotically tinged literature I had ever read in Yiddish—Monish by I.L. Peretz in Anna Fishman Gonshor’s class. And now, with almost no distance from the end of my third summer with YIVO, I think I have achieved two important things: a strong language foundation, and an enjoyment of the language and the literature learned and read with my classmates and with professors Vera Szabó, Karolina Szymaniak, and Yankl-Peretz Blum.

I smile thinking of Yiddish and its growth in me. It has taken time and a bit of distance, but I am very grateful to YIVO, my professors, and the classmates who accompanied my learning so far.

Lastly, in addition to allowing me to meet my professors and classmates in the intimacy of their homes, lives, and families, with their cheeky cats parading across Zoom’s little windows, participating online this year allowed me to discover the fargenign (joy) of reading Kadya Molodowsky, Avrom Reyzen, Jacob Glatstein, Abraham Karpinovich, Sholem Asch, Anna Margolin, and Moyshe Nadir oyf Yidish and in pyjamas.
Congratulations to the class of 2023!

ABOVE: Students, faculty, and staff attend the סיום (siem [graduation]) for the 2023 Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, in person at YIVO and on Zoom.

LEFT: In-person students at a pickling workshop led by Jeffrey Yoskowitz of The Gefilteria.

82 students
12 countries
20 U.S. states

מזל טוב!

Congratulations to the class of 2023!
**BEGINNER I YIDDISH**
- **(Sunday)** Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 12:30pm-2:30pm ET
- Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

**BEGINNER II YIDDISH**
- **(Monday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 4 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
- Instructor: Lucas Fiszman
- **(Tuesday)** Sep. 19 – Dec. 5 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
- Instructor: Malena Chinski
- **(In-person nyc)** Sep. 19 – Dec. 12 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
- Instructor: Andryusha Kuznetsov

**BEGINNER III YIDDISH**
- **(Sunday)** Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 10:00am-12:00pm ET
- Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum
- **(Tuesday)** Sep. 19 – Dec. 5 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
- Instructor: Lucas Fiszman

**BEGINNER IV YIDDISH**
- **(Sunday)** Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 4:00pm-6:00pm ET
- Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak
- **(Monday)** Sep. 18 – Dec. 11 | 4:30pm-6:00pm ET
- Instructor: Nina Warnke
- **(Tuesday)** Sep. 26 – Dec. 12 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
- Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

**INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH**
- **(Sunday)** Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 10:00am-12:00pm ET
- Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)
- **(Friday)** Sep. 8 – Dec. 22 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
- Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH**
- **(Monday)** Sep. 18 – Dec. 18 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
- Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak
- **(Tuesday)** Sep. 12 – Nov. 28 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
- Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH**
- **(Sunday)** Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 2:00pm-4:00pm ET
- Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz
- **(Monday)** Oct. 2 – Dec. 18 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
- Instructor: Vera Szabó

**INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH**
- **(Monday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 4 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
- Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

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**ONCE-A-WEEK YIDDISH**
- **12 weeks**
- **12 total sessions**
- **1.5 hours each**

or

- **10 weeks**
- **10 total sessions**
- **2 hours each**

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**Is Anything Okay? The History of Jews and Comedy in America**

*The latest online course from YIVO’S SHINE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SERIES*

From the earliest jokes told on the Lower East Side to the comedy routines honed in the Catskills, Ashkenazi Jews developed radically new forms of comedic output in the 20th century. On film and television, pioneering Jewish comics broke norms and challenged taboos of American culture.

In our newest online course, delve into the history of Jewish comedy and its explosive development in the United States. See hundreds of unique archival objects, including vintage jokebooks, early comedy records, film and television clips, photographs, and posters, along with interviews and discussions with leading scholars and personalities from the world of Jewish comedy.

**LAUNCHING NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

Register today! ▶️ yivo.org/Comedy

*Sponsored by Edward Blank and Family and The Shine Trust*
CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH
10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS
Sep. 27 – Dec. 6 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Naftali Ejdelman

BEGINNER II CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS
Sep. 27 – Dec. 6 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET
Instructor: Malena Chinski

BEGINNER III CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS
Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Lila Thielemans

INTERMEDIATE II CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS (Morning)
Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

INTERMEDIATE II CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS (Afternoon)
Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

TWICE-A-WEEK YIDDISH
12 weeks
24 total sessions
1.5 hours each

INTENSIVE BEGINNER I&II YIDDISH
Sep. 7 – Dec. 4 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Alexandra Polyan

INTENSIVE BEGINNER III&IV YIDDISH
Sep. 6 – Dec. 13 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE I&II YIDDISH
Sep. 7 – Dec. 21 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE III&IV YIDDISH
Sep. 14 – Dec. 11 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

INTENSIVE ADVANCED I&II YIDDISH
Sep. 7 – Dec. 14 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

INTENSIVE ADVANCED III&IV YIDDISH
Sep. 11 – Dec. 20 | 9:00am-10:30am ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó

INTENSIVE ADVANCED V&VI YIDDISH
Sep. 12 – Dec. 5 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

READING YIDDISH
14 weeks
14 total sessions
1.8 hours each

BEGINNER I READING YIDDISH
Sep. 6 – Dec. 13 | 1:00pm-2:50pm ET
Instructor: Josh Price

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN ENGLISH)
10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

MAGIC IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
Sep. 21 – Nov. 30 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Elly Moseson

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN JEWISH FAMILY IN EASTERN EUROPE
Oct. 15 – Dec. 17 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Aleksandra Jakubczak

DER OYTSER FUN DER YIDISHER SHPRAKH BY NOKHEM STUHKOV: NAVIGATING THE THESAURUS OF YIDDISH
Sep. 19 – Dec. 5 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Dovid Braun

SHOLEM ALEICHEM AND JEWISH MODERNITY (In-person nyc)
Oct. 16 – Dec. 18 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Adi Mahalel

A MASTER OF THE GENRE: KADYA MOLODOWSKY AND POETRY FOR CHILDREN
Oct. 16 – Dec. 18 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Anna Fishman Gonshor

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN YIDDISH)
* 12 weeks
12 total sessions
1.5 hours each
or
▲ 10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

36 classes
348 students
15 countries

VISIT US AT YIVO.ORG

To learn more and register, visit yivo.org/Classes.
Questions? Visit yivo.org/Class-FAQ to help determine which class is right for you!
Here are some of YIVO’s media highlights from spring 2023:

EXHIBITIONS

**124 News** (JANUARY 26, 2023)
New UN Exhibit Tells Story of Aftermath of Holocaust

**JNS** (JANUARY 26, 2023)
Exhibit on displaced persons camps opens at UN in New York

**Haaretz** (JANUARY 17, 2023)
New Exhibit Shatters Myths About Jewish Life in Displaced Persons Camps

ARCHIVES

**The Forward** (APRIL 10, 2023)
What Ben Platt learned reading Leo Frank’s letters

**Campaign Against Antisemitism** (MARCH 23, 2023)
Executive Director and CEO of YIVO Jonathan Brent exposes the lie that Jews went “like sheep to the slaughter” during the Holocaust

**JTA** (MARCH 8, 2023)
YIVO will digitize a trove of Jewish leftist history

**The New York Times** (MARCH 6, 2023)
In the Papers of Yiddish Novelist Chaim Grade, Clues to His Lesser Fame

**Jewish Renaissance** (FEBRUARY 20, 2023)
The digitisation of a 20th-century legend

EDUCATION

**The Forward** (MAY 1, 2023)
Dovid Braun is appointed YIVO’s Academic Advisor in Yiddish

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**Smithsonian Magazine** (JUNE 29, 2023)
The 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival Explores the Many Ways Americans Express Their Spirituality

**Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Magazine** (JUNE 20, 2023)
A Song Still Vital: Preserving and Reviving Yiddish Folk Music

**New York Jewish Week** (MARCH 3, 2023)
March comes in with a roar of new Yiddish music

PALESTINIAN YIDDISH: A LOOK AT YIDDISH IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL BEFORE 1948

On view this fall at YIVO, located in the Center for Jewish History building (15 West 16th Street, NYC)

“YIDDISH COULD BE HEARD IN THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM, TSFAT, AND TIBERIUS LONG BEFORE ZIONISM WAS EVEN A TWINKLE IN THEODOR HERZL’S EYE.”

— EDdy Portnoy, YIVO’s Senior Academic Advisor & Director of Exhibitions

Yiddish has been a feature of Jewish life in the Land of Israel for much longer than people think. Prior to the 19th century, Ashkenazim were a tiny minority within the Jewish community in Palestine, which itself comprised a small percentage of the region’s population. There is, however, evidence that Yiddish was spoken in Palestine as early as the 16th century. What’s more, Ashkenazi community spoke a unique dialect of Yiddish, with many words and phrases absorbed from Arabic, the dominant language in Ottoman-ruled Palestine.

The rise of Zionism in the late 19th century and an increase in Jewish immigration to the Land of Israel brought about a different attitude towards Yiddish. Zionism began developing a new, modern Hebrew culture to replace diaspora Jewish cultures. Hoping to break with the past, early Zionist ideology was very much opposed to Yiddish culture. The new “muscular Judaism” of Zionism was created in contrast to allegedly weak diaspora Jews, who were associated with Yiddish, the most broadly spoken Jewish language worldwide. Some Zionists actively combatted Yiddish through propaganda, protests, and violence, while Zionist Yiddishists created a new type of Palestinian Yiddish literature, examples of which form the core of this exhibit.

Find out more about our newest exhibition at yivo.org/Palestinian-Yiddish.
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 YIVO’s 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.

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
Transferring appreciated shares of stock or mutual funds directly to YIVO may entitle you to a charitable income tax deduction for their full current market value without paying the capital gains tax on appreciation. 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.

CREATING A LEGACY...

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. FreeWill’s free estate planning tool is a simple and cost-free way for you to begin the process. And, if you choose to include a gift to YIVO in your will, you’ll ensure that we continue to conserve, preserve, and share the rich history and culture of East European Jewry for years to come.

Scan this QR code to learn more:

We are here to assist you and your advisors. Please contact Melissa Cohen at 212.294.6156 or mcohen@yivo.org.
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 24 million original items and YIVO’s Library has over 400,000 volumes—the single largest resource for such study in the world.

CONTACT

212.246.6080 | yivo.org

General Inquiries info@yivo.org

Archival Inquiries reference@yivo.org

Photo/Film Archives | photofilm@yivo.org

Sound Archives | soundarchives@yivo.org

Library Inquiries reference@yivo.org

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.  PATH
14 St + 6 Ave  PATH
14 St + 7 Ave  PATH
14 St + 8 Ave  PATH

by bus  M2  M3  M5  M7  M14

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