## Newsletter **SPRING 2019**

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.







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@YIVOInstitute

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Take a moment to open vilnacollections.yivo.org on your smartphone or computer. You will find The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections that comprise the YIVO archive and library looted by the Nazis during World War II. Some of it came to YIVO in NYC after the War; the rest remained in Lithuania and was discovered in 1991. With our Lithuanian

partners YIVO is digitizing 1.3 million pages of documents and 12,200 books that include rabbinical texts, diaries, letters, communal records, literary manuscripts, photographs, Yiddish theater, eye-witness accounts of pogroms and the Holocaust, and much more.

The Vilna Collections project website unites our treasures in Lithuania with those in NYC for the first time since 1941. In the search bar, type in some individual, place, book or event you may wish to examine. Though images are daily being added onto the website, you will shortly find entries with attachments of "digitized files." Open a file and you will be able to explore the lost world of East European and Russian Jewry in ways never before possible—as will anyone else around the globe. \$750,000 is still needed to complete this project, but launching this website now helps us realize its historic importance for all who seek the meaning of who we are as a people.

> Jours Con Brent Jonathan Brent **Executive Director & CEO**

#### Contact

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#### **General Inquiries**

YIVOMAIL@YIVO.CJH.ORG

#### Archival Inquiries

ARCHIVES@YIVO.CJH.ORG Photo/Film Archives | PHOTOFILM@YIVO.C.IH.ORG Sound Archives | Soundarchives@yivo.cjh.org

#### Library Inquiries

LIBRARYINQUIRIES@YIVO.CJH.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. **LNQRW456** 

14 St + 6 Ave **F L M PATH** 18 St + 7 Ave **1** 14 St + 7 Ave 1 2 3

14 St + 8 Ave **A G E L** 

by bus

M2 M3 M5 M7 M14

Hours [closed on major federal and jewish holidays]

#### **Gallery Hours**

Sun 11:00am-5:00pm Mon+Wed 9:30am-8:00pm Tue+Thu 9:30am-5:00pm Fri 9:30am-3:00pm Sat CLOSED

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

Library Hours Mon-Thu 9:30am-5:00pm

#### **WEDNESDAY** FEB 13 7:00pm CONCERT

Co-presented with the Center for Traditional Music and Dance (CTMD)

#### Andy Statman and Zev Feldman: **Klezmer Pioneers Reunited!**

Legendary klezmer duo Andy Statman and Walter Zev Feldman reunite for the first time in 35 years! The evening will include a performance and multimedia presentation celebrating the duo's work in the 1970s with "King of Klezmer" clarinetist Dave Tarras and other important immigrant musicians.

**Polish Jewish Relations During** 

**EVENT LOCATION » Columbia University** 

The third program in the "In Dialogue:

the Second World War

Polish Jewish Relations" series,

presented by Samuel Kassow and

Piotr Wróbel, focuses on the history

Enjoy a festive morning celebrating our

wonderful and diverse cultural heritage

at this annual event. This year's Purim-

themed Children's Day will have sing-

alongs of Yiddish folk staples, a magic

activities for visitors of all ages.

the Name of Tradition

show, and delicious treats, among other

(Details at yivo.org/Events)

of WWII and the Holocaust.

Children's Day

#### **THURSDAY FEB 21**

6:00pm IN DIALOGUE SERIES

LECTURE & CONVERSATION

Co-presented with Fordham University and Columbia University

#### SUNDAY **MAR 17** 11:00am

A MORNING OF ACTIVITY AND CULTURAL IMMERSION FOR CHILDREN

OF ALL AGES

#### **SUNDAY MAR 24** 6:00pm

**BOOK TALK &** CONCERT

Co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish History

### Sarah Schenirer and Bais Yaakov: A Revolution in

IN DIALOGUE:

This book talk and concert will explore the emergence of the Bais Yaakov schools in interwar Poland, when they grew from a one-room school in Sarah Schenirer's living quarters to a school system with over 200 schools, 36,000 students, and an international reach.

#### WEDNESDAY **MAR 27** 7:00pm

**BOOK LAUNCH** 

### of the Modern Yiddish Theater The Rise of the Modern Yiddish Theater

Avrom Goldfaden and the Rise

examines the origins of Yiddish theater, from roughly 1876 to 1883, through the works of one of its best-known and most colorful figures, Avrom Goldfaden. Join us for a discussion of this rich theatrical tradition as well as the broader social life on which this study sheds light.

#### TUESDAY **APR 09** 7:00pm

ALBUM LAUNCH CONCERT & PARTY

#### And All the Days Were Purple

and all the days were purple, a new album by composer Alex Weiser, features songs (which set Yiddish and English poems to music) that search for the divine while reflecting on the longing, beauty, and tumult of life.

#### WEDNESDAY **APR 10** 7:00pm **LECTURE**

#### **CARNEGIE HALL'S MIGRATIONS FESTIVAL COMES TO YIVO:** The Musical Legacy of Eastern **European Jews**

Mark Slobin, acclaimed scholar of East European and American Jewish music, will discuss Carnegie Hall's April 15th musical program, From Shtetl to Stage. His presentation will feature images and recordings and cover a range of Yiddish theater songs, novelty numbers, concert music, and songs of social movements.

#### **SUNDAY MAY 05** 9:00am

CONFERENCE

Co-presented with Fordham University and Columbia University

#### In Dialogue: Polish Jewish Relations

The "In Dialogue" series culminates in a daylong symposium discussing Polish-Jewish relations in the post-war era, and also touching on contemporary issues, including Poland's controversial law concerning WWII and the Holocaust that, according to the U.S. State Department, "could undermine free speech and academic discourse."

#### **MONDAY MAY 06** 7:00pm **LECTURE**

#### Memory of the Past and the Battle for a Promising Future

A talk by founder and president of Yahadin-Unum, Catholic priest Father Patrick Desbois. Yahad-in-Unum identifies mass Jewish killing sites and collects forensic evidence of the executions, and conducts international workshops and graduatelevel seminars to contribute to Holocaust scholarship and the study of genocide.

#### **SUNDAY MAY 19** 7:00pm CONCERT

#### Secular Sacred Music: Morton Feldman, David Lang, Adam Roberts

A performance of two choral masterworks, Morton Feldman's Rothko's Chapel and David Lang's Little March Girl Passion, featuring the OS Ensemble, led by Raquel Acevedo-Klein. The evening also features the premiere of a new work by composer Adam Roberts, commissioned for the occasion.

#### **TUESDAY** JUNE 04 7:00pm CONCERT

#### A Hebrew Liederabend – An Evening of Hebrew Song

An elegant illuminating retrospective program devoted to classic treasures of secular Hebrew song and the poetry that has inspired this rich variety of musical expression for more than a century. The recital will feature three of its leading interpreters: Ilana Davidson, Raphael Frieder, and Elizabeth Shammash together with world-renowned virtuoso pianist Yehudi Wyner. A pre-concert lecture will be presented at 6:00pm by YIVO's Anne E. Leibowitz Visiting Professorin-Residence in Music, Neil W. Levin.

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION VISIT: yivo.org/Events CALL: 917.606.8290 EMAIL: boxoffice@yivo.cjh.org

## **EDUCATION**

### **Spring Classes**

Register for spring classes at yivo.org/Classes.

Intermediate Yiddish • Instructor: Paula Teitelbaum

10 SESSIONS | MONDAYS | 6:00PM-8:00PM STARTS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Beginner II Yiddish • Instructor: Dr. Sheva Zucker

10 SESSIONS | WEDNESDAYS | 6:00PM-8:00PM STARTS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Jewish Opera: Literature, Folklore, and Historical Themes of Jewish Experience on the Opera Stage

Instructor: Dr. Neil W. Levin

5 SESSIONS | WEDNESDAYS | 6:00PM-8:00PM STARTS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

A friling zingeray: Yiddish Springtime Singing

Circle • Instructor: Lorin Sklamberg

6 SESSIONS | THURSDAYS | 6:00PM-8:00PM STARTS THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

# The 2019 Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture

Learn more and apply at summerprogram.yivo.org.

#### June 24 - August 2, 2019

Our six-week intensive program,, featuring five levels of language study, history and culture seminars, *shmues* (conversation) classes, a theater workshop, tours of the Lower East Side and Hasidic Borough Park, a translation workshop, lectures by visiting scholars, Yiddish theater and music performances, and more.

If six weeks isn't enough, we are now offering additional programs to expand your Yiddish learning:

Refresher Course • June 17 -21, 2019

Instructor: Dovid Braun

Workshop on Teaching Yiddish August 5 – 9, 2019

Instructors: Miriam Trinh and Eliezer Niborski

International and Financial Applicants Apply by: February 28\*
General Applicants Apply by: April 2

\*Financial aid is available for international and domestic students.

2019 YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization Held annually in January since 2012, the YIVO-Bard Winter Program invites students to delve into Ashkenazi Jewish life and culture covering its thousand-year history in Eastern Europe and across the diaspora. Over 150 students attended the 2019 Winter Program, which was the larg-

est to date and featured ten courses taught by leading scholars and artists, including Christoph Dieckmann, one of the world's leading experts on the history of the Lithuanian Holocaust, Ken Krimstein, New Yorker cartoonist and author of The Three Escapes of Hannah Arendt, political theorist Michael Walzer, literary critics Anita Norich and Ilan Stavans, and many more.

# YIVO's Shine Online Educational Series

Explore Jewish history and culture and access our unique collection of archival materials from the comfort of home.

Discovering Ashkenaz:
JEWISH LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE

Folksong, Demons, and the Evil Eye: FOLKLORE OF ASHKENAZ

PRESENTED BY EDWARD BLANK AND FAMILY

Oh Mama, I'm in Love!
THE STORY OF THE YIDDISH STAGE

PRESENTED BY EDWARD BLANK AND FAMILY

Learn more about our course offerings: yivo.org/Shine

**JUNE 18 - JUNE 20, 2019** 

## Lithuania and Poland Study Tour Exclusively for YIVO

A once in a lifetime journey of historical and cultural discovery

Join YIVO for an exclusive Study Tour to Lithuania and Poland, led by world-renowned historian and author, **Dr. Samuel Kassow**. Reconnect with your own heritage and examine the remarkable thousand-year history of our people in Eastern Europe.

"The trip was a life-defining experience for me and has allowed me to not only understand where I come from, but who I am." — PAST YIVO TOUR PARTICIPANT

This tour is chaired by Irene Pletka, Vice-Chair of the YIVO Board of Directors.

For more information, visit **yivo.org/StudyTour2019**.

## **NEWS FROM YIVO**

#### YIVO Visits London

In October 2018, YIVO officially opened the YIVO UK Office. To mark the occasion Jonathan Brent (Executive Director and CEO) and Shelly Freeman (Chief of Staff) traveled to

London and, together with William Pimlott (Operations Director of the YIVO London office), met with a range of organizations and academic institutions to discuss collaboration and joint projects.

JW3 (Jewish Community Centre London) and YIVO will hold a joint event in Fall 2019. Ongoing discussions are taking place with the University College London and the Pears Institute about future activities. Lord Glasman's appointment to the YIVO UK Board was also secured during the trip.

For more information about YIVO UK visit **yivoinstitute.uk**.

YIVO Executive
Director
Attends Moscow
Antisemitism
Conference

In October 2018, Jonathan Brent spoke at the Second Moscow International Conference on Combating Antisemitism, Xenophobia and Racism, "Protecting the Future." The conference was hosted by the Russian Jewish Congress, with the support of the Moscow Government, the Federal Agency

for Nationality Affairs, the World Jewish Congress, the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, Genesis Philanthropy Group, and Sberbank of Russia. YIVO is proud to be contributing to this critically important dialogue. 1

Delegation of French Clergyman and Academics Visit YIVO In November 2018, YIVO hosted a delegation of 20 clergymen and academics traveling from France to New York to visit key Jewish institutions in Manhattan. The delegation was led by Catholic priest Father Patrick Desbois—who has devoted his life to researching the Holocaust, fighting antisem-

itism, and furthering relations between Catholics and Jews—and by the Archbishop of Paris, the Most Reverend Michel Aupetit. 2

Irene Pletka, YIVO Honoree, Announces \$1 Million Gift at the YIVO Gala In November 2018, more than 150 people attended YIVO's gala honoring Irene Kronhill Pletka, Vice Chairman of the YIVO Board, for her exemplary leadership, inspiring generosity, and outstanding commitment to the preservation of Jewish history and culture.

Irene, who looks for projects where an injec-

tion of funds at a critical time will change the conversation, pledged a \$1 million gift to kickstart support for the Bund Digitization Project. The project, which was featured in an article by the *Forward*, will digitize approximately 219 linear feet of material and 15,000 photographs that were produced by or relate directly to the Jewish Labor Bund. The Bund was a Jewish political party that fought for workers' rights, encouraged the development of a secular and cultural Jewish identity, and fought against antisemitism. 3

YIVO Library A Founding Partner of the Universal Yiddish Library Project The YIVO Library (along with the Yiddish Book Center, the New York Public Library, and the National Library of Israel) is a founding partner of the Universal Yiddish Library, a consortium of major libraries with the largest collections of Yiddish books. The goal is to create an all-inclusive catalog of Yiddish publications and online access to digitized

Yiddish books via links to the websites of all participating partners. The first stage of the project, the creation of the catalog, is already underway. The project includes the Yiddish books digitized for the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections project.

## NEW UK BOARD MEMBER Maurice Glasman



Maurice Glasman is a Labour Lord who was introduced into the House of Lords on March 8, 2011 and is also one of the founders of the Blue Labour Movement. He was educated at Clapton Jewish Day School, JFS Comprehensive School, Cambridge University and did his PhD at the European University Institute in Florence. Lord Glasman's dissertation, entitled "Unnecessary Suffering," was published by Verso Press in 1996. He worked for many years on the Living Wage Campaign in London. Glasman is Director of the Common

Good Foundation. He is married with four children and lives in London.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER Ilya Prizel



Born in Lvov (then the USSR) in 1951, Ilya Prizel left the USSR in 1957. After an academic career which included teaching positions at Johns Hopkins (SAIS), University of Pittsburgh, and Dartmouth, Prizel's book, National Identity and Foreign Policy (Cambridge, 1998) won the Marshall Shulman Prize of American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Between 2003 and 2007, Prizel edited the scholarly journal East European Politics and Society. He is a recipient of Pi Sigma Alpha for out-

standing teaching of political science, awarded by The National Political Science Society. Prizel is currently retired and splits his time between the Berkshires, Florida, and New York.

#### Chief Curator Hired for the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum



In October 2018, YIVO welcomed Karolina Ziulkoski as Chief Curator of the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum. Its mission is to serve as a gateway for general audiences to explore the treasures of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections.

Ziulkoski is an award-winning new media artist and designer who has worked in Brazil and the U.S. Her work includes interactive exhibitions for the American Museum of Natural History; Daemo, a project of the Stanford Crowd Research Collective; "Museum Without Walls", an AR museum; and "Wind," an interactive installation for the DKNY window in Soho, New York. Her "Future Past News" AR-installation has been exhibited in museums and art fairs in the USA and Hong Kong.

She is the creative director of the new Museum of Municipalities, which opens soon in Brasília, Brazil. Ziulkoski was an adjunct professor at Rutgers University Visual Arts-Design program and is currently a mentor at NEW INC, the New Museum's incubator for art, design, and technology.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

## The Door Slams Shut: Jews and Immigration in the Face of American Reaction [ON VIEW AT YIVO THROUGH SPRING 2019]

For Jewish immigrants on the road between 1881 and 1924, the United States was by far the most popular destination. But after WWI, an anti-immigration movement took hold in America and in 1921 and 1924, severe restrictions were placed on immigration to the country, leaving Jews with few options. American Jews were upset and reactions in the Yiddish press were furious. In this exhibition, see a selection of the dozens of sharp cartoons that took aim at these

toons that took aim at these immigration quotas. 4

Jonathan Brent speaks at the Second Moscow International Conference on Combating Antisemitism, Xenophobia and Racism, "Protecting the Future."



Jonathan Brent shows a group of French clergymen and academics YIVO's "Paper Brigade" exhibit during their visit to YIVO's New York office in November 2018.



Irene Pletka, Vice
Chairman of the
YIVO Board and
Founder and
Chairman of the
Kronhill Pletka
Foundation, speaks
at the 2018 Gala
Award Dinner
in her honor.



Cartoon from the YIVO Library, on view in *The Door* Slams Shut:

4

"A Big World and There's No Place to Go"

A Jewish refugee laments his situation before a globe which has no place for him.

CARTOONIST: Mitchell Loeb Der groyser kundes May 27, 1921





Watch past programs at yivo.org/Video.

#### **Essence of Yiddish Theater**

(JULY 7) "The Essence," created by Allen Lewis Rickman, Yelena Shmulenson, and Steve Sterner, is a theatrical introduction to Yiddish language and Yiddish theater. This performance featured anecdotal and historical material in English, along with music and scenes from the best of Yiddish theater (with supertitle translation).

## Adam Michnik Discusses Antisemitism in 20th Century Poland

**(SEPTEMBER 6)** Polish-Jewish relations have once again become an important topic. In this sold-out talk, historian Adam Michnik offered his interpretation of the history of antisemitism—and efforts to resist it—in twentieth-century Poland.

## In Dialogue: Polish Jewish Relations Programs 1 & 2

(OCTOBER 4) The first In Dialogue series event, Polish Jewish Relations in the Pre-Modern Period, focused on the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the period of the partitions. It was presented by Magda Teter and Brian Porter-Szűcs. (NOVEMBER 15) The second event, Polish Jewish Relations during the Interwar Period, focused on Polish and Jewish society and culture, contested questions about Polish Jewish relations of the interwar period, the ideological transformations in the aftermath of WWI, and the eve of WWII. It was presented by Samuel Kassow and Paul Brykczyński. The series, jointly organized by Fordham University, Columbia University, and YIVO, will continue in the spring of 2019.

#### Ruth Rubin's Legacy of Yiddish Song

(DECEMBER 23) To officially launch YIVO's newest online exhibit, The Ruth Rubin Legacy: Archive of Yiddish Folksongs, YIVO hosted a celebratory evening featuring performances by renowned musicians including: Michael Alpert (Scotland/USA), Itzik Gottesman (NY), Daniel Kahn (Berlin/USA), Sasha Lurje (Riga/Berlin), Ethel Raim (NY), Lorin Sklamberg (NY). The sold-out concert celebrated the lifelong work and contribution of Rubin and was written about in the Wall Street Journal, among other media outlets.

Explore the exhibit, including over 1,900 Yiddish song recordings, at exhibitions.yivo.org/RuthRubin.



## **OUR SUPPORTERS** make all the difference!

YIVO gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies for their support in 2018.

In addition, we extend our gratitude to all YIVO members, each of whom is critical to our success.

#### \$1,000,000+

Ruth and David Levine

#### \$100,000-\$499,999

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If you prefer your contribution remain anonymous, please contact YIVO's Development Office at 212.294.6131, or email yivomembership@yivo.cjh.org.

Marek Web and and Sofia Grzybowska Web

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Your Gift will help YIVO ensure that the flame of Jewish culture and memory is preserved for future generations: yivo.org/Donate