**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 Institute for Jewish Research’s comprehensive YIVO archive and library hosted by the Naxos during World War II. Some of this work is new to YIVO – it is added to the Württemberg=Hessisches Museum in Berlin and other archives, which house the largest collection of archives and scanned documents. The Library and Archives, Vienna, Austria, and the Austrian National Library, Vienna, Austria, are active 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, eyewitness accounts of pogroms and the Holocaust, and much more.

YIVO’s Collections range widely, from extensive materials on Yiddish theater and Naxos music from World War II. They include 1.3 million pages of digitized documents and 12,200 books. In November, 2019, YIVO began digitizing the entire collection of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. 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, eyewitness accounts of pogroms and the Holocaust.

**JEWISH LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE**

**Folksong, Demons, and the Evil Eye:**

**Presented by Edward Blank and Family**

Dr. Sheva Zucker examines the origins of Yiddish theater, from roughly 1876 to 1883, through the representations of the plays of David Markovitch, who is considered one of the first Yiddish theater authors. The lecture is supported by the Edward Blank and Family Foundation.

**JUNE 18 – JUNE 20, 2019**

Lithuania and Poland Study Tour

Exclusively for YIVO

A chance to go on a European journey of cultural and historical discovery.

Join YIVO for an exclusive Study Tour to Lithuania and Poland, led by noted YIVO scholar, Roberta Steiner. Enjoy a week of historical, cultural and educational activities in the countries of Lithuania and Poland, exploring a wide range of themes and topics.

**JUNE 18 – 20, 2019**

**YIVO’s Online Educational Series**

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

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research dedicates this presentation and study of Jewish history in Eastern Europe. Jovana Vodopija. For nearly a century, YIVO has preserved new forms of Jewish history, research, education, and cultural expression. Our programs and initiatives, online and on-site are designed to engage your global outlook and enable us to share our vast resources. The YIVO Archives contain more than 28 million items and the YIVO Library has over 400,000 volumes – the single largest resource for research in the YIVO collection.

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Instructor: Dr. Neil W. Levin
International and Financial Applicants Apply by: February 28*
Instructors: Miriam Trinh and Eliezer Niborski
Workshop on Teaching Yiddish
Instructor: Dovid Braun
Refresher Course
additional programs to expand your Yiddish learning:
language study, history and culture seminars, literary critics Anita Norich and Ilan Stavans, and many more.

ESCAPES OF HANNAH ARENDT
Ken Krimstein, leading experts on the history of the Lithuanian Holocaust,
6 SESSIONS  |  THURSDAYS  |  6:00PM-8:00PM
A friling zingeray: Yiddish Springtime Singing
Jewish Opera: Literature, Folklore, and Historical
10 SESSIONS  |  WEDNESDAYS  |  6:00PM-8:00PM

For more information, visit summerprogram.yivo.org.

2019 YIVO SPRING SEASONS PROGRAMS
June 18 – 20, 2019
Lithuania and Poland Study Tour Exclusively for YIVO
A chance to discover Lithuania’s Jewish history and cultural landscape.
Join YIVO for an exclusive Study Tour to Lithuania and Poland, both remarkable countries with fascinating Jewish and non-Jewish history.
This tour is co-chaired by Irene Pletka, Vice-Chair of the YIVO Board of Directors.
For more information, visit yivo.org/StudyTour2019.

Dear Friends,

Take a moment to open yivobenefits.yivo.org on your smartphone or computer. You’ll find The Edward Blank YIVO Online Collections (YIVO) is now accessible to all. Search for 150,000+ original items from the YIVO Archives and Library.

Professor Askenazi

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 wish to explore. Through images and data being added to 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 Jewry worldwide. For nearly a century, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has been dedicated to the preservation and study of the history and culture of East European Jewry. Today, YIVO is home to over 23 million original items and YIVO’s Library has over 400,000 volumes—the single largest resource for such study in the world.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In Dialogue: Polish Jewish Relations during WWII
The third program in the “In Dialogue: Polish Jewish Relations” series co-presented by Samuel Kassow, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and Witold Pilecki, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Children’s Day: In Dialogue: Polish Jewish Relations during WWII
A program devoted to classic treasures of Jewish culture, history, and music, and songs of social movements.

This year’s May 5th program features Poland-based composer Adam Acvedo-Klein premiering a new work by composer Adam Acvedo-Klein. The evening also features the OS Ensemble, led by Raquel David Lang’s And All the Days Were Purple—a unique and terrifying account of the World War II concentration camp in which she grew up—and a program devoted to classic treasures of Jewish culture, history, and music, and songs of social movements.

A Hebrew Lindsay—An Evening of Hebrew Song
A performance of new and classic masterworks, performed by world-renowned opera singer, David Lang’s Minty Maltz, featuring American and Hebrew songs, as well as songs from around the world. The concert is co-presented with company Adam Acvedo-Klein.

For more information, visit yivo.org/Events

Unilateral, otherwise noted, all programs take place at YIVO, 15 West 16th Street, NYC, located in the Center for Jewish History.
Not in the New York area? Watch past YIVO Events on yivo.org/Video.
Instructor: Dr. Neil W. Levin
Refresher Course classes, a theater workshop, tours of the Lower East Side and June 24 – August 2, 2019
Program in Yiddish Language, The 2019 Uriel Weinreich Intermediate Yiddish, political theorist Michael Walzer, Ken Krimstein, leading experts on the history of the Lithuanian Holocaust, 6 SESSIONS  |  THURSDAYS  |  6:00PM-8:00PM
STARTS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019
5 SESSIONS  |  WEDNESDAYS  |  6:00PM-8:00PM
Themes of Jewish Experience on the Opera Stage
STARTS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019
10 SESSIONS  |  WEDNESDAYS  |  6:00PM-8:00PM
Beginner II Yiddish
STARTS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019
yivo.org/Classes
Register for spring classes at summerprogram.yivo.org.
General Applicants Apply by:
2019 Winter Program, which was the larg-
diaspora. Over 150 students attended the history in Eastern Europe and across the
and culture covering its thousand-year-
Held annually in January since 2012, the
examined the remarkable thousand-year history of our
Poland, led by world-renowned historian and author,
Join YIVO for an exclusive Study Tour to Lithuania and
A once in a lifetime journey of historical and
Explore Jewish history and
JEWISH LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE
IN DIALOGUE:
...
The first stage of the project, the creation of the catalog, is already underway. It is led by Maurice Martin, a laborer who was known to the house of the Bishop of France until March 10, 2011, and is also the founder of the Fondation Martin (www.fondationmartin.org), a non-profit organization that promotes international trade and investment in European countries. Maurice Martin’s collaboration, and the need for its support in Europe, was crucial in the early stages of the project. The project, which is supported by the Upper Austrian Jewish Museum (www.jewishmuseum.at), will be completed by the end of 2012.
YIVO Visits London

In October 2018, YIVO officially opened the YIVO UK Office in London. Edward Blank, YIVO’s Executive Director, and Chair of the Board, and Chief Executive Officer and CEO and Rabbi Stephen Burt (covering for Rabbi Liverpool and, together with William Plichta (Operations Director of the YIVO London office, met with UK institutions and academic institutions to discuss collaborative and joint projects.

YIVO, Jewish Community Centre (JCC) London, The Jewish Museum, and the Trinity School, will hold a joint exhibition: “Wandering the Shtetl” — an exhibition that will focus on the Jewish community’s long history living in London and thePenn Institute for future exhibitions.

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

New EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions

The Door Slams Shut: Jews and Immigration in the Face of American Injustice

In 2018, YIVO opened a traveling exhibition called “The Door Slams Shut: Jews and Immigration in the Face of American Injustice,” which explored the immigration policies and debates in the United States since 1881 and the history of American Jews as a “chosen people.” The exhibition featured documents, photographs, and personal stories from the lives of immigrants who faced discrimination and prejudice.

The exhibition was curated by David Charney, a professor of history and director of the Center for Jewish History at the New York University. The exhibition was on view at the New-York Historical Society, the Jewish Museum, and the New-York Historical Society in 2019.

New Exhibition

Rya Prizel

Born in Los Angeles in 1951, Rya Prizel is a painter and printmaker known for her vibrant and eclectic style, which combines both figurative and abstract elements. Her works often feature bright colors and dynamic compositions, drawing inspiration from a variety of sources, including traditional Jewish art and contemporary abstract expressionism.

In her practice, Prizel explores themes of identity, culture, and the intersection of personal experiences with broader social and political events. Her works have been featured in numerous exhibitions and collections, and she has received several awards and honors for her contributions to the art world.

The exhibition at YIVO will feature a selection of Prizel’s works, ranging from paintings to prints, offering a comprehensive look at her career and artistic development.

Program Highlights

Watch past programs at yivo.org/Video

Exhibition of Yiddish Theater (Restoration Project)

The exhibition of Yiddish Theater at YIVO explores the history and evolution of Yiddish theater, from its origins in late 19th-century Eastern Europe to its contemporary relevance in the 21st century. The exhibition features a variety of tools and resources, including photographs, documents, and artifacts, that showcase the rich tradition of Yiddish theater and its significance as a cultural and artistic force.

In Dialogue: Polish-Jewish Relations 1 & 2

The event focused on Polish-Jewish relations, discussing the past and present state of affairs and examining the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The panelists shared insights on the complex history of the relationship between Poland and the Jewish community, exploring the historical context and contemporary implications.

Ruth Rubyfus’s Legacy of Yiddish Song (Digital Project)

The event aimed to celebrate Ruth Rubyfus’s legacy in Yiddish music, highlighting her contributions as a composer, singer, and teacher. The program included a performance by a Yiddish singer and a conversation with experts on Rubyfus’s life and work.

Our Supporters

Make all the difference!

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