



**YIVO**  
**INSTITUTE**  
FOR JEWISH  
RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2026

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#### COVER:

Kristin Kornstein as *Shtumer Alef*, Kelly Guerra as *Pasekh Alef*, and Kate Maroney as *Komets Alef* in a performance of *The Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language*. Photo by Brian Hatton. See **PAGE 9** for details.

#### RIGHT:

Teacher Karla Gutman with her students in the school garden, Stuttgart displaced persons camp. Germany, 1946. YIVO Archives.

# Join us in shaping *the future* of YIVO



Jewish life, culture, and spirit can flourish only through the power of knowledge of our past.

JONATHAN BRENT

*Executive Director & CEO*

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research recently launched the public phase of its **Centennial Campaign**, a transformative fundraising effort to safeguard the perpetuation of Jewish culture in an ever-changing global landscape.

For a century, YIVO has pioneered new forms of Jewish scholarship, research, education, and cultural expression. This campaign seeks to raise **\$40 million** to build new educational programs, expand exhibitions and public programs, and digitize the archives to increase accessibility while growing our institutional capacity to better serve our global community.

YIVO has raised **over \$36 million**, **90%** of its goal thanks to the generosity of early donors, foundations, and community partners.

Contributions can be made online at [yivo.org/cent2025](https://yivo.org/cent2025), or by contacting Melissa S. Cohen, Chief Development Officer, via email at [mcohen@yivo.org](mailto:mcohen@yivo.org).

► [yivo.org/cent2025](https://yivo.org/cent2025)

See **PAGE 26** for our **Centennial Honor Roll**.



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Education unlocks minds and hearts. It impels us forward while opening doorways to the past. Through education, we retain old worlds and invent the new. It is the basis of civilization and the core of YIVO's mission. I spoke recently at the Lithuanian delegation to the European Union in Brussels about YIVO's preservation of over 500 years of the Jewish civilization of Eastern Europe. Afterward, one of the delegates said that, after listening to what I described, it was clear that YIVO was not simply the conservator of Jewish history, but rather that YIVO was a principal conservator of European history in its deepest sense. I have thought about that remark a great deal since our meeting and how the universalist values of Jewish tradition merged with the history and peoples of Europe over millennia, whether in religion, law, literature, music, philosophy, art, science, or the artifacts of daily life. This perspective offers fascinating new prospects for understanding the history of the Diaspora and for contemplating the deeper meaning of the traditions out of which we come that link us both to the Exodus from Egypt and the entry into modern civilization.

YIVO enters its second century set to successfully complete its transformative Centennial Campaign; undertake major, new educational initiatives; continue its digitization programs (our collections have been visited over one million times by people worldwide in 2025—the number keeps growing!); expand the reach of our public programs and fabulous new Learning and Media Center; and redesign our award-winning Online Museum through which we reach schools and the general public around the world.

At this time, we must also say farewell to our beloved Board Chairman, Ruth Levine, who has retired from this role as of January, but will remain a member of the YIVO board. Ruth's 10-year tenure as Chairman will be known as the period in which YIVO rebuilt itself, regained its ability to fulfill its historic mission, and found new beginnings. The staff of YIVO offers Ruth and her husband David, who has faithfully and brilliantly managed the YIVO endowment over this time, our deepest thanks.

YIVO welcomes with great anticipation Jacob (Jake) Morowitz as our new Board Chairman. Jake is a long-standing member of the YIVO Board, a true Yiddishist at heart and in action, and we welcome his vision for continuing to expand YIVO's activity and reach in all our work.

**Jonathan Brent**

Executive Director & CEO

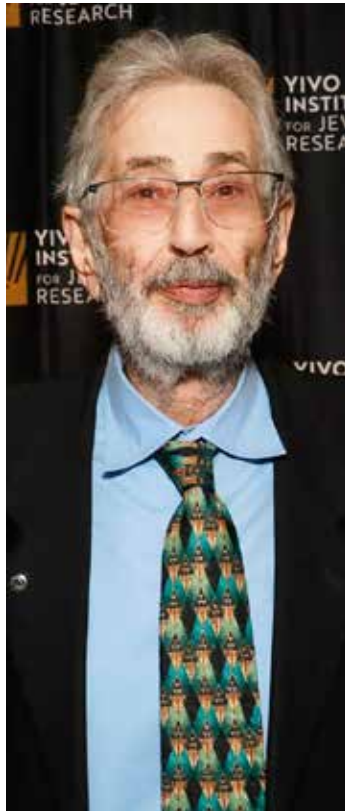
# 2025: A Look Back at Y



# YIVO's Centennial Year



- 1 The YIVO Centennial Gala: (FROM TOP) Over 300 guests attended our Centennial Gala at Tribeca 360; honorees Ruth and David Levine receive their award from Executive Director & CEO Jonathan Brent; honoree Sir Simon Schama gives his remarks. Photos by Annabel Braithwaite and Jonathan Hanson.
- 2 Jason Weisinger as Yudel Mark and Gideon Dabi as Max Weinreich in *The Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language*. Photo by Brian Hatton.
- 3 Centennial Scholarship recipients for the 2025 YIVO-Bard Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture. Photo by Melanie Einzig.
- 4 Kalman Weiser and YIVO staff during a discussion panel on "YIVO's Purpose Today" for the *YIVO in America* conference. Photo by Robin Michals.
- 5 YIVO's Centennial Kickoff at the Neue Galerie. Photo by Annabel Braithwaite.
- 6 A spread in *100 Objects from the Collections of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research* featuring wool felt dolls made in a displaced persons camp in Florence, Italy, ca. 1945-1948.
- 7 Stefanie Halpern, Director of Collections, shows Congressman Dan Goldman materials from the YIVO Archives.
- 8 Sound Archivist Lorin Sklamberg performing at Riverdale Temple's celebration of YIVO.
- 9 *Hail to the Zamlers! YIVO's Collections at 100*, part of the *YIVO at 100* exhibition series.
- 10 Guests at the opening of the YIVO Learning and Media Center. Photo by Annabel Braithwaite.



## Leadership in Transition: Honoring Ruth Levine and Welcoming Jake Morowitz

It is with a mix of deep appreciation and a touch of sadness that we announce an important leadership transition.

After more than a decade of extraordinary service, Ruth Levine has stepped down as Chair of the Board of Directors, passing the baton to Jacob (Jake) Morowitz. During her tenure, Ruth partnered closely with Executive Director and CEO Jonathan Brent to launch transformative initiatives that drove unprecedented growth for the organization, including the successful launch of the \$40 million Centennial Campaign.

We are profoundly grateful for Ruth's vision, dedication, and steady leadership. We are also delighted that she will continue to serve on the Board, where she will remain a vital source of enthusiasm, support, and inspiration for our community.

Jake steps into the role of Board Chair, having served on the Board since 1995 and, most recently, as a member of the Finance and Executive Committees. Reflecting on the transition, Jake shared:

"I am honored to have been chosen to lead YIVO as the organization enters its second century. I look forward to building on the remarkable foundation Ruth has helped create."

Please join us in thanking Ruth for her exceptional leadership and in welcoming Jake to this new role.

JUNE 22 – JULY 5, 2026

## Study Tour of Lithuania & Poland

EXCLUSIVELY FOR YIVO

Join YIVO for an enlightening journey to Lithuania and Poland. Reclaim your heritage as you examine the life that was lived in these lands. View the remarkable history of old Warsaw, Kraków, Vilnius, and Białowieża.

► Visit [yivo.org/LithuaniaPoland2026](https://yivo.org/LithuaniaPoland2026) for more information.



JULY 12-24, 2026

## Study Tour of Croatia & Bosnia and Herzegovina

EXCLUSIVELY FOR YIVO

From the Sarajevo Haggadah to historic synagogues along the Adriatic, from Osijek's charming streets to Mostar's legendary Old Town, trace the fascinating history of Balkan Jewry and their enduring resilience amid centuries of conflict and upheaval.

► Visit [yivo.org/Balkans2026](https://yivo.org/Balkans2026) for more information.



OCTOBER 12-25, 2026

## Study Tour of Northern Italy

EXCLUSIVELY FOR YIVO

Join YIVO on a journey of discovery across northern Italy, exploring the fascinating, troubled, and glorious history of Italian Jews in the northern tier, unfamiliar to most of us.

► Visit [yivo.org/NorthernItaly2026](https://yivo.org/NorthernItaly2026) for more information.



# Programs

## Spring 2026

For event registration, more information, and program updates: [yivo.org/calendar](https://yivo.org/calendar)

TUE  
FEB  
10

1:00pm ET

### Confronting Representations of Black People in Yiddish Culture

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE SKIRBALL DEPARTMENT OF HEBREW AND JUDAIC STUDIES AT NYU

Gil Ribak provides a critical revision of the accepted narrative among scholars that the Yiddish press condemned discrimination and prejudice against African Americans, in a discussion led by Devin Randolph.

THU  
FEB  
12

1:00pm ET

### The Shtetl: Myth and Reality

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

**YIDDISH CIVILIZATION 101 SERIES** Samuel Kassow provides an overview of the shtetl by presenting the realities of shtetl life and challenging preexisting and romanticized stereotypes of Jewish life in Eastern Europe.

THU  
FEB  
19

1:00pm ET

### Denialism: Polish Style

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

**POLAND VS. HOLOCAUST HISTORY SERIES** Elzbieta Janicka argues that while Polish cultural institutions do not deny the Holocaust itself, they practice a form of denialism by obscuring the reality of Polish involvement in the Holocaust.

TUE  
FEB  
24

7:00pm ET

### Leo Zeitlin and the Music of His World

SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES  
IN PERSON AT YIVO & ON ZOOM

SUPPORTED BY STEPHEN DENIO BAKER, CO-SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC

Join YIVO for this concert featuring a variety of chamber and vocal music by Leo Zeitlin, best known for his *Eli Zion* for cello and orchestra, performed alongside works by composers with whom he was in dialogue.

THU  
FEB  
26

7:00pm ET

### Outsider: Freud

FILM SCREENING | IN PERSON AT YIVO

Through animation and expert commentary, this documentary by Yair Qedar follows Sigmund Freud's path as a Jewish intellectual in Nazi-era Vienna, witnessing how persecution and exile influenced his groundbreaking theories on the human mind.

TUE  
MAR  
03

1:00pm ET

### English Jokes, Yiddish Punchlines: American Jewish Humor

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

**YIDDISH CIVILIZATION 101 SERIES** Eddy Portnoy elucidates the history of a distinctly American Jewish joke telling phenomenon in which the bulk of a joke is told in English, but the punchline is delivered in Yiddish and explores some of the reasons for the existence of this comedic phenomenon.

THU  
MAR  
05

7:00pm ET

### The Woman from Hamburg

FILM SCREENING | IN PERSON AT YIVO

This short film by Michael Masarof follows a Jewish Holocaust survivor who is hidden by a Polish couple, coerced into motherhood, separated from her child, and decades later reunited in a fraught encounter that explores survival, trauma, and inherited memory.

TUE  
MAR  
24

1:00pm ET

### Holocaust Distortion in Poland: A Comparative European Perspective

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

**POLAND VS. HOLOCAUST HISTORY SERIES** By comparing developments in Poland with those in other European countries, this lecture by Jan Grabowski highlights both shared patterns and national specificities in confronting the Holocaust.

THU  
MAR  
26

1:00pm ET

### Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, and the Fate of the Jews

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

Jochen Hellbeck reframes the historiography of World War II by showing how Nazi Germany's preoccupation with destroying Soviet Russia drove its campaign of mass extermination and shaped the ideological and military center of the war on the Eastern Front, in a discussion led by Jeffrey Veidlinger.

MON  
MAR  
30

7:00pm ET

### You Have Courage, Madame

FILM SCREENING | IN PERSON AT YIVO

CO-SPONSORED BY THE FORTUNOFF VIDEO ARCHIVE FOR HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES

Based on the Yiddish testimony from the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies of Polish-Jewish photojournalist Julia Pirotte, this short film by Asaf Galay examines her life and work by tracing her journey through Poland and France.

MON  
APR  
06

1:00pm ET

### Klezmer and Other Displaced Musics in America

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC'S JEWISH MUSIC FORUM; THIS EVENT FORMS PART OF CARNEGIE HALL'S FESTIVAL UNITED IN SOUND: AMERICA AT 250

Scholar and performer Walter Zev Feldman explores the vibrant, yet largely concealed, musical culture of the klezmer revitalization in New York, Philadelphia, and other American cities in the 1960s.

TUE  
APR  
14

1:00pm ET

### Ashkenazi Jewish Food

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

**YIDDISH CIVILIZATION 101 SERIES** Darra Goldstein surveys how Ashkenazi Jews adapted to life in America by adopting unfamiliar ingredients and engaging in debates about nutrition and the importance of domestic traditions, all the while keeping the beloved flavors of the Old Country intact.

THU  
APR  
16

1:00pm ET

### The Cantorial "Golden Age" in America

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC'S JEWISH MUSIC FORUM; THIS EVENT FORMS PART OF CARNEGIE HALL'S FESTIVAL UNITED IN SOUND: AMERICA AT 250

Scholar and musician Jeremiah Lockwood provides an overview of some of the major stars of the cantorial "golden age" in America.

MON  
APR  
20

1:00pm ET

## The Future of Holocaust Memory: Poland and Beyond

PANEL DISCUSSION | ON ZOOM

**POLAND VS. HOLOCAUST HISTORY SERIES** Jan T. Gross, Elżbieta Janicka, and Jan Grabowski address the evolving challenges facing Holocaust remembrance amid political polarization, historical revisionism, and generational change in Poland and throughout Europe.

MON  
APR  
27

1:00pm ET

## The Afterlife of Yiddish in German-Jewish Culture, 1818–1938

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

Aya Eliyada, in a discussion led by Samuel Spinner, analyzes how German-speaking Jewish authors, scholars, and intellectuals continued to engage with and reinterpret Yiddish literary heritage after it declined as a spoken language.

WED  
APR  
29

1:00pm ET

## Menachem Kipnis: Yiddish Folklore and Photographs from Interwar Poland

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

Sheila E. Jelen and Raphael Finkel examine the life and work of Eastern European ethnomusicologist, folklorist, and photographer Menachem Kipnis, in a discussion led by Natan Meir.

TUE  
MAY  
05

1:00pm ET

## Yiddish Theater, George Gershwin, and the Birth of an American Sound

LECTURE | ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC'S JEWISH MUSIC FORUM; THIS EVENT FORMS PART OF CARNEGIE HALL'S FESTIVAL UNITED IN SOUND: AMERICA AT 250

Ronald Robboy explores the idea that George Gershwin's internalization of Black Americans' music was influenced by his early immersion in Yiddish theater.

WED  
MAY  
06

7:30pm ET

## Ensemble Connect Up Close

CONCERT | IN PERSON IN THE RESNICK EDUCATION WING AT CARNEGIE HALL

PRESENTED BY CARNEGIE HALL

This performance celebrates YIVO's 100th anniversary by reimagining the concert experience through a cross-disciplinary collaboration between Ensemble Connect and clarinetist David Krakauer, whose genre-blending artistry spans jazz, klezmer, and classical music.

MON  
MAY  
18

7:00pm ET

## Khantshe in Amerike — An Operetta by Joseph Rumshinsky

SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES IN PERSON AT YIVO & ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC'S JEWISH MUSIC FORUM; THIS EVENT FORMS PART OF CARNEGIE HALL'S FESTIVAL UNITED IN SOUND: AMERICA AT 250

Join YIVO for a performance of the music of *Khantshe in Amerike*, a 1912 operetta that touches on topics, including love and the changing social status of women in turn-of-the-century America.

THU  
MAY  
28

1:00pm ET

## Malka Owsiany Recounts by Mark Turkow

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

Sandra Chiritescu, in a talk led by Rachel Grossman, discusses her translation of Mark Turkow's *Malka Owsiany Recounts*, a testimony of not only the horrors of the Holocaust, but also the richness of Polish Jewish life.

SUN  
MAY  
31

1:00pm ET

## Community Read: The Yiddish Sherlock Holmes

WORKSHOP | ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YIDDISH CLUBS AND THE YIDDISH BOOK CENTER

Mikhl Yashinsky leads a community read, featuring selections from the original Yiddish stories of his new translation, *Adventures of Max Spitzkopf: The Yiddish Sherlock Holmes*.

WED  
JUN  
03

1:00pm ET

## The Interracial Left and the International Workers Order, 1930–1954

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

Elissa Sampson, Jennifer Young, and Felicia Bevel, in a conversation led by Kate Rosenblatt, tell the story of the International Workers Order (IWO), an organization founded in 1930 to provide life, burial, and health insurance to its members.

MON  
JUN  
08

1:00pm ET

## Eastern European Jewish Immigrant Bankers and the Shaping of American Finance, 1873–1930

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

CO-SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rebecca Kobrin chronicles how Jewish immigrants established innovative banking networks that not only financed their own communities' migration and economic advancement, but also transformed broader American commercial banking practices, in a discussion led by Annie Polland.

THU  
JUN  
11

1:00pm ET

## Polish-Jewish Masculinities and the Challenge of Modernity

BOOK TALK | ON ZOOM

Mariusz Kalczewiak, in a talk led by Miriam Mora, explores how religion, class divisions, antisemitism, new domesticity, and militarization changed masculine ideas and practices in Eastern Europe between the 1890s and 1930s.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS: 2025



**77** public programs

**25K+** registrations

**675K+** YouTube views

Surpassed **134,000** YouTube subscribers!

Unable to attend our programs?

Watch past events at: [yivo.org/video](https://yivo.org/video)



## Treasures from the Collections

In celebration of its centennial, YIVO released a new video every Friday throughout 2025 highlighting a book, object, or artifact from its collections. Each short video featured a YIVO staff member discussing an item and explaining its historical significance. Videos included items ranging from Molly Picon's manuscript for her humorous song "A yid a shiker" and dolls created in a displaced persons camp in Florence, to a *grager* with a swastika created around the time of the Holocaust and a Yiddish translation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. All videos are now available on YIVO's YouTube channel, which has over 134,000 subscribers.

Fall 2025

## Program Highlights

### The Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language

YIVO proudly presented the world premiere of *The Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language*, a new chamber opera by Pulitzer Prize finalist and YIVO Director of Public Programs Alex Weiser with libretto by YIVO Director of Education Ben Kaplan. This moving, 50-minute work tells the true story of Yiddish linguist Yudel Mark and his unfinished quest to create a comprehensive Yiddish dictionary. Featuring an acclaimed cast of five singers and an ensemble led by David Bloom, the production—directed by Rebecca Miller Kratzer—brought Yiddish language and culture to life through music, mysticism, and history. The opera's three sold-out performances were presented as part of YIVO's Centennial Celebration and annual Nusakh Vilne memorial program.

### The Tourist's Guide to Lost Yiddish New York City

Several hundred people joined YIVO for a lively book talk with author Henry H. Sapochnik and moderator Eddy Portnoy, YIVO's Senior Academic Advisor & Director of Exhibitions, on the recently published *The Tourist's Guide to Lost Yiddish New York City*. Drawing on over five thousand Yiddish and English newspaper articles, Sapochnik explored the city's rich Yiddish cultural history—from theater and music to journalism, architecture, and even crime. The discussion offered fresh insights into how Yiddish culture shaped New York from 1880 to today, revealing its creativity, resilience, and lasting influence.

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

YIVO celebrated the publication of *100 Objects from the Collections of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research* with two special events highlighting the organization's century of collecting. The first, held at the Grolier Club, featured editor and YIVO Director of Collections Stefanie Halpern in conversation about how the book chronicles modern Jewish history through 100 extraordinary artifacts. The second, at 92NY, brought together Halpern, Jonathan Brent, and Eddy Portnoy for a discussion moderated by Rabbi David Ingber.

# Learning and Media Center



## Students Discover Jewish History at the YIVO Learning and Media Center

Since the YIVO Learning and Media Center's (YLMC) June opening, we have had a whirlwind of visits from high schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions. In the latter half of 2025 alone, we hosted 19 group visits totaling 300 visitors, including Kushner Yeshiva students for a special introduction to YIVO, with a talk by Eddy Portnoy on archival research for his book *Bad Rabbi*. Other visits brought ① Jewish Theological Seminary students from a class on Yiddish theater for a show-and-tell focused entirely on Yiddish theater; ② The New School students from a course on Jewish ethnography for a tour of YIVO's archival stacks; and ③ Columbia University students from class on Zionist thought and ideology for a lesson exploring reproductions of archival materials pertaining to Zionist youth groups in Eastern Europe.

*The YLMC is currently open by appointment for visiting groups. Are you interested in bringing a class to visit the YIVO Learning and Media Center? Contact Susannah Trubman at [strubman@yivo.org](mailto:strubman@yivo.org) to schedule your visit today!*



YLMC BY THE NUMBERS: 2025



**28** visits

**489** visitors



*Visits from schools and organizations included the Abraham Joshua Heschel School; The Bronfman Fellowship; Central Synagogue; COJECO; Columbia University; Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Philadelphia; The Dalton School; Hunter College; Jewish Theological Seminary; Lithuanian Cultural Institute; The New School; New York University; Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School; and Rodeph Sholom of New York.*

SUN  
MAR  
29 1:00pm ET

## YIVO Learning and Media Center Archival Box Lesson

YIVO is opening the doors of the YLMC for a special workshop. Using the YLMC's Archival Box Lessons, Susannah Trubman will lead participants through a guided lesson on the history of the Yiddish theater in Eastern Europe and one of its early pioneers, Esther Rokhl Kaminska. Space is limited! Sign up today to be among the first to see the YLMC.

► [yivo.org/ylmc-workshop](https://yivo.org/ylmc-workshop)



My 11th Grade Honors Seminar on American Jewish History had the pleasure of visiting the Learning and Media Center at YIVO in November 2025. Susannah Trubman and Stefanie Halpern did a wonderful job of framing our visit around texts, documents, and objects related to the Yiddish theater in New York City. Students came away with a richer sense of the history of Jewish life and politics at the turn of the 20th century, as well as a rare glimpse inside the YIVO Archives. We hope to have more Heschel groups working with YIVO soon!

MAX LAZAR

*Teacher, The Abraham Joshua Heschel School*

### VISIT SPOTLIGHT

## The Abraham Joshua Heschel School

On November 7, 2025, ten 11th grade students accompanied by their teacher Max Lazar from The Abraham Joshua Heschel School visited the YIVO Learning and Media Center for a special lesson dedicated to Yiddish theater. During their visit, the students were introduced to the history of YIVO and the Esther Rokhl Kaminska Theater Museum. The students toured YIVO's Centennial exhibitions, explored the Learning and Media Center, and after a presentation about the global history of the Yiddish theater, received a show-and-tell presentation of some of YIVO's archival treasures by Director of Collections Stefanie Halpern.

The visiting students had prepared for their time at YIVO beforehand with an assigned reading from *New York's Yiddish Theater: From The Bowery to Broadway* chosen by YLMC Educator Susannah Trubman. The Heschel students watched selected clips from Yiddish films and in an open conversation with Trubman, asked thoughtful questions about the material they had encountered and the work that they had read.



## **YIVO Hosts Gala Marking its 100th Anniversary**

Over 300 guests attended the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research's Centennial Gala in November 2025 at Tribeca

360, marking a milestone year for the organization and raising nearly \$900K.

The evening honored Sir Simon Schama—renowned historian, author, and University Professor of Art History and History at Columbia University—for his extraordinary contributions to historical scholarship and public education, alongside Ruth and David Levine for their decades of leadership, service, and philanthropic support of YIVO. Sir Simon was recognized for his landmark body of work, including award-winning books and acclaimed BBC documentaries. Ruth Levine, a native Yiddish speaker and outgoing YIVO Board Chair, was celebrated for her lifelong dedication to YIVO's mission, while David Levine was honored for his distinguished career and longstanding service to nonprofit institutions, including YIVO.

The program was hosted by Emmy Award-winning writer and broadcaster Randy Cohen and featured a performance by Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars. The gala highlighted YIVO's century-long commitment to preserving and advancing the study of Eastern European Jewish history and culture worldwide.

**1** The YIVO Board of Directors at the Centennial Gala at Tribeca 360. Photo by Annabel Braithwaite.

**2** Ambassador Nerijus Aleksiejūnas (Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the European Union) and Jonathan Brent (YIVO Executive Director & CEO).



## **European Parliament Marks YIVO's Centennial**

On September 26, 2025, the European Union Parliament marked YIVO's 100th Anniversary with a symposium hosted

by Lithuanian Member of the European Parliament Liudas Mažylis. The program was followed by a reception hosted by Lithuania's Permanent Representative to the EU, Ambassador Nerijus Aleksiejūnas. YIVO Executive Director Jonathan Brent spoke at both events, highlighting YIVO's rich history and its dynamic future.

## **Renowned Scholar Samuel Kassow Joins YIVO as Research Historian**

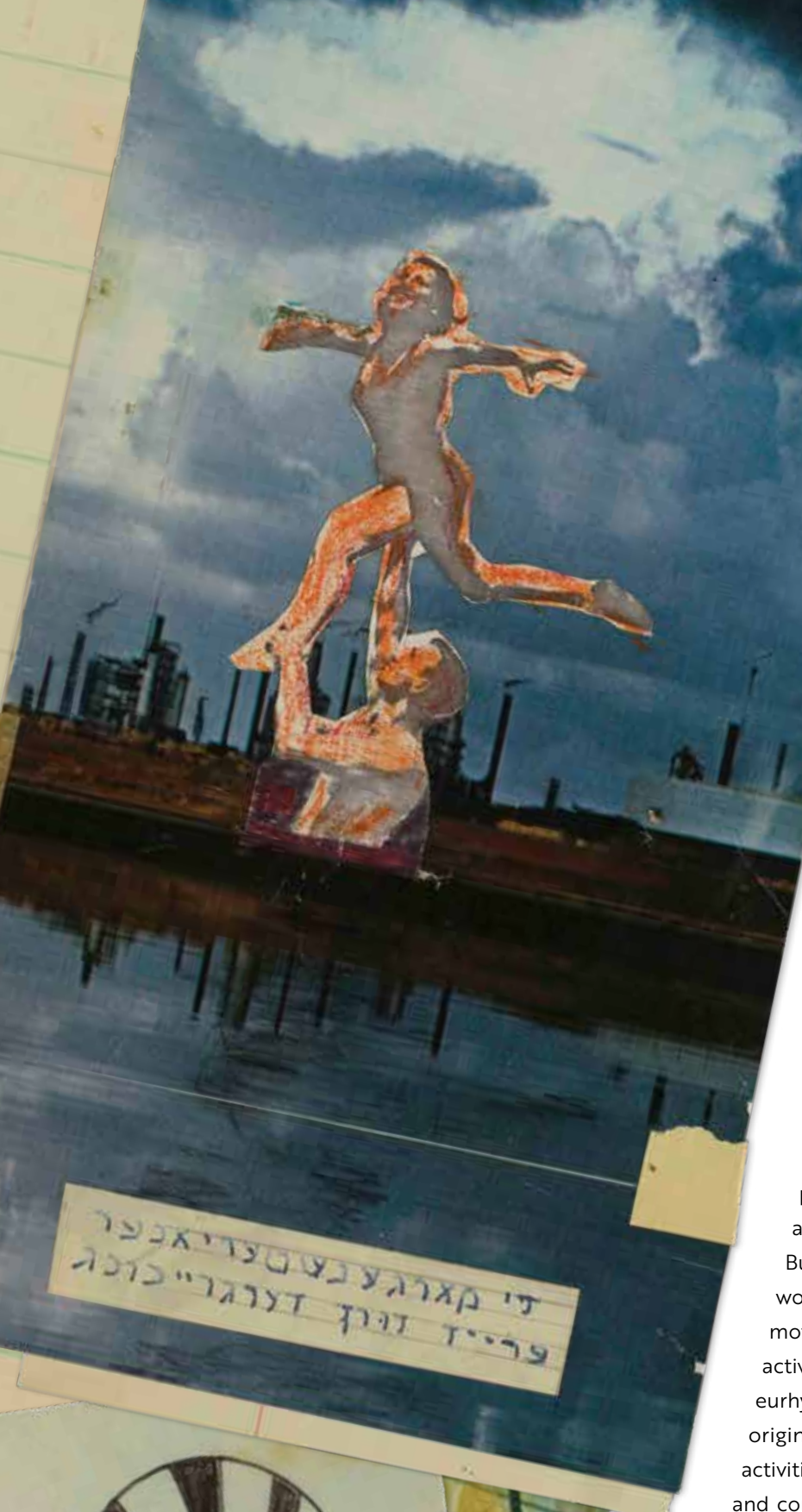


This November, Samuel D. Kassow, one of the foremost historians of Eastern European Jewry and the Holocaust, joined YIVO as Visiting Research Historian. Dr. Kassow will contribute his distinguished scholarship and decades of experience to advance YIVO's mission across research, education, and public engagement. Dr. Kassow will work closely with YIVO fellows, contribute to online and in-person exhibitions, and

teach in the YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization, as well as in the YIVO-Bard MA Program in Yiddish Civilization that Bard College and YIVO intend to build. He will also advise on the Jan Karski and Pola Nirenska Prize, awarded for outstanding scholarship in Polish-Jewish studies, mentor students in the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, and contribute his expertise to YIVO's future initiatives.



A Tsukunft group from Warsaw poses on the sand during an outing to Brok, Poland, 1930. The Tsukunft (the Future) was the main Bundist youth organization in interwar Poland. YIVO Archives.



## FEATURED ARTIFACT

### The Collection of Israel Zajd

In the early 1970s, Israel Zajd sought to write a book on Morgnshtern, the sports organization of the Jewish Labor Bund established in 1926. Zajd served as the secretary of the Executive Committee of Morgnshtern in Poland, a position he held until the outbreak of WWII. Morgnshtern attempted to attract young Jewish workers by putting key Bundist principles into practice through sport—socialism, working-class consciousness, internationalism, and the promotion of Yiddish culture. Morgnshtern encouraged group activities such as gymnastics, hiking, cycling, swimming, and eurhythmics. Zajd compiled dozens of scrapbooks containing original and typed materials documenting the history and activities of Morgnshtern during the 1920s and 1930s: leadership and conference proceedings; competitions and meets; sports clubs; and participation in the Workers' Olympiads. Included in the collection are striking collages such as the above left image of two gymnasts enthusiastically demonstrating their skills against an industrial backdrop of factories and smokestacks. Though Zajd's monograph was never finished, his collection is a rich resource for those hoping to better understand the organization.





### **"Yiddish Pills" and Summer Thrills: Reconstituting Yiddishism at Camp Hemshekh**

Sandra Fox explored how postwar Jewish leaders, especially Yiddishists, turned to summer camps as vital spaces for cultural renewal. Focusing on Camp Hemshekh, Fox illuminated how Yiddishists—often over-

looked in accounts of Jewish education and identity-building—used the camp to reimagine Yiddish culture for a new generation. Drawing from her book *The Jews of Summer: Summer Camp and Jewish Culture in Postwar America*, Fox examined how Camp Hemshekh's founders envisioned sleepaway camp as a remedy for cultural decline, shaping a new postwar Yiddishism rooted in community and education. This program was the second in YIVO's ongoing series held in conjunction with the Jewish Labor and Political Archives (JLPA) digitization project.

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

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

As of December 31, 2025, the JLPA project has raised over \$6.3 million toward its \$8.5 million goal. **We are grateful to the many contributors who have come forward to support the project in an effort to replace those funds lost from the termination of Federal funding. There is still time for you to support the digitization of the JLPA! Please consider directing a contribution to the JLPA to ensure this historic archival resource is available to a global audience.** Your commitment will be matched by a challenge grant from an anonymous foundation, amplifying your support!

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

For more information and naming opportunities, please contact Melissa S. Cohen at **212.294.6156** or via email at **[mcohen@yivo.org](mailto:mcohen@yivo.org)**.

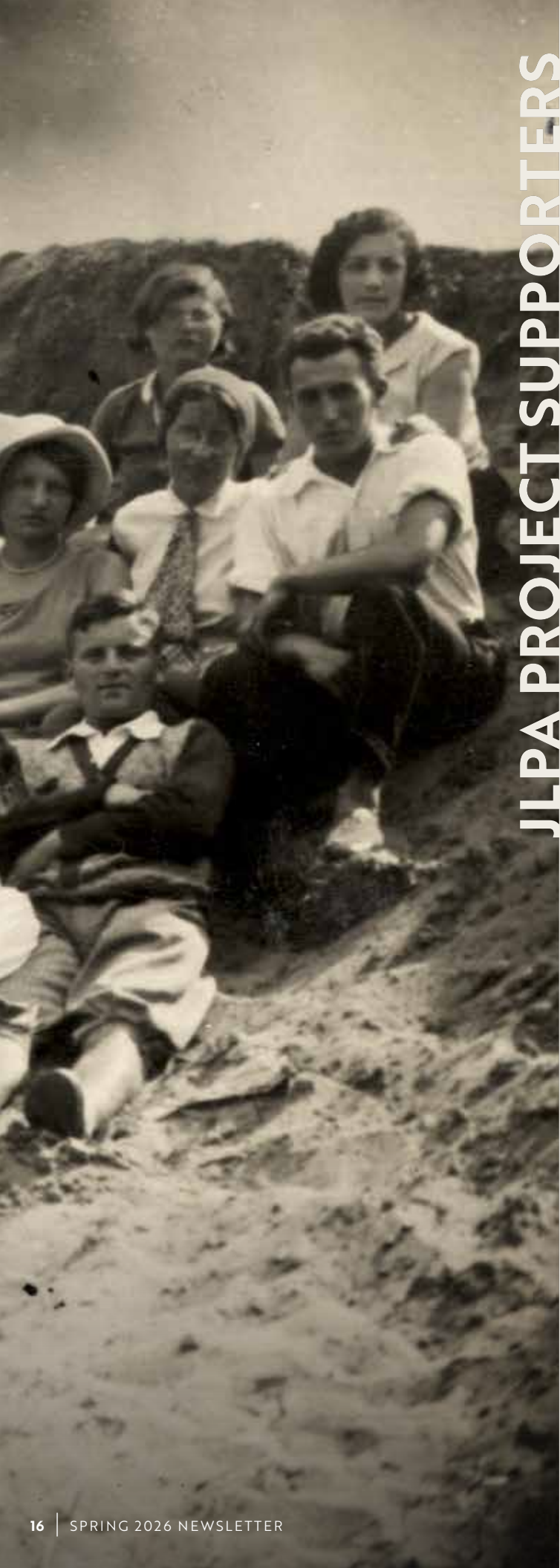
### **JLPA BY THE NUMBERS: TO DATE**



**Approximately**  
**3.5 million**  
**pages in the collection**

**80%** conserved  
**54%** processed  
**27%** digitized and available online

# JLPA PROJECT SUPPORTERS



## \$1,000,000+ Builder

Anonymous  
Ruth and David Levine  
Irene Pletka

## \$500,000+ Partner

## \$100,000+ Benefactor

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

## \$50,000+ Patron

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Julius C. Spiegel

## \$1,000+ Friend

Ellen Odoner and Edward Kerson

As of DECEMBER 31, 2025

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



Funded by:



on the basis of a decision  
of the Bundestag

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



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
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HUMANITIES

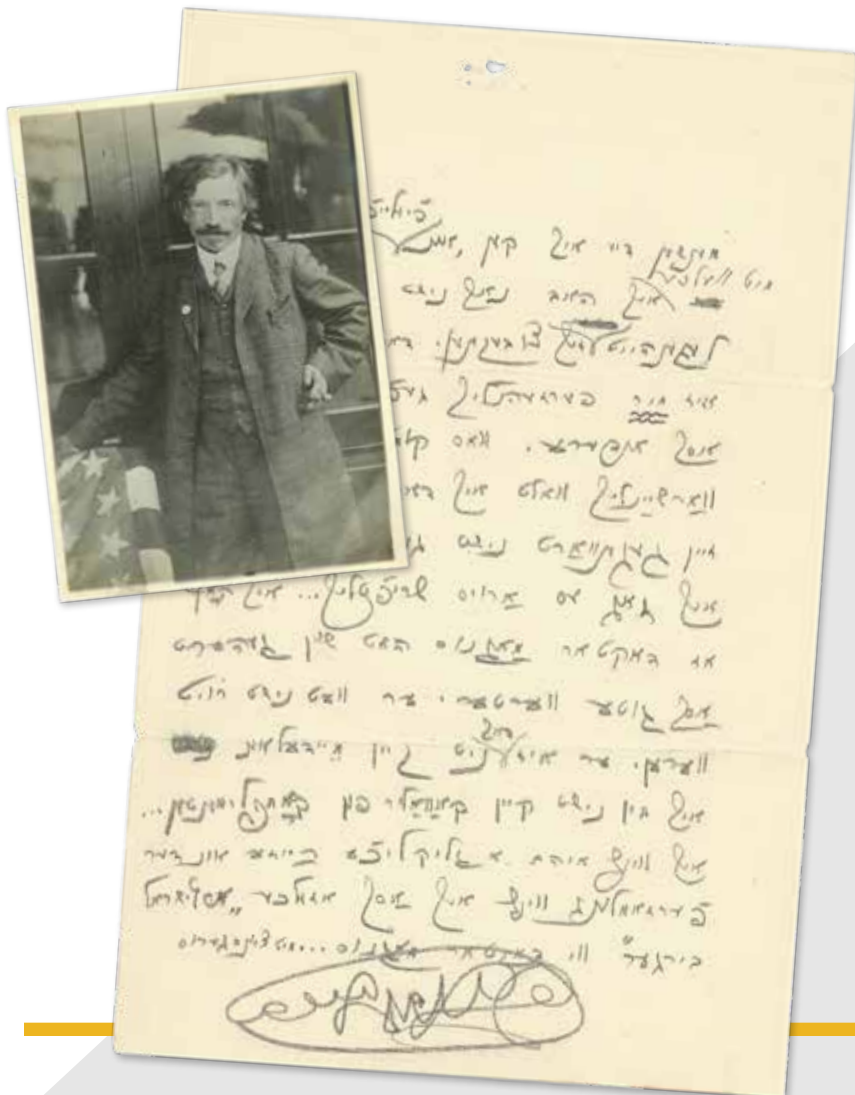
The National Endowment for the  
Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

# From the YIVO Collections

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

### The Collection of Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren

YIVO received the collection of artist, filmmaker, and daughter of Vilna, Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren. The Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren Vilna Collection includes taped interviews and accompanying transcripts of survivors from Vilna, notable Yiddish personalities, writers, artists, and scholars including Abraham Sutzkever, Samuel Bak, Fira Bramson, Bina Weinreich, Chana Mlotek, Benjamin Harshav, and many others. These interviews, as well as the thousands of photographs, documents, and manuscripts detailing life in Vilna before the war that comprise the collection were used in Jedwabnik Van Doren's acclaimed documentary *The World Was Ours*, which showcases four centuries of Jewish life in Vilna before the war. This collection stands as a testament to Mira Jedwabnik Van Doren's devotion to preserving and sharing this vibrant history and will be of great use to scholars and students interested in creating new projects that draw on her important work.



### Letters from Sholem Aleichem

B. Cassel was the editor of the newsletter of the Keidaner Association. An epistolary relationship developed between him and Sholem Aleichem. Cassel's grandson, Andrew W. Cassel, has now donated 19 pages, in Yiddish and in Russian, of letters from Sholem Aleichem, as well as from the latter's son-in-law, Yiddish and Hebrew writer Y. D. Berkowitz, and from Olga Rabinowitz, Sholem Aleichem's wife. These letters provide evidence of Sholem Aleichem's strenuous efforts to be translated, his financial worries, and his admiration for the cultural Zionist, Judah Magnes.

## Volunteering at the YIVO Archives

by ALYS KREMER

During the seven years I have volunteered at YIVO's archives, I have seen remarkable things.

In the collection of a German Jewish family that left Berlin in 1940, their Third Reich passports stamped with a big red J. In a collection of research papers concerning my mother's village in Belarus, eyewitness accounts of the September 1942 murder of the town's Jews including my great-grandparents.

I feel a deep connection to the documents I review and organize in my work at YIVO. They all tell a story, and sometimes that story comes very close to me.

Currently, I am working under the supervision of Project Archivist Ettie Goldwasser on the extensive archives of the Workmen's Circle (*Arbeter Ring*), an organization founded in New York in 1900. The Arbeter Ring continued the mission of the Jewish Labor Bund in the New World.

It is part of my own family story. My father was a member of Tsukunft, the youth movement of the Bund before the Second World War in Grodno, then a part of Poland. And my parents joined the Arbeter Ring not long after their arrival in New York to enjoy the social network and the health benefits. My brother and I learned folk dancing at Camp Kinder Ring in the mid-sixties. As part of a review of the Arbeter Ring files, I smiled when I came upon advertisements for Camp Kinder Ring from that period ("a wholesome setting").

One afternoon I was amazed to find a letter from the early 1950s about my husband's great-uncle Benjamin Brandzel, who was a Chicago trade unionist in the garment industry. When my in-laws first arrived in the United States in 1948, Uncle Bennie helped my late father-in-law, Chaim, with his first job at Hart Schaffner & Marx. After Chaim suggested some labor-saving innovations for a machine, Uncle Bennie told Chaim that he was not "worker material."

Why do I volunteer at YIVO? Because the archives document and bring to life the emergence of Eastern European Jews into the secular world. They celebrate creativity and tell us of the dreams and passions of Jews who lived before us. They are the best possible reminder that the Jews who were murdered during the Second World War were not only victims.

As the daughter and daughter-in-law of Shoah survivors, I have no doubt that YIVO holds our most valuable legacy and offers it to all. That is why you will find me with my sharpened pencil at the YIVO Archives every week.



### LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT

## Reorganizing the Strashun Rabbinic Collection

For several weeks, the Library has been reorganizing the Strashun Rabbinic collection. Items in this collection have periodically been misshelved due to the complexity of its call number system: each book is labeled with a double voy, a number, and another Hebrew letter or two; usually, there is then another number and a date. You can see the ease with which one might accidentally misplace an item. One of the joys of this cleanup effort—beyond the satisfaction of seeing everything beautifully arranged!—has been finding misshelved items and having the opportunity to examine them closely. Items have included *siddurim* dating as far back as 1771 and a miniature set of the Babylonian Talmud. Equally fascinating are volumes from the 18th and 19th centuries stamped with personal names and annotated by the original readers. Each book we open emphasizes the fact that this collection contains not only sacred texts, but sacred history.

Title page from Volume I of *En Ya'akov: me'asef le-khol agadot u-midrashim ha-mefuzarim be-khol ha-shishah sederim 'im p. Rashi ve-Tosafot ve-hidushe ha-Ramban*. Vilna: Bi-defus Sh. Y. Fin ve-A. Ts. Rozenkrants, 1869-1874. Strashun Rabbinic Collection, YIVO Library.

# אָ שיינעם דאַנק!

YIVO thanks its many incredible volunteers for all their hard work and assistance.

SUSAN MILAMED

LORRAINE KORN

LAUREL KALLEN

SOPHIA  
TARNAGURSKAYA

FAINA BURKO

MIMI SANDLER

ALYS KREMER

FAIVUS BRAUER

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OSNAT GREENBAUM

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LYNDA STANLEY

JOSHUA WALETZKY

DITA GARA

ROBERT WOLFSON

AARON LU

LIORA GREENBERGER

COLLECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS: 2025

**5.5 million**

pages digitized and  
available online to date

**1 million+**

visits to our digitized  
materials

**2,466**

collections

**55**

record groups (RGs) added to the Archives

► Explore our collections at [yivo.org/archives-library](https://yivo.org/archives-library).

# YIVO STORE יווֹאָ-געשעפֿט

“

... a collage-like portrait of Jewish communities across eras and continents ... often surprising ... the lavishly illustrated celebratory volume ... present[s] a vital history of Jewish communities across the centuries and around the world ...

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL,  
Diane Cole



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# Education

## YIVO's SHINE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SERIES

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

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



**ASHKENAZI HISTORY**



**FOLKLORE**



**YIDDISH THEATER**



**FOOD & COOKING**



**COMEDY**

**30,000+** registrations  
from **76 countries** and **all 50 states!**

**YIVO.ORG/SHINE**

**GET STARTED TODAY!**

## Spring Classes

This spring we are offering 27 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](https://yivo.org/classes).

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

### BEGINNER YIDDISH

*12 weeks  
12 total sessions  
1.5 hours each*

#### BEGINNER I YIDDISH

**(Sunday)**

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

**(Tuesday)**

Feb. 17 – May 5 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
Instructor: Nina Warnke

**(Wednesday)**

Feb. 18 – May 27 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
Instructor: Vera Szabó

**(In-person in NYC)**

Feb. 18 – May 20 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET  
Instructor: Moishele Alfonso

#### BEGINNER II YIDDISH

**(Sunday Morning)**

Mar. 8 – Jun. 7 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
Instructor: Malena Chinski

**(Sunday Afternoon)**

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Rose Mintzer-Sweeney

#### BEGINNER III YIDDISH

**(Sunday)**

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Nina Warnke

**(Thursday)**

Feb. 19 – May 28 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
Instructor: Lucas Fiszman

**(In-person in NYC)**

Feb. 23 – Jun. 1 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET  
Instructor: Nachum Lerner

#### BEGINNER IV YIDDISH

**(Monday)**

Mar. 9 – Jun. 8 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
Instructor: Malena Chinski

**(In-person in NYC)**

Feb. 17 – May 26 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Nachum Lerner



**85** classes  
**876** students  
**21** countries  
**37** U.S. states

## INTER-MEDIATE YIDDISH

*12 weeks  
 12 total sessions  
 1.5 hours each*

### INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH

(Sunday)

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET  
 Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

### INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH

(Tuesday)

Feb. 17 – May 12 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Nina Warnke

### INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH

(Thursday)

Mar. 5 – Jun. 11 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Malena Chinski

### INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH

(Sunday)

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
 Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

## SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN ENGLISH)

*10 weeks  
 10 total sessions  
 1.5 hours each*

### The Life and Thought of Hillel Zeitlin

Mar. 8 – May 10 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Samuel Glauber

### The World of Eastern European Jewish Migrants

Mar. 8 – May 10 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Aleksandra Jakubczak

## SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN YIDDISH)

*10 weeks  
 10 total sessions  
 1.5 hours each*

### A Walk through College Yiddish

Feb. 25 – May 27 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Dovid Braun  
 \* 12 weeks, 12 total sessions

### The Art of the Yiddish Feuilleton

Mar. 8 – May 10 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

## ADVANCED YIDDISH

*12 weeks  
 12 total sessions  
 1.5 hours each*

\* Unless otherwise noted

### ADVANCED I YIDDISH

(Monday)

Feb. 23 – May 11 | 1:30pm-3:00pm ET  
 Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

(Tuesday)

Feb. 17 – May 12 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

### ADVANCED II YIDDISH

(Monday)

Feb. 23 – May 18 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Vera Szabó

(Thursday)

Feb. 19 – May 28 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Lucas Fisman

### ADVANCED IV YIDDISH

(Sunday Afternoon)

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

(Sunday Evening)

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

### ADVANCED TOPICS IN YIDDISH LITERATURE & GRAMMAR

#### Autobiographical Writing in Yiddish

Feb. 17 – May 19 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Sheva Zucker  
 \* 12 weeks, 24 total sessions

#### Writers Writing about Writers

Feb. 22 – May 10 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET  
 Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

\* Unless otherwise noted



## Winter Classes at YIVO

This winter, YIVO and Bard College presented the 2026 YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization, held online from January 6-23, 2026. Now in its fifteenth year, the program offered an in-depth exploration of Ashkenazi Jewish life and culture, bringing together an exceptional faculty including Anita Norich, Samuel Kassow, J. Hoberman, and Maya Benton, along with Jonathan Brent, Elzbieta Janicka, Harvey Klehr, Tony Michels, and Ilan Stavans. Conducted on Zoom with small class sizes, the Winter Program allows for meaningful engagement with leading scholars worldwide.

The program's keynote event, *The Fall of the Weimar Republic*, featured renowned historian Sir Richard J. Evans, in a free, public lecture examining the political and social forces behind Weimar's collapse.

Running concurrently, the winter Yiddish program offered Yiddish-language seminars led by Shane Baker, Dovid Braun, Adi Mahalel, Eugene Orenstein, Josh Price, and Paula Teitelbaum, covering Yiddish language, literature, theater, and history.

Students perform on stage at the **סיימ** (*siem* [graduation]) for the 2025 YIVO-Bard Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture. Photo by Melanie Einzig.

## 2026 YIVO-Bard Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature & Culture

**JUNE 21 – JULY 31, 2026**

► Learn more and apply at [summerprogram.yivo.org](https://summerprogram.yivo.org).

This summer, our six-week intensive program will take place in person. It offers peerless instruction in the Yiddish language and an in-depth exploration of the literature and culture of Eastern European Jewry and its communities around the world. The program features daily Yiddish language study from beginner to advanced levels, history and culture seminars, *shmues* (conversation) classes, a theater workshop, lectures by visiting scholars, a Yiddish song workshop, and more.

The YIVO-Bard Summer Program shares with students the riches of Yiddish Civilization through the printed and spoken Yiddish word. We hope you will join us this summer in New York City!

**International and Financial Aid Application Deadline: February 12**  
**General Application Deadline: February 27**

**Join us one week prior for our annual Refresher Course:**

**JUNE 15-18, 2026** | Instructor: Dovid Braun

During the week before the Summer Program begins, participants will review the structure and use of Yiddish before embarking on their next level in the Program's intensive setting.

## **NEW!** Join Us for the Summer Semester

For students eager to begin or to continue their Yiddish learning or to take a topic-based seminar over the summer without the full-time commitment of the YIVO-Bard Summer Program, beginning in Summer 2026, YIVO will offer a lineup of live, online Yiddish classes at multiple levels of proficiency, as well as seminars and electives in Jewish history, literature, and culture. Please check [yivo.org/summer-semester](https://yivo.org/summer-semester) for more information.

### Conference Celebrating YIVO Centennial Held in Lithuania

From October 19-21, 2025, Vilnius University and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania hosted the conference “YIVO in Vilnius and Around the World,” marking the centennial anniversary of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research that was founded in Vilna (now Vilnius) in 1925. In recognition of this milestone, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania has declared 2025 the Year of YIVO’s Centennial.

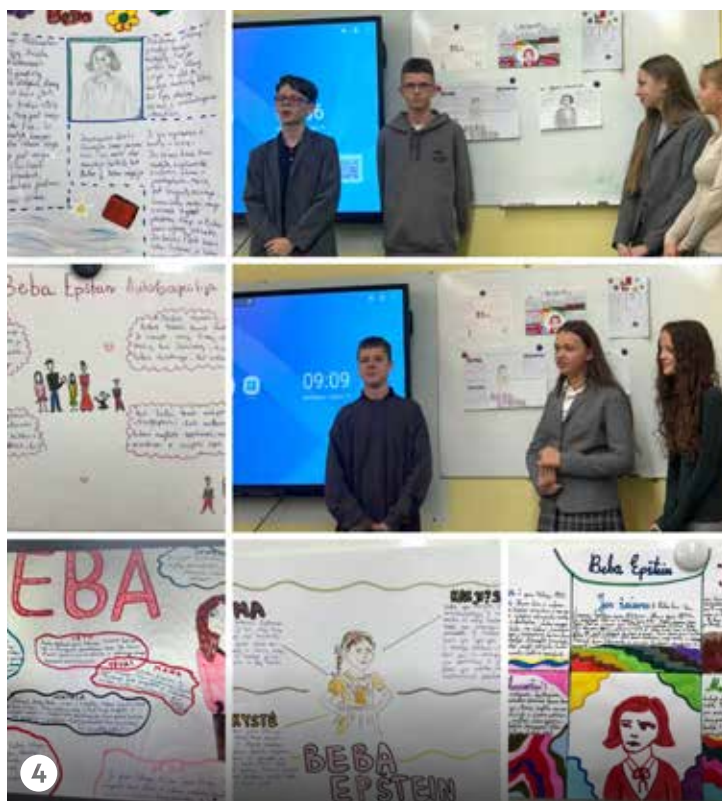
The conference featured presentations by scholars from Lithuania, Poland, the United States, Argentina, Germany, and Israel. Jonathan Brent, YIVO’s Executive Director & CEO, delivered an important lecture at the event—*YIVO’s Commitment to the Future: New York, Vilnius, And Beyond*.

### Antanas Ulpis Posthumously Receives Award for Advancing Lithuanian–Jewish Relations and Understanding

YIVO, in partnership with the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, proudly awarded the inaugural Award for Advancing Lithuanian–Jewish Relations and Understanding on October 17, 2025. This first-ever award honors Antanas Ulpis, former Director of the Lithuanian National Book Chamber, who received the distinction posthumously for his extraordinary courage and moral vision during the Soviet period. At great personal risk, Ulpis saved thousands of Jewish books and archival materials slated for destruction by Soviet authorities, safeguarding priceless records of Jewish scholarship, culture, and daily life. His selfless actions ensured the survival of a cultural legacy that continues to educate generations around the world.

### Alytus St. Benedict Gymnasium Students in Lithuania Commemorate the Holocaust

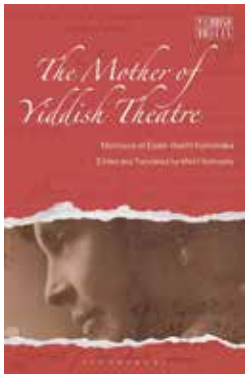
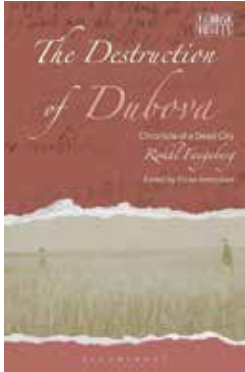
On September 23, 2025, students from the Alytus St. Benedict Gymnasium in Alytus, Lithuania, commemorated National Memorial Day for the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews with a series of posters inspired by YIVO’s online exhibition, *Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl*, translated into Lithuanian with the support of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The first exhibition in the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum, *The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl* explores Eastern European Jewish life in the 20th and 21st centuries through the true story of Beba Epstein, whose autobiography is the centerpiece of the exhibition. Irena Leščinskienė, Deputy Director for Education and Lithuanian Language and Literature Teacher at Alytus Gymnasium, was introduced to Beba’s story and the online exhibition during a teachers’ training program led by YIVO in Lithuania in June 2025.



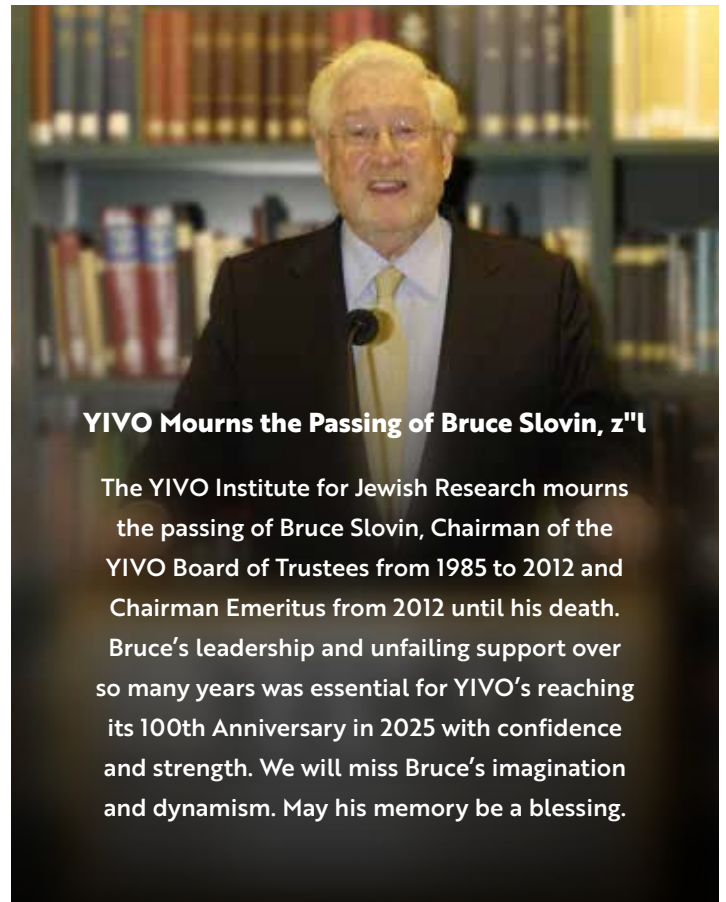
3 Jonathan Brent (YIVO Executive Director & CEO), Tomas Ulpis (Antanas Ulpis's son), and Aušrinė Žilinskienė (Director General of the Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania). Photo courtesy of Vygaudas Juozaitis.

4 Students from Alytus St. Benedict Gymnasium in Lithuania with school projects inspired by YIVO's online exhibition, *Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl*.

## Two New Volumes Published in the Yiddish Voices Translation Series



The latest two volumes in the *Yiddish Voices* series, a partnership between YIVO and Bloomsbury, were published in summer 2025. The first, *The Destruction of Dubova: Chronicle of a Dead City*, is a searing account of pogrom violence by the writer and documentarian Rokhl Faygnberg, and the second, *The Mother of Yiddish Theatre: Memoirs of Ester-Rokhl Kaminska*, is the memoir of the Yiddish actress and diva Ester-Rokhl Kaminska. Both works were published exactly a century ago, in Warsaw in 1926. Both Kaminska and Faygnberg were exceptional as women cultural pioneers, and both were witness to the vitality and fragility of Ukrainian Jewish life and interwar Polish culture. The first book in the series, *Three Yiddish Plays by Women: Female Jewish Perspectives, 1880-1920*, was published in 2023. All volumes of the series are available for purchase at the YIVO Store.



## YIVO Mourns the Passing of Bruce Slovin, z"l

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research mourns the passing of Bruce Slovin, Chairman of the YIVO Board of Trustees from 1985 to 2012 and Chairman Emeritus from 2012 until his death. Bruce's leadership and unfailing support over so many years was essential for YIVO's reaching its 100th Anniversary in 2025 with confidence and strength. We will miss Bruce's imagination and dynamism. May his memory be a blessing.

# In the Media

Here are some of YIVO's media highlights from summer and fall 2025:

### **St. Louis Jewish Light** (DECEMBER 10, 2025)

The place that keeps 'My Bubbe's' Yiddish alive just hit 100 years

### **The New York Times** (DECEMBER 8, 2025)

The Best Historical Fiction of 2025

### **JNS** (DECEMBER 3, 2025)

YIVO Institute raise \$34 million to expand exhibitions, digitize archives

### **Hadassah Magazine** (NOVEMBER 2025)

A Coffee Table Book With 100 Jewish Artifacts

### **Jewish Review of Books** (FALL 2025)

Shtetl Revenant

### **The Conference of European National Librarians** (OCTOBER 23, 2025)

First Recipient of New Award for Advancing Lithuanian-Jewish Relations and Understanding

### **In geveb** (OCTOBER 17, 2025)

One Hundred Unique Tidbits: An Interview with Stefanie Halpern about YIVO's New Centennial Coffee Table Book

### **Jewish Link** (SEPTEMBER 18, 2025)

Words and music about words

### **The New York Times** (SEPTEMBER 17, 2025)

The Dueling Scholars Who Bickered a Yiddish Dictionary Into Existence

### **New York Jewish Week / JTA**

(SEPTEMBER 17, 2025)

At YIVO, an unfinished Yiddish dictionary gets the last word — as opera

### **The Forward** (SEPTEMBER 17, 2025)

An unprecedented, and unfinished, work of Yiddish scholarship is now an opera

### **Haaretz** (SEPTEMBER 14, 2025)

YIVO at 100: How in One New York Institution, Yiddish Lingers Between Revival and Survival

### **Moment Magazine** (SEPTEMBER 10, 2025)

Visual Moment | A Grogger, a Bong and a Pair of Red Shoes

### **Forward** (SEPTEMBER 3, 2025)

Opera about a unique Yiddish dictionary to have its world premiere

### **Spectrum NY1** (AUGUST 29, 2025)

YIVO Learning and Media Center Opens

### **The New York Review** (AUGUST 21, 2025)

Elegy for the Shtetl

### **The Wall Street Journal** (JULY 29, 2025)

12 Books to Read: The Best Reviews of July

### **Jewish Book Council** (JULY 29, 2025)

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

### **Jewish Renaissance** (SUMMER 2025)

Happy Birthday YIVO!

### **Jewish Standard** (JULY 24, 2025)

Writing Jewish history

### **Jewish Link** (JULY 24, 2025)

YIVO Unveils Centennial Exhibitions Exploring Jewish Life, Memory and Cultural Resilience

### **The Nation** (JULY 9, 2025)

The World Chaim Grade Lost

► Read these articles and more at:  
[yivo.org/2025](https://yivo.org/2025)

# Our Supporters Make All the Difference

YIVO gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies for their commitment in 2025. The list below reflects pledges and cash payments. In addition, we extend our gratitude to all YIVO members, each of whom is critical to our success.

*Contributions  
and pledges received*  
JANUARY 1, 2025  
– DECEMBER 31, 2025

## \$500,000+

Amy Starck and Jack Cogen  
Miriam Cohen z"l  
Ruth and David Levine  
Manat Foundation

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

Anonymous (2)  
Atran Foundation  
Conference on Jewish Material Claims  
Against Germany, The German  
Federal Ministry of Finance, and  
the Foundation Remembrance,  
Responsibility and Future  
First Hungarian Literary Society, Inc.  
Howard Gerson Goldberg z"l  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Mirka Knaster and Larry Jacobs  
Susanne and Jacob J. Morowitz  
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Judith E. Weisfuse and Michael B. Wax

## \$10,000-\$24,999

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Nancy and Andrew Adelson  
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Israel M. Zeligman z"l  
Clara Zake z"l  
Alexander Zaltaberg z"l  
Shulamith Zelazo Justman  
Israel M. Zeligman z"l  
Herbert Zimiles z"l  
Miriam T. and Bernard Zuger z"l

## Provide Support That Endures

Become a member of the YIVO's 1925 Legacy Society.

Comprised of people who have included YIVO in their estate planning through a bequest or other forms of planned gifts, as a member of the 1925 Legacy Society, you ensure that YIVO will continue in its mission to preserve, study, and celebrate East European Jewish culture.

We can assist you and your advisors in customizing a plan. Please contact Melissa S. Cohen at **212.294.6156** or [mcohen@yivo.org](mailto:mcohen@yivo.org).

- **Make a gift through your will**
- **Stock Gifts** – donate appreciated stock or mutual funds to receive market-value deductions, avoid capital gains taxes, and support YIVO.
- **Reduce taxes on your retirement plan assets** – donating Individual Retirement Assets (IRAs) and 401(k)s/403(b)s will allow you to avoid potential double tax.

- **Make an easy gift and save on taxes** – an easy and tax-wise way to support YIVO can be accomplished by changing the beneficiary designations on a document or form—including retirement account assets, a savings account, certificate of deposit, or a life insurance policy.



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

# NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2026

### ABOUT YIVO

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



Follow us  
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### CONTACT

**212.246.6080 | [yivo.org](http://yivo.org)**

General Inquiries  
**[info@yivo.org](mailto:info@yivo.org)**

Archival Inquiries  
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Photo/Film Archives | **[photofilm@yivo.org](mailto:photofilm@yivo.org)**  
Sound Archives | **[soundarchives@yivo.org](mailto:soundarchives@yivo.org)**

Library Inquiries  
**[reference@yivo.org](mailto: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. **L N Q R W 4 5 6**

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 C E L**

by bus **M1 M2 M3 M7 M14 M55**

### HOURS *[closed on major federal and Jewish holidays]*

**Gallery Hours**  
Sun–Thu 9:30am–7:30pm  
Fri 9:30am–3:30pm  
Sat **CLOSED**

**Reading Room Hours**  
Mon–Thu 9:30am–4:30pm  
**Administrative Hours**  
Mon–Thu 9:00am–5:00pm  
Fri 9:00am–4:00pm