



LOCATED IN
THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011-6301
yivo.org • 212.246.6080

Newsletter

FALL 2018

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.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



The founding vision of YIVO was that of a global institution that would reach across national borders to unite all Jews of Ashkenazi descent with their culture and history. YIVO's first *zamlers* (collectors) were in Eastern Europe, Russia, France, Germany, England, Argentina, as well as in New York, Chicago, and Detroit. Today, in addition to YIVO organizations in Buenos Aires and Chicago, YIVO has opened an office in Vilnius in the Lithuanian National Library, and we

are opening an office in London. We work with partnering institutions throughout the United States, Israel, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Germany, and England; our Shine Online Educational Series reaches over 4,000 individuals around the world from Japan, Uganda, Uruguay, and the Philippines to Russia, Poland, Belarus, Western Europe, England, Australia and all 50 states in the U.S. YIVO's online Encyclopedia is read by 250,000 individuals worldwide.

We are building our digital future by inaugurating work on the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum and by completing work on the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project. Our goal is to translate these rare archival materials into English and other languages and make them available to general audiences and scholars around the world in a free-access website. Come with us on YIVO's extraordinary journey and help us build an organization for the future, for our children and grandchildren around the world.

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director & CEO

Contact

tel 212.246.6080
fax 212.292.1892
yivo.org

General Inquiries

YIVOMAIL@YIVO.CJH.ORG

Archival Inquiries

ARCHIVES@YIVO.CJH.ORG
Photo/Film Archives | PHOTOFILM@YIVO.CJH.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. **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

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

THURSDAY
SEP 06
7:00pm
LECTURE

Adam Michnik Discusses Antisemitism in 20th Century Poland

Polish-Jewish relations have once again become an important topic. In this talk, historian Adam Michnik offers his interpretation of the history of antisemitism—and efforts to resist it—in twentieth-century Poland.

SUNDAY
SEP 16
1:00pm

ANNUAL
NUSAKH VILNE
MEMORIAL
PROGRAM

Nusakh Vilne Memorial

An annual commemoration of the Jewish community of Vilna through poetry, music, and presentation. This year features a short film and discussion with scholar David Fishman on the Paper Brigade, a group of Jewish intellectuals who risked their lives to save books and documents from destruction during the Holocaust by hiding them in the Vilna ghetto. *Sponsored by Nusakh Vilne.*

WEDNESDAY
OCT 03
7:00pm

BOOK LAUNCH

Yiddish Tales for Modern Times

A release of a new collection of Yiddish tales—*In the Land of Happy Tears: Yiddish Tales for Modern Times*—edited by writer, translator, and literary scholar David Stromberg. Debra Caplan hosts an evening of readings from the tales and a discussion of the collection's genesis and translation process.

THURSDAY
OCT 04
6:00pm

IN DIALOGUE
SERIES

LECTURE &
CONVERSATION

IN DIALOGUE: Polish-Jewish Relations in the Pre-Modern Period

EVENT LOCATION » **Fordham University
Lincoln Center** (*Details at yivo.org/Events*)

Magda Teter (Fordham University) and Brian Porter-Szűcs (University of Michigan) discuss the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the period of the partitions. *Co-presented with Columbia University and Fordham University.*

TUESDAY
OCT 09
7:00pm

BOOK LAUNCH

Historical Atlas of Hasidism by Marcin Wodziński

The first cartographic reference book on one of the modern era's most vibrant and important mystical movements. Marcin Wodziński presents the book and many of its maps, followed by a conversation with Wodziński and David Biale about this new pathbreaking work.

WEDNESDAY
OCT 17
3:00pm
BOOK LAUNCH

NUDGE, WINK IN WHITECHAPEL: Secret Histories from the Lyrics of the Cockney-Yiddish Music Hall at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Historian Vivi Lachs analyzes songs from the late 1890s that engage with the changing roles of men and women, sex in and out of marriage, and the community's 'dirty linen', uncovering previously untold histories.

TUESDAY
OCT 23
7:00pm
LECTURE

EXHIBITING DIFFICULT HISTORIES: The 'Anti-Zionist' Campaign in Poland, 1967–1968, and Its Echoes Today

Dariusz Stola, the director of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, examines the communist government of Poland's 1968 campaign that slandered, harassed, and persecuted half of Poland's Jews into exile. He discusses how it is presented in a current POLIN exhibit, the controversies surrounding the exhibition, and how this story continues to impact Polish society.

THURSDAY
NOV 15
6:00pm

IN DIALOGUE
SERIES

LECTURE &
CONVERSATION

IN DIALOGUE: Polish-Jewish Relations during the Interwar Period

EVENT LOCATION » **Fordham University
Lincoln Center** (*Details at yivo.org/Events*)

Samuel Kassow (Trinity College) and Paul Brykczynski (University of Michigan) discuss Polish and Jewish society and culture, and political and ideological transformations, including nationalism and antisemitism during the interwar period. *Co-presented with Columbia University and Fordham University.*

THURSDAY
DEC 06
7:00pm

SIDNEY KRUM
YOUNG ARTISTS
CONCERT SERIES

SWEET IS THY VOICE: The Song of Songs in Concert

A concert featuring a selection of songs set to music excerpts of *Shir Hashirim* ("The Song of Songs") or texts inspired by it, in languages ranging from Hebrew and Yiddish to English, Russian, German, and Latin. The concert includes classics by Claudio Monteverdi, J. S. Bach, and David Lang; little-known settings from Joseph Rumshinsky, Sholem Pearlmutter and Herman Wohl, Mikhail Gnesin, Lazare Saminsky, and Lyubov Streicher; and newly-commissioned works by Loren Loiacono and Na'ama Zisser.

SUNDAY
DEC 23
7:00pm
CONCERT

Ruth Rubin's Legacy of Yiddish Song

An evening of singing, stories, and reminiscences by renowned vocalist and scholar Ruth Rubin's family, friends, colleagues, and students, who continue to be inspired by her work, and a celebration of YIVO's Ruth Rubin Legacy online exhibition. *Co-sponsored by The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and Yiddish New York.*

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION

VISIT: yivo.org/Events

CALL: 917.606.8290

EMAIL: boxoffice@yivo.cjh.org

[HOURS: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS · 9:00AM-5:00PM]

Unless 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 at yivo.org/Video.

NEWS FROM YIVO

REFLECTIONS ON YIVO's 2018 Literary Tour of Jewish Galicia

by EDDY PORTNOY

YIVO's newest tour was an exciting trip to the heart of Jewish Galicia, the areas of Poland and Ukraine that were once home to large, vibrant Jewish communities. Historian and scholar Sam Kassow led participants through the history of Jewish life in Galicia, and gave a closer look at the literary lives of many major writers in their places of birth.

Touring the towns, the remaining synagogues, and the cemeteries of these locales was not only edifying, but the literary readings that we did in the very places that these great literary works were created was incredibly meaningful. Hearing the words of "Monish," the first poem written by the classic Yiddish writer, Y.L. Peretz, in the synagogue in his hometown of Zamość was very moving.

Equally as dramatic were readings of Bruno Schulz in Drohobych and Nobel prize-winning Shmuel Yosef Agnon in Buczacz, as well as in Chernivtsi, where we read and discussed the works of Paul Celan, Aaron Applefeld, Rosa Auslander, Itzik Manger, and Dan Pagis. The Jewish literature of the region is a rich tapestry that exists in multiple languages—Yiddish, Polish, German, and Hebrew—and is one that reflects the time and place in which it was created. To experience the literature in its birthplace brought new dimension to its meaning.

We also visited Vyzhnytsia, an important Hasidic center. There we read *Tales of the Baal Shem Tov* next to the running brook thought to have served as his *mikveh*. Lastly, we stopped in Lviv, a small metropolis that was once home to about 150,000 Jews and a vibrant cultural life. Numerous rabbis, writers, and historians walked its streets. To see what once was, the rich cultural lives of the Jews of Galicia and the wealth of literature they produced, was an unforgettable experience. ❶

READ MORE AT: yivo.org/GaliciaTour2018

REFLECTIONS ON YIVO's 2018 Lithuania & Poland Study Tour

by ALEX WEISER

Religious, secular, Zionist, Bundist. The makeup of the participants on YIVO's Lithuania and Poland Study Tour in many ways reflected the diversity of the Jewish world whose remnants we were exploring.

It was a diversity we saw captured in the matseves of the Jewish cemeteries we visited. The varying cultural, religious, and political convictions of the memorialized were poignantly reflected in combinations of Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish, and Russian inscribed on gravestones that ranged from plain and unadorned to richly ornate, with religious, political, or artistic iconography. We saw similar diversity in memorial sites and in museums, where the mixed language and divergent narratives reflect the perspectives of those doing the remembering.

After pogroms, two world wars, the *Shoah*, the oppression of Jewry by the Soviet Union, and mass Jewish migrations, the old Jewish world, once a tumultuous hot bed of Jewish culture, is now gone. Today, we often find ourselves looking back to the old Jewish world for inspiration to create continuity and to build our future on the foundation of the past. In doing so, we are faced with pressing questions: How do we remember that world? How does that world relate to this world? How can and how should this history inform the culture and the political life we create today?

With these questions in mind it was fascinating to visit beautiful synagogues and Jewish community centers throughout Lithuania and Poland—some of which are still active, though with much smaller communities now—trying to answer those questions through the work they do: the upkeep of heritage sites, memorials, education initiatives, community gatherings, and *Shabes* dinners. ❷

READ MORE AT: yivo.org/StudyTour2018



Save the Date

On **November 14**, YIVO will host the **2018 Gala Award Dinner honoring Irene Pletka**

for her exemplary leadership, inspiring generosity, and outstanding commitment to the preservation of Jewish history and culture. Irene is Vice Chairman of the YIVO Board and Founder and Chairman of the Kronhill Pletka Foundation, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Yiddish language, secular Jewish culture, education, and the arts. More than 200 people are expected to attend.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Summer Program and Honoring Chava Lapin

On July 11, YIVO celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program and honored Chava Lapin, whose dedication to the Yiddish language as a teacher, scholar, and YIVO board member for over forty years has inspired generations. Hosted by actor Shane Baker, the evening featured speeches from leading scholars such as Kathryn Hellerstein and David Roskies, musical performances by

Daniel Kahn, Zalmen Mlotek, Eléonore Biezunski, and Lauren Brody, and comedic skits by Mr. Baker. Guests were treated to a buffet dinner and dessert. The evening celebrated the impact of the summer program, which has been held every summer for half a century, and has trained generations of students to embrace the richness and complexity of Yiddish language, literature, and culture. ❸

Antanas Ulpis, Rescuer of Jewish History, Honored at AJL Conference

Antanas Ulpis (1904-1981), the Lithuanian librarian who saved the rare treasures of Jewish history and culture (including the books and documents of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project) by hiding them from Soviet authorities for over 40 years, was honored at the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Boston, on June 20, 2018.

Mr. Ulpis's son, Dainius, accepted an award in his late father's honor presented by YIVO staff members Lyudmila Sholokhova and Roberta Newman and Lara Lempert, Head of Judaica Division of the Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania. Sholokhova, Newman, and Lempert, along with Professor David E. Fishman (via prerecorded video) also delivered presentations at a panel entitled "The Role of Individuals in Rescuing the Vilna Collections." ❹

EDUCATION

Fall Classes

Register for fall classes at yivo.org/Classes.

Beginning Yiddish • Instructor: Sheva Zucker

10 SESSIONS | WEDNESDAYS | 6:00PM-8:00PM
STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

For students new to the Yiddish language, this class covers the alphabet, elementary grammar, holidays, stories, and songs.

Intermediate Yiddish • Instructor: Paula Teitelbaum

10 SESSIONS | MONDAYS | 6:00PM-8:00PM
STARTS MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018

For students comfortable with the *alefbeyts* and basic conversation, this class will enhance skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Hasidism: A New History • Instructor: David Biale

6 SESSIONS | MONDAYS | 6:00PM-8:00PM
STARTS MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

Presenting the latest research findings on the history of Hasidism, from the 18th to the 21st centuries, this class will involve reading of primary sources and be based on the newly published *Hasidism: A New History*.

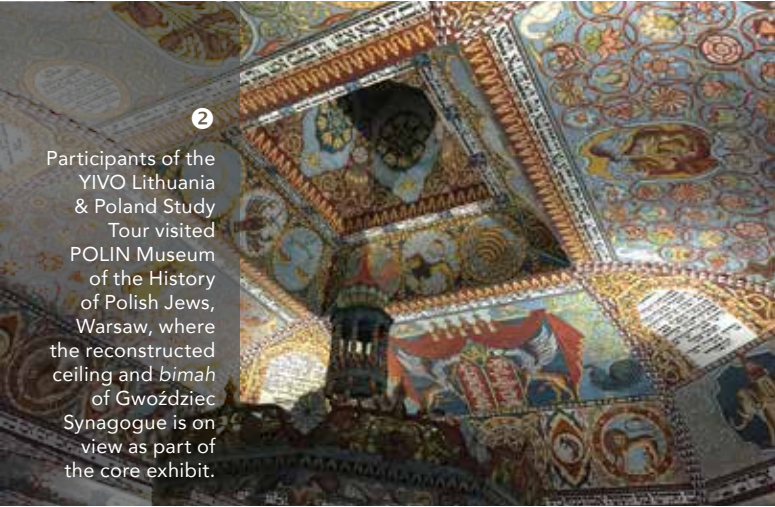
1

A memorial wall constructed of fragments of Jewish headstones in Chernivtsi, Bukovina Region, Ukraine, visited by participants of the YIVO Literary Tour of Jewish Galicia.



2

Participants of the YIVO Lithuania & Poland Study Tour visited POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, where the reconstructed ceiling and *bimah* of Gwoździec Synagogue is on view as part of the core exhibit.



3

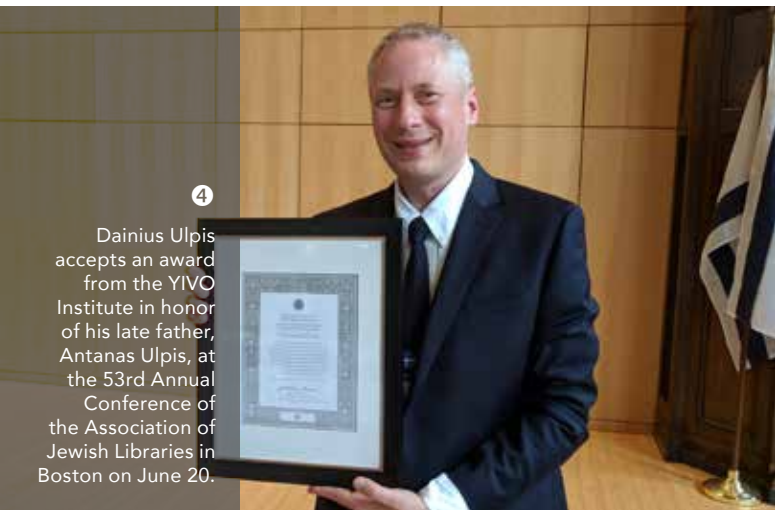
Ruth Levine, Chair of the YIVO Board of Directors (left) and Jonathan Brent, YIVO Executive Director (right) present Chava Lapin (center) with her award at the Summer Program 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 11.



PHOTO BY MELANIE EINZIG

4

Dainius Ulpis accepts an award from the YIVO Institute in honor of his late father, Antanas Ulpis, at the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Boston on June 20.



EXHIBITION

The Ruth Rubin Legacy:

AN ONLINE SOUND ARCHIVE OF YIDDISH FOLKSONGS

The Ruth Rubin Legacy, an online exhibition focusing on the field recordings of Yiddish songs made by the renowned vocalist/scholar between 1946 and the 1970s, was officially launched on April 4, 2018. Performed by some of the most extraordinary traditional singers of the 20th century, the site currently offers close to 1,800 sample songs with more being added regularly by Sound Archivists Lorin Sklamberg and Eléonore Biezunski. In addition to a state-of-the-art search portal in which songs can be browsed by title, genre, and performer, the exhibition includes a variety of other digitized documents from Rubin's papers, including lectures, concerts, radio interviews, videos, and rare and unpublished manuscripts and photographs, as well as a comprehensive discography and bibliography. The site enables users to submit transcriptions, translations, or additional information on songs or performers.

Visit YIVO's Ruth Rubin Legacy online exhibition:
exhibitions.yivo.org/RuthRubin



The Summer Program class of 2018.

PHOTO BY MELANIE EINZIG

Explore Jewish history and culture and access our unique collection of archival materials from the comfort of home with **YIVO'S SHINE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SERIES.**

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

2018 Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture

The Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, welcoming its largest student cohort in over a decade, with students aged 18-70 from as far as Poland, Kazakhstan, and Brazil. The program featured new courses taught by Anita Norich and Barbara Harshav, a tour of Hasidic Borough Park, and visits to Yiddish theatrical performances around New York City. The program continues to train

the next generation of Yiddish scholars, teachers, and students, fostering the continuation of the Yiddish language and culture for the next 50 years and beyond.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PHOTO BY STEVEN PISANO

March Mash-Up: Children's Day

(MARCH 4) YIVO's second Children's Day featured Purim-themed festivities for the whole family. The day included cookie-making with The Gefilteria's Liz Alpert, storytelling by Shane Baker, a singalong led by Eléonore Biezunski, and a puppet show with the theater troupe Chinese Theatre Works. Participants also enjoyed a coloring station where they colored an activity book designed specifically for the event, which featured images from the YIVO Archives as well as from event co-presenters the Center for Jewish History, American Jewish Historical Society, Leo Baeck Institute, and Yeshiva University Museum.

Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit Meet Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman

(MAY 7) In conjunction with our exhibition "Jews in Space: Members of the Tribe in Orbit," astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman discussed his experiences as a Jew who brought a Torah, a tallis, a dreidel, and other Judaica on his five trips into space. Hoffman shared stories of how he was inspired to become an astronaut and his memories of the Space Shuttle. Hoffman was joined by Dr. Valerie Neal, curator of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, who provided an overview of the history of Jewish astronauts and their achievements in space.

One of Those A Yiddish Play by Paula Prilutski in Translation

(MAY 14) Featuring a cast of Broadway and Off-Broadway veterans, YIVO presented an English-language stage reading of a newly-commissioned translation of Paula Prilutski's play, *One of Those*. Translated and directed by Allen Lewis Rickman, the play was originally presented by the legendary Esther-Rokhl Kaminska, "The Mother of Yiddish Theater," in 1912, and can now be found in the YIVO Archives.

Joachim Stutschewsky and the Music of His World

(MAY 22) Julian Schwarz, Marika Bournaki, Avi Nagin, and Alec Manasse performed a variety of chamber music by composer Joachim Stutschewsky and other composers of his coterie. They also performed a new composition by Ofer Ben-Amots, commissioned for this concert. The concert, co-sponsored by the American Society for Jewish Music, was part of YIVO's Sidney Krum Young Artists Concert Series. Neil W. Levin, YIVO's Anne E. Leibowitz Visiting Professor-in-Residence in Music, delivered a pre-concert lecture.

Watch past YIVO events at yivo.org/Video.

FROM THE YIVO ARCHIVES



Highlight: The YIVO Sound Archive

The Ruth Rubin Legacy online exhibition (DETAILED INSIDE) features Cindy Marshall's 1986 documentary *A Life of Song: Ruth Rubin*, which includes excerpts from a 1984 Montréal Yiddish songswapping session which reunites several of Rubin's field recording informants. Featured are singers Philip Sandler, Anna Berkowitz and Berl Silverberg. The outtakes from Marshall's video were recently identified in the collection of New York's Jewish Museum, which generously donated the footage for inclusion in Rubin's papers in the YIVO Archives. Portions of these treasures will soon be digitized and added to YIVO's website.

Pictured (from top): Rubin, Sandler, Berkowitz, and Silverberg. (Below) Rubin's transcription of Silverberg's children's song *Oy mayn baykhele*, part of which he performs in the film.

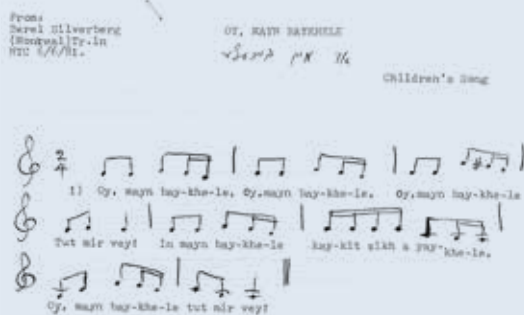


PHOTO BY MELANIE EINZIG

MEMBERSHIP

At YIVO our supporters make all the difference. Membership provides essential support for our educational and public programs, our world-renowned library and archive, access to our collections through our websites, and important research and publication projects. Membership at all levels qualifies you for great benefits.

All members receive:

- Invitations to members-only programs and events
- Discounts on our public programs
- Discounts on academic classes and programs, including online classes
- Institutional Newsletter
- **PLUS additional benefits at each level of giving:**

\$10 / \$18 / \$36 per month Sustainer

ONLINE DONORS ONLY

- 2 complimentary tickets (4 tickets at the \$36/month level) to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- YIVO drawstring bag and pen

\$54 Individual

- Notebook featuring a unique item from the YIVO collections, and a YIVO pen

\$100 Friend

- 1 complimentary ticket to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- Notebook featuring a unique item from the YIVO collections, and a YIVO pen

\$180 Sponsor

- 2 complimentary tickets to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- YIVO drawstring bag

\$360 Patron

- 4 complimentary tickets to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- YIVO umbrella
- Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Newsletter

\$500 Benefactor

- 6 complimentary tickets to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- Invitations to private talks on our collections and special exhibitions
- YIVO umbrella and drawstring bag
- Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Newsletter

\$1,000+ Builder

- 8 complimentary tickets to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- Invitations to private talks on our collections and special exhibitions
- Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Newsletter
- Private VIP tour of YIVO's Rare Book Room
- A copy of the *Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook*
- PLUS all of the gifts from the above membership categories

Do you have questions about membership?

Visit yivo.org/Membership, or call the YIVO Membership Office at 212.294.6131.

Major Gifts of \$10,000 or more have a major impact on our programs!

- ▶ To make a Major Gift or to remember YIVO in your will, please contact Irma Friedman, Chief Development Officer, at 212.294.6156 or IPFRIEDMAN@YIVO.CJH.ORG.

Recent Acquisition

Artwork by Al Blaustein Donated to YIVO

In January 2018, YIVO received almost 850 original pieces by artist Al Blaustein (1924-2004), whose works have been exhibited in some of the greatest museums worldwide, including the Met, MOMA, and the Whitney. Born in New York City to East European immigrant parents, Blaustein studied at Cooper Union School of Art and worked as an artist for LIFE magazine early in his career. Blaustein taught at Yale University and the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where he was a professor of fine arts for 45 years. The donation of Blaustein's art to YIVO includes paintings, etchings, and drawings depicting everything from cityscapes to nature studies, portraits to nudes, and butchered fish to discarded shoes.

Pictured: *Untitled [Nude]*. No date. 20x29 inches. Oil on masonite. RG 2132 Al Blaustein Collection, #2197. YIVO Archives.

