



15 West 16th Street
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Newsletter

FALL 2017



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Letter from the Director



Eight years ago I came to YIVO because I recognized YIVO's vital role as an archive and library in promoting essential historical research in 19th and 20th century European and specifically Jewish history. Over this time, I've come to understand YIVO not simply as a world famous archive and library but as something quite different. YIVO is a community of values, a commitment to Jewish memory, knowledge, pride in our history and identity, and belief in the creativity and future of our people. I invite you to experience everything

this community has to offer: explore our collections of Yiddish literature, the largest in the world; take our acclaimed courses both summer and winter as well as online; come to our lectures, conferences, and concerts; and become part of YIVO's vibrant future.

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is dedicated to the preservation and study of the history and culture of East European Jewry worldwide. For nearly a century, YIVO has pioneered new forms of Jewish scholarship, research, education, and cultural expression. Our public programs and exhibitions, as well as online and on-site courses, extend our global outreach and enable us to share our vast resources. The YIVO Archives contains more than 23 million original items and YIVO's Library has over 400,000 volumes—the single largest resource for such study in the world.

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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 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

SAVE THE DATE**Fall 2018: Honoring Leo Melamed**

YIVO is proud to announce that Leo Melamed will be the honoree at its gala dinner in the Fall of 2018 in New York.

Mr. Melamed, a Holocaust survivor, found safety in the U.S. during World War II. As chairman of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME Group), Melamed revolutionized markets with the creation of the world's largest futures market for financial instruments. He also spearheaded the creation and introduction of Globex®, the world's first global electronic futures trading platform.

An attorney by profession, Melamed is chairman emeritus of the CME Group, as well as chairman and CEO of Melamed & Associates, Inc., a global consulting enterprise.

The Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament and the Mayor of Vilnius Visit YIVO

On June 30, Viktoras Pranckietis (Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament) and a delegation of Lithuanian officials toured YIVO's collections. On July 20, Remigijus Šimašius (Mayor of the City of Vilnius) and Julius Pranevičius (Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in New York) visited YIVO. They viewed a selection of archival materials about Vilnius and YIVO's history there, including blueprints of YIVO's original building and historical photographs and documents from the Ministry for Jewish Affairs formed by the Lithuanian government in 1918-1924. Both meetings discussed the ongoing partnerships between YIVO and Lithuanian institutions and possible future collaborations.



2017 Study Tour to Lithuania and Poland

This June, twenty-one travelers from around the world participated in YIVO's 3rd annual Study Tour to Lithuania and Poland. World-renowned historian Professor Samuel Kassow served as scholar-in-residence and Irene Pletka, vice-chair of the YIVO Board, chaired the trip. The participants experienced the region's cultural treasures and discovered fascinating stories of old Warsaw, Krakow, and Vilnius, while also exploring their own heritage and personal history.

Participants enjoyed private tours of the POLIN Museum in Warsaw, as well as the Lithuanian Central State Archives and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, both of which are partnering with YIVO on its landmark Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections Project. They attended special receptions at the residence of the United States Ambassador in Vilnius and met with Lithuania's Foreign Minister. They also visited places of somber Holocaust memory, towns of historic Jewish significance, and participated in the widely popular Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, the largest Jewish festival in Europe.

For more information about YIVO's plans for the 2018 Study Tour, please contact Elina Bloch at EBLOCH@YIVO.CJH.ORG.



Revolutionary sailors and soldiers in the Taurida Palace in St. Petersburg (Petrograd), Russia, 1917. Papers of Herman Bernstein, YIVO Archives.

Author, journalist, translator, and playwright, Herman Bernstein was an editor of several Jewish periodicals. Born in Lithuania, Bernstein was a correspondent for the *New York Herald* in Russia in 1917-1920, and at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. He instituted a libel suit against Henry Ford and the *Dearborn Independent* in the 1920s for publishing the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Later he became a U.S. envoy in Albania (1931-1933).

Among Bernstein's correspondents were Hayim Nahman Bialik, Louis D. Brandeis, Chaliapin, Einstein, Herbert Hoover, Peter Kropotkin, Theodore Roosevelt, George Bernard Shaw, Tolstoy, Sholem Aleichem; their letters are preserved in the Herman Bernstein papers at YIVO.

NEW ACQUISITION

Mit 'ausgezeichneter Hochachtung

A. Einstein

Original Letters by Albert Einstein Donated to YIVO

Sema Brainin—the daughter-in-law of Joseph Brainin, who co-founded the American Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Scientists (ACJWAS)—donated to YIVO twenty-five autographed letters and statements of Albert Einstein, his secretary Helen Dukas, and his wife Elsa Einstein. The primary focus of the documents is Einstein's affiliation with the ACJWAS, for which he served as Honorary Chairman from 1941-1948. The documents, which span the years 1932-1950, reflect Einstein's involvement with Holocaust and Palestine/Israel issues. These items supplement YIVO's existing Einstein materials.



Portrait of Albert Einstein by Ethel Michanowski, 1929 [reproduction]. YIVO Archives.



The Summer Program class of 2017.

PHOTO BY MELANIE EINZIG

Summer Program

The 50th Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture brought together students ages 18-70—from Brazil, Japan, South Africa, and across Eastern Europe and the United States. The longest-running Yiddish intensive program in the world, this year featured courses taught by leading scholars, a screening of *The Muses of Bashevis Singer* with director Asaf Galay, and a concert highlighting the breadth of music with Yiddish lyrics. The program trains the next generation of Yiddish scholars, teachers, and students, inspiring communities worldwide to experience Yiddish in all its history, complexity, and beauty.

Fall Classes

Beginning Yiddish – Instructor: Eve Jochnowitz
Begins October 18 | 10 Sessions, Wednesdays | 5:00pm–7:00pm

Intermediate Yiddish – Instructor: Paula Teitelbaum
Begins October 16 | 10 Sessions, Mondays | 6:30pm–8:30pm

Introduction to Old Yiddish – Instructor: Leyzer Burko
Begins October 3 | 10 Sessions, Tuesdays | 6:00pm–8:00pm

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 at yivo.org/Online-Classes.



Children prepare a traditional vegetable soup.

PHOTO BY JEN RODEWALD

Children's Day

(APRIL 30, 2017) YIVO's first Children's Day featured activities for kids of all ages, inspired by the lives of Jewish children before WWII. The Gefilteria's Liz Alpern provided authentic old-time Jewish snacks and led a soup-making station. Actor Shane Baker read children's stories by literary greats like Sholem Aleichem and I.B. Singer. Great Small Works members John Bell and Trudi Cohen, with puppeteer Joseph Therrien, performed a tabletop puppet show based on Singer's "Lyzer the Miser." Violinist and singer Eléonore Biezunski and accordionist Zoe Christiansen led a sing-along of classic Yiddish songs.

Annie Gosfield Portrait Concert

(MAY 4, 2017) Composer Annie Gosfield, who the *New York Times* calls a "Master of Musical Feedback," takes inspiration from Jewish culture, history, and the New York immigrant experience. We featured a concert of Gosfield's work including the premiere of a new commission based on months of research in YIVO's collections. The new composition tells the story of a Jewish rent strike in the Lower East Side in 1905.

FALL SEASON PROGRAMS

For event tickets & more information:

► Visit yivo.org/Events

► Call 917.606.8290
or email BOXOFFICE@YIVO.CJH.ORG

Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9:00am-5:00pm

Not in the New York area?

Watch past YIVO events at yivo.org/Video.

THURSDAY
SEP. 14
7:00pm

LECTURE

A Traveler Undisguised: "Mendele Moykher Sforim" as a Modern Jewish Intellectual

Celebrate the 100th *yortsayt* of famed Yiddish author Sholem Yankev Abramovitsh—a writer better known by his pseudonym, Mendele Moykher Sforim, Mendele the Book Peddler.

SUNDAY
SEP. 24
1:00pm

MEMORIAL
PROGRAM

Nusakh Vilne Memorial

Join us for our annual event commemorating the Jewish community of Vilna through poetry, music, and presentation. A reception will follow the presentations.

TUESDAY
OCT. 3
7:00pm

LECTURE &
PERFORMANCE

Henekh Kon: Beyond the Dybbuk

Delve into the life and work of Henekh Kon, the composer best known for the film score and songs of *The Dybbuk*. A brilliant pianist and musicologist, Kon wrote arrangements for dozens of Yiddish songs and other scores beyond *The Dybbuk*.

TUESDAY
OCT. 10
7:00pm

BOOK LAUNCH

The Book Smugglers

Discover the epic chronicle of a little-known chapter from the darkest days of Jewish history: the story of the courageous Jews of the "Paper Brigade," who risked their lives to rescue thousands of rare books and manuscripts—first from the Nazis and then from the Soviets.

SUNDAY
OCT. 22
1:00pm

ANNIVERSARY
PROGRAM

120th Anniversary of the Founding of the Jewish Labor Bund

Celebrate the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Labor Bund, the socialist movement that figures so prominently in the history of East European and World Jewry.

SUN. / MON.
NOV. 5-6
starts 9:00am
CONFERENCE

Jews In and After the 1917 Russian Revolution

Attend a two-day conference to explore the 1917 Russian Revolution, Jewish life in the Soviet Union, and the Revolution's lasting impact today.

MONDAY
NOV. 20
7:00pm
BOOK LAUNCH

Bad Rabbi and Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press

Discover the underground history of downwardly mobile Jews, mined from the Yiddish press to expose the seamy underbelly of pre-WWII New York and Warsaw, the two major centers of Yiddish culture in the late 19th – early 20th centuries.

THURSDAY
NOV. 30
 7:00pm

SIDNEY KRUM
 YOUNG
 ARTISTS
 CONCERT
 SERIES

Cantata Profana performs Gustav Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*

Enjoy Gustav Mahler's epic song symphony, *Das Lied von der Erde* (The Song of the Earth) in Arnold Schoenberg and Rainer Riehn's chamber orchestra arrangement. YIVO joins forces with the young, "intrepid" (*New Yorker*) vocal and instrumental chamber ensemble Cantata Profana for a concert to remember.

WEDNESDAY
DEC. 13
 7:30pm
 CONCERT

A Yiddish Liederabend — An Evening of Yiddish Song

Hear an elegant, nostalgic program devoted to treasures of Yiddish song and the poetry that inspired this musical expression in all its variety of style. Neil W. Levin delivers the pre-concert lecture at 6:30pm on the development of the Yiddish lieder tradition and its literary basis.

THURSDAY
DEC. 21
 7:00pm
 LECTURE &
 PERFORMANCE

A Very Jewish Christmas

Sing-along to our favorite Jewishly-inflected holiday songs, and hear from special guest Jody Rosen, author of *White Christmas: The Story of an American Song*, who will discuss the unique phenomenon that is Jewish contributions to Christmas music. Afterwards we'll celebrate with a free reception with Chinese food.

EXHIBITIONS AT YIVO



**YIDISHE KINDER:
 JEWISH CHILDREN
 AND THEIR WORLD
 BEFORE THE
 HOLOCAUST**

[NOW ON VIEW](#)

Using our archival and library collections, YIVO presents *Yidishe kinder*, a look at the world of Jewish children when Yiddish predominated as a Jewish vernacular. From children's storybooks to magazines, from school textbooks to limericks, come and see the artifacts of the life kids lived in Yiddish before WWII.



**THROUGH THE
 YIDDISH LOOKING
 GLASS: THE ART OF
 YIDDISH CHILDREN'S
 LITERATURE**

[NOW ON VIEW](#)

Explore Yiddish children's books from the first half of the 20th century, which contain some of the most stunning illustrations in the world of Jewish books. One small aspect of the Yiddish universe, these works reflect the explosion of creativity that was taking place in the Yiddish imagination.



MEMBERSHIP

PHOTO BY MELANIE ENZIG

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:

- + Invitation 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
- + Invitation 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
- + Invitation 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, Director of Development, at 212.294.6156 or IPFRIEDMAN@YIVO.CJH.ORG.