



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER |

FALL 2021

CONTENTS

PUBLIC PROGRAMS	3
Fall 2021 Season.....	3-4
Spring 2021 Program Highlights.....	4
Jewish Children's Literature in Russian and Yiddish.....	5
EDUCATION	6
Yiddish Civilization Lecture Series.....	6
Fall Classes.....	6-7
2021 Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture.....	8
FROM THE YIVO COLLECTIONS	9
Remote Reference Sessions.....	9
YIVO's <i>Landsmanshaftn</i> Collections.....	9
Reboot: <i>What Would You Bring?</i>	10-11
Images of Siberian Exile: The Jacob Ross Papers.....	12
NEWS FROM YIVO	13-14
YIVO IN THE MEDIA	14
SUPPORT YIVO	15

COVER:
Page from *Bobe Shlak un ir kabak* (Bobe Shlak and Her Pumpkin).
Leib Kvitko. Illus. Georg Fisher. Kharkov, 1928. YIVO Library.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Amid all the upheavals of this past year-and-a-half that have given us all ample cause for grave, truly profound alarm, we at YIVO feel much hope and confidence in the future. Over this time, our commitment to our historical mission has grown only stronger through the online expansion of our public and educational programs, the continued digitization of the precious archival and library collections in the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project, the launching of "A Seat At Table," the newest offering of the Shine Online Educational Series, as well as the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum that has been viewed by people in over 135 countries. During this tumultuous year, YIVO has made joint presentations with numerous important institutions and organizations around the world, including The Bodleian Library of The University of Oxford, Carnegie Hall, The United Nations, The Association of Holocaust Organizations, and the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Center.

We have witnessed the exponential growth of our membership and continued global widening of our community among those who share YIVO's commitment to studying the Jewish past of Eastern Europe and Russia in the space of critical inquiry YIVO uniquely affords. Today, we welcome new members from all corners of the world and from all 50 states in the United States. This commitment of so many from so many places around the globe is truly inspiring to all of us at YIVO.

Become a member of YIVO and join us in this commitment. Help us bring forward new generations of inquiring Jewish minds. This has always been the inner strength of our people and the safeguard of our future.



JONATHAN BRENT
Executive Director & CEO

ELEVATE YOUR IMPACT!

Thanks to YIVO's generous Board Member, Elisa New, and her husband Larry Summers, all gifts given through Friday, October 15 will have an even greater impact.

Don't miss out on your chance to maximize your support this fall. **New and renewed gifts will be matched 1:1 and all increases will be matched 1:2, up to \$50,000.**

Your support will provide global resources, education, social connections, and cultural nourishment. Every gift is significant and very much appreciated.

From all of us at YIVO, thank you for being part of our global community!

PROGRAMS Fall Season

For tickets, more information, and program updates: yivo.org/Events

MONDAY
SEP 13
3:00PM ET
PANEL
LIVE ON ZOOM

THE JEWISH PRESS TODAY

Alana Newhouse (*Tablet Magazine*), Jodi Rudoren (*The Forward*), and Philissa Cramer (*Jewish Telegraphic Agency*) discuss the role major American Jewish publications play in the Jewish world today in a conversation moderated by Gal Beckerman (*The New York Times Book Review*).

SUNDAY
SEP 19
1:00PM ET
ANNUAL MEMORIAL
LIVE ON ZOOM

NUSAKH VILNE MEMORIAL

2021's commemoration of the Jewish community of Vilna features a remembrance of Chayele Palevesky and a conversation reflecting on the overlooked agency of women as resistance fighters with a particular focus on Vilna and its Jewish and political culture. Chaired by Elye Palevsky, the conversation will be moderated by YIVO's Academic Advisor Eddy Portnoy and will also feature Judy Batalion, author of *The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos*, and Rivka Augenfeld.

FRIDAY
SEP 24
1:00PM ET
MEMORIAL
LIVE ON ZOOM

MAREK WEB MEMORIAL EVENT

Join the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research for a memorial event honoring our dear colleague, Marek Web. During his nearly 50-year tenure at YIVO, Marek Web played a central role in modernizing YIVO's archives and eventually was appointed Chief Archivist, a post he held for many years.

THURSDAY
OCT 07
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

SHOLEM ALEICHEM REDISCOVERED: THE NEWLY TRANSLATED MOSHKELEH GANEV

Sholem Aleichem's *Moshkeleh Ganev*, originally published in 1903, was unique for its focus on the underclass and portrayal of Jews interacting with non-Jews in the Russian Pale of Settlement. Breaking norms, it centers on characters on the fringe of respectability. Not included in Sholem Aleichem's collected works, this novel was forgotten. Now, lauded Sholem Aleichem translator Curt Leviant has brought the text into the light with its first English translation. Leviant and Dvora Reich discuss Sholem Aleichem and this newly re-discovered novel.

TUESDAY
OCT 12
1:00PM ET
PANEL
LIVE ON ZOOM

EUROPEAN JEWS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

K., the *European Jewish Review*, is a new magazine founded in March 2021 to document and analyze the current situation of the 1.3 million Jews living in Europe. Daniel Solomon, the English-language editor of *K.* will lead a discussion with members of *K.*'s editorial board, Stephane Bou, Bruno Karsenti, and Danny Trom, on issues that loom over the Jewish future in Europe, including antisemitism, immigration, and integration.

TUESDAY
OCT 19
1:00PM ET
SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES

PREMIERING ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

10 HEBREW FOLK SONGS AND FOLK DANCES BY LAZARE SAMINSKY

Join us for a performance of Lazare Saminsky's *Ten Hebrew Folk Songs and Folk Dances Op. 22* (c. 1924). This collection of ten works for solo piano, performed by pianist Thomas Kotcheff, features arrangements of Yiddish and Hebrew folk melodies, wordless *nigunim*, and instrumental dance melodies.

FRIDAY
OCT 29
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

THE YIDDISH HISTORIANS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR A JEWISH HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Mark Smith and Samuel Kassow discuss the largely overlooked yet significant set of scholars who studied the Holocaust from the perspective of its Jewish victims, rather than that of the Nazi perpetrators, examining daily life in the Ghettos and camps, and stressing the importance of survivor testimonies, eyewitness accounts, and memoirs.

TUESDAY
NOV 09
1:00PM ET
SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES

PREMIERING ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

10 YIDDISH SONGS BY ALEXANDER KREIN

Join us for a performance of Alexander Krein's *Ten Yiddish Songs Op. 49* (c. 1937). Performed by singer Lucy Fitz Gibbon with pianist Ryan MacEvoy McCullough, these ten songs reimagine Yiddish folksong texts and melodies in rich and imaginative arrangements for piano and voice.

WEDNESDAY
NOV 10
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

MAN OF THE FUTURES: THE STORY OF LEO MELAMED

YIVO Board Member Leo Melamed, author of *Man of the Futures*, recounts his journey from Holocaust survivor to prominent leader in the world of finance, sharing behind-the-scenes reminiscences on the financial markets and his philanthropic work in the Jewish community.

WEDNESDAY
NOV 17
1:00PM ET
PANEL
LIVE ON ZOOM

NAZISM, NEO-NAZISM AND MUSIC

This panel explores how German Nazis used music to help facilitate mass murder during the Holocaust, as well as how neo-Nazism became entangled with various music-based subcultural scenes and their connections with political organizations.

TUESDAY
NOV 23
3:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

"WHEN I GREW UP" – A GRAPHIC NOVEL EXPLORING INTERWAR TEENAGE JEWISH LIFE

New Yorker cartoonist Ken Krimstein's new graphic nonfiction book, *When I Grow Up*, shows readers the stories of six young men and women in illustrated narratives showcasing the humor, yearning, ambition, and angst of their teenage years. Their stories were among autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish teens collected by YIVO on the brink of WWII.

|| Unable to attend our programs?
Watch past YIVO events at yivo.org/Video.

TUESDAY
NOV 30
1:00PM ET
BOOK TALK
LIVE ON ZOOM

IN THE MIDST OF CIVILIZED EUROPE: THE POGROMS OF 1918-1921 AND THE ONSET OF THE HOLOCAUST

Jeffrey Veidlinger and Steven Zipperstein discuss Veidlinger's new book which draws upon long-neglected archival materials, including thousands of newly discovered witness testimonies, trial records, and official orders, showing for the first time how this wave of genocidal violence created the conditions for the Holocaust.

TUESDAY
DEC 07
11:00AM ET
PANEL
LIVE ON ZOOM

JEWISH IDENTITY IN LITHUANIA TODAY

Join YIVO for a conversation about the resurgence of interest in Jewish identity in Lithuania today. YIVO's Executive Director Jonathan Brent will interview Anna Avidan, Miglė Anušauskaitė, and Kestas Pikunas about their work with and interest in Jewish culture today.

WEDNESDAY
DEC 22
7:00PM ET
LECTURE &
PERFORMANCE
IN PERSON

A VERY JEWISH CHRISTMAS: TOLEDOT YESHU, A JEWISH ANTI-GOSPEL

While the "December Dilemma" is familiar to Jews today, it has its origins in antiquity when Jews first encountered Christian traditions and sought to distinguish their beliefs. One result was the ancient book, Toledot Yeshu, a satirical, anti-gospel. Join YIVO for a very Jewish Christmas celebration featuring a talk by Azzan Yadin-Israel on this fascinating book followed by an English-Yiddish bilingual reading of it by Shane Baker and Eleanor Reissa. *This event will take place in person with a kosher Chinese food feast following the presentation.*

YIDDISH CLUB

A program for Yiddish enthusiasts the world over, the YIVO Yiddish club is an informal monthly gathering to celebrate *mame-loshn*. Hosted by Shane Baker with a new guest each month, sessions take place in English, live on Zoom, and include ample time for audience questions and group discussion.

SUNDAY
SEP 12
2:00PM ET

ASHKENAZI HIGH HOLIDAY FOODS

With Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz (co-founders of The Gefilteria).

SUNDAY
OCT 17
2:00PM ET

YIDDISH HUMOR TODAY

With Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman (co-stars of the Yiddish-language comedy web series *YidLife Crisis*).

SUNDAY
NOV 21
2:00PM ET

YIDDISH PUPPETRY

With Jenny Romaine (director, designer, and puppeteer) and Eddy Portnoy (YIVO's Academic Advisor & Exhibitions Curator).

SUNDAY
DEC 12
2:00PM ET

YIDDISH AND HASIDIC CULTURE IN FILM, TV, AND THEATER TODAY

With Eli Rosen (actor, writer, producer, and managing director of New Yiddish Rep).

Spring 2021 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

YIDDISH CLUB

Nu, vilst redn a bisele yidish? This spring, YIVO launched a new program for Yiddish enthusiasts: Yiddish club. Host Shane Baker is joined by different guests each month to celebrate *mame-loshn*, discuss their work, and explore a related Yiddish cultural theme. Guests have included writer Michael Wex, playwright and *Tablet Magazine* columnist Rokhl Kafrissen, singer and composer Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell, Yiddish Duolingo creators Meena-Lifshe Viswanath and Isac Polasak, and Yiddish singer, songwriter, actor, and researcher Miryem-Khaye Seigel. Over 1,000 participants have attended the various Yiddish Clubs. **SEE BELOW FOR FUTURE LISTINGS**

NAZI-LOOTED ART AND ARCHIVES: RECOVERING AND PRESERVING JEWISH CULTURE

The ravages of the Holocaust and post-World War II led to the theft and disappearance of art, archives, and personal assets. The Nazis seized or coerced the sale of an estimated 1/5 of all art in Europe. Over 100,000 artworks were not recovered after the war. While many Jews were too focused on survival to devote time to recovering stolen property, the current generation has turned their attention to this endeavor. YIVO's Executive Director Jonathan Brent and Howard Spiegler, Co-Chair of Herrick, Feinstein LLP's Art Law Group, discussed the quest to recover and preserve these cultural treasures. This program was attended by over 700 people and has been viewed 1,200+ times on YouTube.

A TASTE OF ROME'S HISTORIC JEWISH CUISINE

Rome is home to one of Europe's oldest and most delicious Jewish cuisines. Shaped by centuries of hardship and tightly-bound community, *la cucina Ebraica Romana* (the Roman Jewish kitchen) is defined by its elegant approach to vegetables, saucy braised meats, love of small and briny fishes, and masterclass level of skill for frying foods in olive oil. More than 650 people joined celebrated cookbook author Leah Koenig for an online cooking demonstration highlighting some of Rome's best dishes. A recording of this event has been viewed 1,000+ times on YouTube.

CONTINUING EVOLUTION 2: YIDDISH FOLKSONG IN CLASSICAL MUSIC

This spring saw the digital premiere of five new compositions engaging with Yiddish folksongs. The new works by composers Derek David, David Ludwig, Anthony Russell/Uri Schreter, Daniel Schlosberg, and Dan Shore, were commissioned by YIVO and presented alongside archival recordings of the folksongs that they reimagine. Performed by members of the Bard Graduate Vocal Arts Program, these new works carry forward a trend which began with Joel Engel's 1909 set of folksong arrangements. YIVO began contributing to this repertoire with the commission of five new works for a performance in Spring 2020, and continues to build on this legacy. The concert has been viewed 1,600+ times on YouTube.

LEFTISTS ON LEFT-WING ANTISEMITISM

What does antisemitism on the Left consist of? Where do different parts of the Left stand in relation to this issue? How is it addressed or ignored? How can the Left deal with antisemitism? These questions and more were discussed in YIVO's unique panel moderated by Spencer Sunshine. Panelists Sina Arnold, Shane Burley, Keith Kahn-Harris, and Joshua Leifer expressed a range of views not just on Zionism, Israel, and Palestine, but also on conspiracy theories, notions of secret elites, and critiques of financial capital. Over 550 people attended this panel on Zoom. It has been viewed 6,000+ times on YouTube.



JEWISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN RUSSIAN AND YIDDISH

On June 22nd YIVO presented a Zoom webinar in collaboration with The Bodleian Library of Oxford to discuss Yiddish, Russian, and Hebrew children's literature, and to showcase some of the handsomely illustrated books in our respective collections. The event featured presentations by Miriam Udel (Emory), Catriona Kelly (Oxford), César Merchan-Hamann (Hebraica and Judaica Curator, Bodleian Library) and Stefanie Halpern (Director of the YIVO Archives). These six books were among the dozen books featured in Stefanie Halpern's presentation.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Elfandl (The Elephant's Child). Rudyard Kipling (trans. Kraft). Illus. El Lissitzky. Berlin, 1922.

Mayn a. b. (My Alphabet). Jacob Kaminski. Illus. Note Kozlovski. New York, 1927.

Geyt a hindele keyn Bronzvil (A Hen Goes to Brownsville). Jacob Kaminsky. Illus. Note Kozlovski. New York, 1937.

Dos ketsele (The Kitten). Leib Kvitko. Illus. Y. Dayts. Odessa, 1935.

Di potsht (The Mail). Samuil Marshak (trans. Leib Kvitko). Illus. M. Kotliarevski. Odessa, 1934.

Der vald tseyler (The Forest Counter). Natalia L'vivna Zabila (trans. Leib Kvitko). Illus. M. Golovatinski. Odessa, 1934.

EDUCATION

YIDDISH CIVILIZATION LECTURE SERIES

When students come to YIVO's Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, they don't just study the Yiddish language, they also study the whole world of culture that goes along with it: literature, history, music, theater, and more. While much of YIVO's programming throughout the year explores these topics, we wanted to find a way to allow the wider public to take part in this incredible learning community each summer.

Thus began our Yiddish Civilization Lecture Series. The series, 10 lectures each summer, is part of our Uriel Weinreich Summer Program curriculum and open to the general public as well. With half of its lectures in Yiddish, and half in English, the programs provide an opportunity for students and audience members alike to immerse themselves in Yiddish civilization, and practice their Yiddish too.

The series, which started in 2019, completed its third season this past summer. In its three-year history it has included 30 talks with 30 scholars — a veritable who's who of researchers and educators in the world of Jewish Studies today. Lectures have covered topics in history such as the *Oyneg Shabes* Archive, the Ashkenazi community of Mexico, and the stories of political movements including Bundism and Zionism. Many lectures explored Yiddish literature, in genres ranging from radical modernist poetry to children's literature. Other talks focused on particular luminaries of the Yiddish world, such as Chaim Zhitlovsky and Sh. An-ski. Art and culture lectures explored topics including the Barton Brothers and Mickey Katz, Yiddish Theater, Yiddish folksong, and Yiddish radio. Linguistics-focused lectures touched on Yiddish dialects and the usage of Yiddish among contemporary Hasidic communities.

This past summer we had over 1,700 audience members join us on Zoom, with viewers tuning in from over 25 countries. Recordings of all three years of lectures are accessible on YIVO's YouTube channel where they have already been viewed over 26,000 times. We look forward to continuing to foster an international community of Yiddish cultural learning with the fourth season of this series in 2022.



FALL CLASSES

This fall we are offering 30 online courses—all held remotely on Zoom—making fall 2021 the largest semester in YIVO's history. 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.
Questions? Visit yivo.org/Class-FAQ to help determine which class is right for you!

INTENSIVE YIDDISH

15 weeks
30 total sessions
1.5 hours each

INTENSIVE BEGINNER I&II YIDDISH
Sep. 2 – Dec. 23 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

INTENSIVE BEGINNER III&IV YIDDISH
Sep. 2 – Dec. 23 | 9:00am-10:30am ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE I&II YIDDISH
Sep. 2 – Dec. 23 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE III&IV YIDDISH
Aug. 31 – Dec. 28 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

INTENSIVE ADVANCED I&II YIDDISH
Sep. 2 – Dec. 23 | 2:30pm-4:00pm ET
Instructor: Miriam Trinh

INTENSIVE ADVANCED III&IV YIDDISH
Sep. 2 – Dec. 23 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Dovid Braun

CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH

12 weeks
12 total sessions
1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS
Sep. 23 – Dec. 16 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Miri Koral

BEGINNER III CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS
Oct. 3 – Dec. 19 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

READING YIDDISH

12 weeks
12 total sessions
1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I READING YIDDISH
Sep. 23 – Dec. 16 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
Instructor: Josh Price

STANDARD YIDDISH

15 weeks
15 total sessions
1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I YIDDISH (SUNDAY)

Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

BEGINNER I YIDDISH (THURSDAY)

Sep. 9 – Dec. 30 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Reyze Turner

BEGINNER I YIDDISH (FRIDAY)

Sep. 3 – Dec. 17 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

BEGINNER II YIDDISH (SUNDAY)

Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

BEGINNER II YIDDISH (MONDAY)

Aug. 30 – Dec. 13 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

BEGINNER II YIDDISH (TUESDAY)

Aug. 31 – Dec. 28 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Nina Warnke

BEGINNER II YIDDISH (THURSDAY)

Sep. 2 – Dec. 23 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET
Instructor: Nina Warnke

BEGINNER III YIDDISH (SUNDAY I)

Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Janina Wurbs

BEGINNER III YIDDISH (SUNDAY II)

Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET
Instructor: Janina Wurbs

BEGINNER III YIDDISH (MONDAY)

Sep. 13 – Dec. 20 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó

BEGINNER IV YIDDISH

Aug. 30 – Dec. 27 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH

Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 1:30pm-3:00pm ET
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH

Aug. 31 – Dec. 28 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Dovid Braun

INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH

Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Alec (Leyzer) Burko

INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH

Aug. 30 – Dec. 27 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN ENGLISH)

10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

"WHAT I MEANT TO SAY...": A CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Oct. 5 – Dec. 7 | 7:00pm-8:30pm ET
Instructor: Irena Klepfisz

EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWISH WOMEN IN AN AGE OF TRANSITION, 1870-1939

Oct. 7 – Dec. 16 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET
Instructor: Aleksandra Jakubczak

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN YIDDISH)

10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

THE EARLY SUTZKEVER AND HIS RADICAL POETIC CHANGE DURING THE KHURBN

Oct. 5 – Dec. 7 | 2:30pm-4:00pm ET
Instructor: Miriam Trinh

YIDDISH LITERATURE SEMINAR: READING SHORT STORIES

Oct. 11 – Dec. 13 | 5:00pm-6:30pm ET
Instructor: Anna Fishman Gonshor

לייענקרײַז YIDDISH READING GROUP (SUNDAY)

Oct. 3 – Dec. 12 | 5:00pm-6:15pm ET
Instructor: Anita Norich

Co-sponsored by the Yiddish Book Center.

לייענקרײַז YIDDISH READING GROUP (TUESDAY)

Oct. 5 – Dec. 14 | 5:30pm-6:45pm ET
Instructor: Anita Norich

Co-sponsored by the Yiddish Book Center.

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



23 classes

353 students

(an increase of 443% from spring 2020)

9 countries

2021 URIEL WEINREICH SUMMER PROGRAM IN YIDDISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

GOING FROM A SIDELINE FAN OF YIDDISH TO A LIFELONG DEVOTEE

BY JAKE MILLHOUSE, *Summer Program '21*

Choosing to participate in YIVO's Summer Program was one of the best decisions I have ever made! I had always wanted to invest time into learning Yiddish and this program gave me the opportunity to jump right into the language. The program's core structure is incredibly thorough; it includes a daily grammar class, a daily reading course, and a thrice-weekly conversation class. The electives and workshops span the gamut of interests from Ashkenazi cooking to Yiddish literature, and of course plenty of opportunities to experience Yiddish music!

I can't express enough that as a beginner, I felt completely embraced by the language and culture through this experience in the Summer Program because of how thorough and well-designed this program is. The pacing was perfect, the content is engaging and challenging, and the teachers are truly interested in sharing their knowledge and passion for Yiddish. Both the teachers' and students' enthusiasm is contagious! This experience has taken me from feeling like a sideline fan of Yiddish into a lifelong devotee, speaker, and learner of the language and culture.

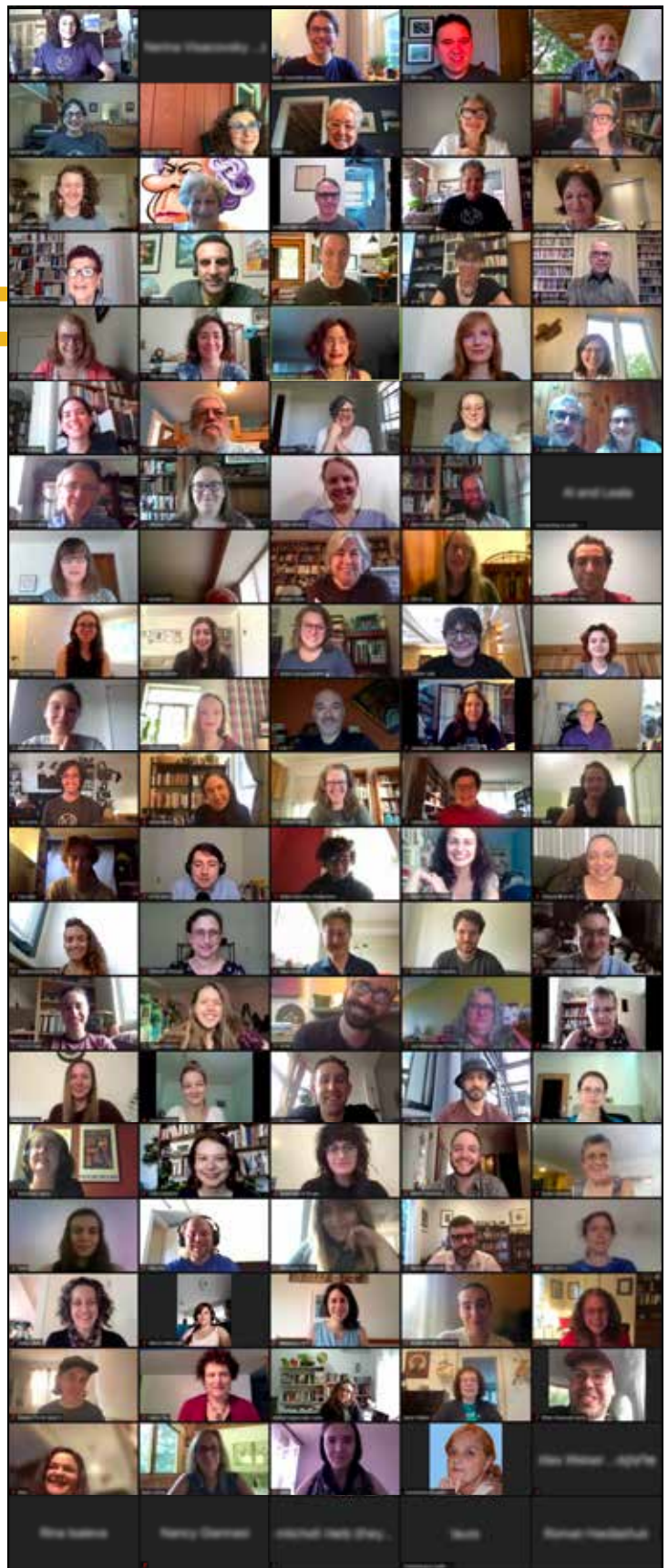
- Read more student testimonials at summerprogram.yivo.org/Testimonials.



92 students
14 countries
25 U.S. states

מזל טוב!

Congratulations to the class of 2021!



Students, faculty, and staff attend the סיום (*siem* [graduation]) for the 2021 Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture on Zoom.

FROM THE YIVO COLLECTIONS

REMOTE REFERENCE SESSIONS

In April 2021, after a long year-plus with little to no outside access to the YIVO Archives, we launched a new pilot program. With the building closed to the public for the foreseeable future, we wanted to find a way to allow patrons to access materials remotely. Enter remote reference sessions.

Researchers can book appointments to meet with a YIVO archivist to view materials and discuss their needs. This way, no matter where you are in the world, you can have access to our collections.

THE SESSIONS

We offer a few types of remote reference sessions. The most popular are document sessions, where researchers request materials. We use an overhead document camera to share archival materials and photograph whatever the researcher desires. These synchronous sessions allow us to discuss the patron's needs in-depth, and allows the patron to ensure that the materials at hand are suitable for their needs. We can also explore different avenues together in real time, which is a much quicker and more productive process than doing so by email. All of these benefits are difficult to replicate by simply fulfilling digitization requests.

After each session, we share a PDF of the photographs taken, any other materials that came up during the session, and a recording of the session, if the researcher opts to have one.

TYPES OF MATERIALS

About half of patrons are conducting family history research, so *landsmanshaftn* collections and yizkor book requests are common. Some are academics and PhD candidates doing research on anything from the history of the Yiddish PEN Club to Jewish herbalism to Holocaust photography to the fabulous hats of the Jewish literati of the Bronx. Some are artists, teachers, and writers using archival research to share history through various projects.

SOME STATISTICS

On Thursdays, we host between eight and fourteen sessions. To date, we have shared about 8,500 photographs via remote reference, many of which will be added to the online catalog to make the research process more seamless for researchers going forward. These photos have come from 50 archival collections as well as a broad array of YIVO Library material.

Remote researchers come from all over the world – so far, twelve U.S. states and fifteen countries, including Ecuador, Poland, Norway, and Lithuania.

► Book a session at yivo.org/Remote-Research-Sessions.

YIVO'S LANDSMANSHAFTN COLLECTIONS

We are pleased to announce that YIVO has received the John Stedman Memorial Grant from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies to create a new resource for our *landsmanshaftn* collections. *Landsmanshaftn* were mutual aid organizations made up of immigrants from the same town of origin. Beyond being a social hub, they often provided material benefits, like insurance and burial services.

These records are very valuable for genealogical research, so they're popular among YIVO researchers: half of our reference requests are genealogy-related. However, as it currently stands, the materials can be difficult to access. Many of them are not discoverable in the online catalog, which means that they don't come up when they're searched. They're also not linked to the name of the town of origin, so anyone conducting general research on the town would have to go out of their way to check if there we have associated *landsmanshaftn* records. This grant will allow us to hire two advanced interns to create a comprehensive resource compiling all the records in one place. This resource will make discovery easier by incorporating things like variant town name spellings. It will also link any digital assets we have associated with the town of origin, like digitized collections and yizkor books, creating a "one-stop genealogy shop."

Landsmanshaftn collections contain a wealth of information. While it varies collection to collection (we have papers from about 1,400 individual organizations), many contain cemetery maps, financial records, meeting minutes, membership ledgers, photographs, and other ephemera. For individual researchers, these are rich genealogical resources. And taken as a whole, they are key historical records of Jewish immigrant life around the world.



A ballot box (above) and embosser from the Adolph Ullman Aid Society (right), part of YIVO's *landsmanshaftn* collections.



REBOOT

How My Time in the YIVO Archives Led to the WHAT WOULD YOU BRING? Campaign

BY JULIET SIMMONS

“ WE HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH REFUGEES THAN WE INITIALLY THOUGHT.

IF YOU WOULD HAVE ASKED me three years ago what a researcher might look like, I would not have described myself.

At school I was always a lover of books, but as the years passed, I found myself spending less time researching and more time doing. Perhaps I was just waiting for the perfect opportunity to present itself to me—and in 2019, it did.

As a member of the Jewish arts and culture non-profit organization Reboot, I was invited to participate in a fellowship in New York 6 months before the pandemic. As part of that trip, I got the chance to explore the YIVO and CJH archives.

Before our current reality of lockdowns, reopenings, and vaccination status debates, I used to volunteer at a center for refugees and asylum seekers. I made cups of tea and handed out sandwiches. One week, a friend who also volunteered there told me that she came because her grandfather had been a refugee—and she felt like it was just luck that she was making the tea and not drinking it. My grandfather was a refugee too. I felt the same.

At the refugee center, I'd occasionally chat with the people we were helping if it wasn't too busy. As we sat together, they'd recall how some of their most precious belongings were things that we might think of as inconsequential. Those conversations made me curious. I began to wonder if there was more that connected

those refugees with my grandfather than just luck. Perhaps there were also real tangible objects that connected them too.

So when I was at YIVO, I began to research what refugees had brought from different countries at different times. My deep dive into the archives had begun.

I don't know what I expected—perhaps piles of papers describing people's precious belongings—but as I sat in the YIVO Reading Room I was instead presented with piles of boxes filled with teddy bears and dolls, china and books, clothes and more. I began to see that the things that people brought with them before I was born were similar to the things that the drop in center refugees had told me about. I realized that no matter where people came from or during what era they had to flee, the objects that reminded them of home were similar.

The box I most clearly remember opening was one that contained a teddy bear. There was a tag around its neck telling me that it had come to the USA from a Displaced Persons camp in 1947. I had no idea who it belonged to—all I knew was that it was precious to the person who brought it. I imagined that my grandmother had probably had a similar bear when she was a child and thought of my own toys too.

The outcome of my participation in that fellowship, and



specifically my time at YIVO, led to the launch of an oral history project that I created with the support of the team at Reboot entitled *What Would You Bring?* It asks people to stand in the shoes of refugees and to consider what they would choose to bring with them if they were forced to flee their homes. The project has led me to speak with many refugees who have generously shared their stories and objects with me. Each of these deeply personal testimonies touch upon not only what was brought, but also what was left behind. Collectively, these stories show just how connected we all are.

One of the stories that we feature as part of *What Would You Bring?* comes from John Hajdu. John's story is quite remarkable—he survived Nazi occupation and a communist revolution escaping to the UK—and his teddy bear was the one constant in his life. His bear was not my YIVO bear—and yet I felt that they were connected, as both bears mattered so much to the people that owned them.

We live in a time of mass consumerism, where too many of us have too much stuff. But imagine if you had to suddenly leave—what would you grab and take with you? It might be photos, or a toy, a piece of jewelry—or even a piece of china that you could use every time you made a cup of tea. Whatever you

might choose, it's likely that a modern day refugee or someone from the past chose something similar. It's a reminder that the things that matter to us as human beings transcend cultures, borders and history.

I don't know the stories of all the objects that I discovered at YIVO, I just know that those objects mattered enough to their owners for them to be brought and saved in the archives. They spoke to me in a way I can't meaningfully articulate, but they led me to other stories and the creation of a platform that allows me to continue sharing the stories of refugees today.

Although I'm not sure what my grandfather brought with him when he came from Vienna to the UK, this project can help us all discover what other grandfathers, parents, and friends brought with them and allow us to share their stories. And in the end, it's a reminder that the objects that we care about connect us, reinforcing the idea that during a time of rampant xenophobia and othering of marginalized groups, we have more in common with each other and with refugees than we initially thought.

Juliet Simmons is the creator of *What Would You Bring?*

Learn more about the project and how you can participate at whatwouldyoubring.com.

IMAGES OF SIBERIAN EXILE: THE JACOB ROSS PAPERS

BY LEO GREENBAUM, *Accessions Archivist / Bund Archivist*

Prior to the Holocaust, the town of Mozyr, now in Belarus, was predominantly Jewish. At the end of 1903, a strike broke out among the 250 women and girls—some as young as ten—working at the match factory. Subsequently, there was a strike of a thousand workers in the town. These strikes were led by activists of the Jewish Labor Bund, which was, up to the 1905 revolution, the largest revolutionary party in the Russian Empire.

Jacob Rosofsky—or Reshefsky—was the Secretary of the (illegal) Bund in Mozyr. For his illegal activities with the Bund, he was sentenced to exile in Archangel, where he remained from 1903-1905. He was able to take a camera with him. The commandant of the penal colony was somewhat sympathetic to the exiles and allowed them to roam outside the colony. Given the Arctic climate, there was also little possibility of escape. This accounts for the character and quality of Rosofsky/Reshefsky's images, some of which even show the exiles handling hunting rifles.

Rosofsky/Reshefsky was released under the 1905 amnesty. He settled in America, and became a member of the Workmen's (now, Workers') Circle. His grandson, Dr. Robert N. Ross, donated 27 of the exile photos, along with negatives, to YIVO. These photos are quite rare—especially considering their high technical quality.





NEWS FROM YIVO

WARREN STERN JOINS YIVO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



YIVO welcomes Warren Stern, a distinguished attorney, to the Board of Directors. Warren's grandparents were Ashkenazim, who arrived in the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Raised in a secular environment with Jewish religious and cultural influences, in recent years, Warren has become interested in exploring his heritage. He studies Torah and Talmud and has taken graduate-level courses in Jewish Studies at Columbia University. Warren and his wife, Susan, are strong supporters of the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies

at Columbia. Warren has also taken several courses at YIVO, including Professor Sam Kassow's course in Ashkenazic history.

A graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, Warren launched his legal career as a law clerk on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and then joined Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, where he worked until his retirement as a partner in 2009. Since his retirement, he has served as Of Counsel to the Firm and has taught in an adjunct capacity at several law schools, including Harvard and New York University, and has served on several not-for-profit boards.

Warren and Susan, who is also involved in Jewish communal leadership, divide their time between New York and Connecticut. They have two grown children and are proud grandparents.

YIVO RECEIVES GIFT TO ESTABLISH THE DUNN AND MOISHE ODonER PRESERVATION LAB

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is delighted to recognize the Odoner family for a gift to establish YIVO's Dunn and Moishe Odoner Preservation Lab in honor of their father and grandfather. Dunn and Moishe loved the Yiddish language and lived for many years in the legendary Sholem Aleichem Houses in The Bronx. Moishe worked with the Amopteyl (American section of YIVO) from its inception. An upholsterer by day, he was a passionate and beloved "zamlar" who amassed an important private collection of Yiddish books and, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, sent them to communities and libraries around the world, including YIVO libraries in Argentina and Vilna. The Dunn and Moishe Odoner Preservation Lab will further the work to preserve and process rare archival material and prepare them for digitization.

ABOVE:
The managing committee of the American division of YIVO with guest Max Weinreich in 1930. Moishe Odoner is in the second row, second from the right (highlighted). YIVO Archives.

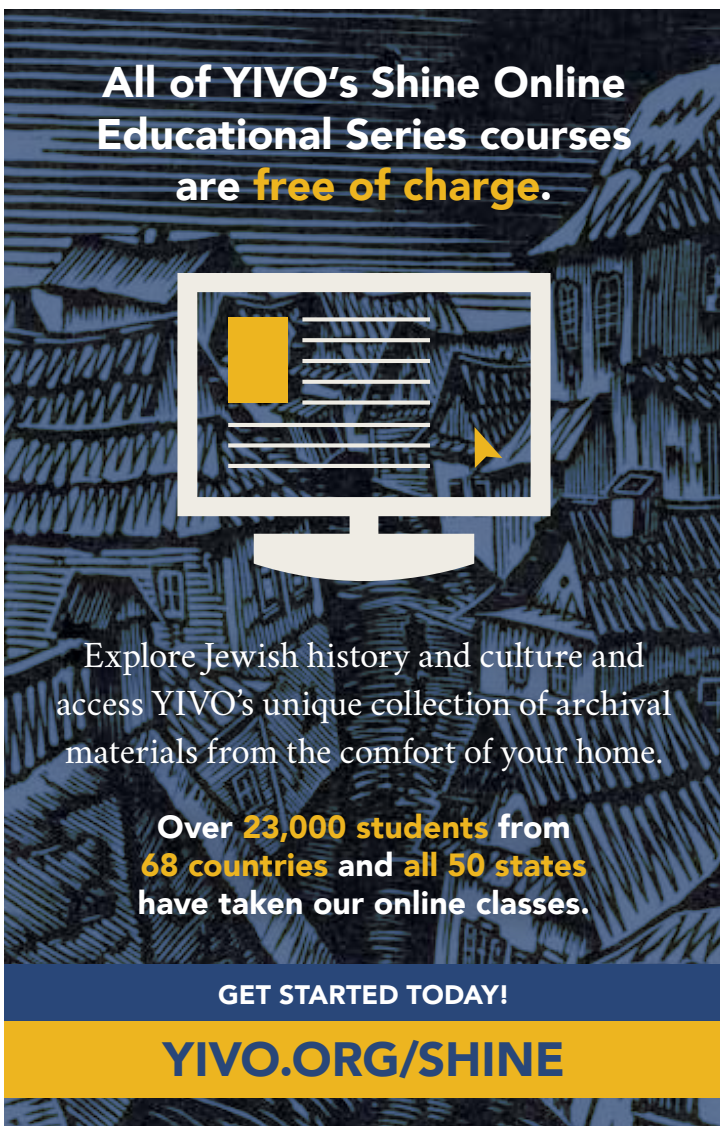
**ONLINE
MUSEUM
RECOGNIZED
BY GLAMI
AND MEDIA &
TECHNOLOGY
MUSE AWARDS**

The YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum was named a finalist for the 2021 GLAMi Awards in the Resources for General Audiences and Family Category. The GLAMi Awards recognize the best in cultural heritage innovation. The Online Museum also received an honorable mention in the

American Alliance of Museums' 2021 Media & Technology MUSE Awards in the Online Experience category. The MUSE Awards recognize outstanding achievement in Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAM) media.

The Cernia Slovin Online Museum launched in August 2020 with its first interactive exhibition, *Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl*. The exhibition explores East European Jewish life in the 20th and 21st centuries through the true story of one young girl. Since its launch, over 21,000 people have visited from 135 countries around the world.

► Explore the Online Museum at museum.yivo.org.



All of YIVO's Shine Online Educational Series courses are free of charge.

Explore Jewish history and culture and access YIVO's unique collection of archival materials from the comfort of your home.

Over 23,000 students from 68 countries and all 50 states have taken our online classes.

GET STARTED TODAY!

YIVO.ORG/SHINE

YIVO IN THE MEDIA

Here are some of YIVO's media highlights from Spring 2021:

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Forward

(JUNE 8, 2021)

Symposium to explore rich world of Jewish children's literature in pre-WWII Europe

The Forward

(MAY 13, 2021)

More than a century after her death, this woman writer is being celebrated

Jewish Standard

(APRIL 14, 2021)

Finding his voice in Yiddish song

The Times of Israel

(FEBRUARY 17, 2021)

Holocaust Historian Issues A Warning

The Algemeiner

(FEBRUARY 16, 2021)

Polish Government's Campaign to Control Holocaust Research Set to Continue, Warns Jan Grabowski, Historian at Center of Major Libel Trial

YIVO ARCHIVES

Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Magazine

(JUNE 15, 2021)

Everyday People's Troubles": A Brief History of Yiddish Advice Radio in the United States

Jewish Renaissance

(APRIL 2021)

Gulliver in Yiddishland

Archival Outlook

(MARCH-APRIL 2021)

UN/YIVO Exhibition on Displaced Persons

Jewish Renaissance

(JANUARY 2021)

The Legend of the Golem

Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Magazine

(JANUARY 12, 2021)

The Life and Death of a Yiddish Puppet Theater

YIVO BRUCE AND FRANCESCA CERNIA SLOVIN ONLINE MUSEUM

Smithsonian Affiliations

(MARCH 18, 2021)

How the Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl Inspired an Exhibition

NBC

(FEBRUARY 14, 2021)

With Anti-Semitic Attacks Surging, the Writing of a Fifth-Grader in Prewar Poland Teaches Tolerance

Jewish Renaissance

(JANUARY 2021)

Solihull Pupils Meet Beba, A Schoolgirl in Wartime Vilna

MEMORIAL, TRIBUTE & HONORARY GIFTS

A tribute gift is a meaningful way to convey sympathy, memorialize a loved one, commemorate a special occasion, or honor a person's life and accomplishments. Your gift to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research made in honor or memory of this special person ensures a legacy that extends far into the future.

There are three ways to make a gift:

- ▶ Make a gift online at yivo.org
- ▶ Send an e-mail to yivomembership@yivo.cjh.org
- ▶ Mail a check to The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

CARES ACT

CHARITABLE GIVING INFORMATION

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the "CARES Act" (hereinafter, "the Act"), passed on March 27, 2020, has been extended through December 31, 2021. The Act contains a few provisions that may have an effect on charitable giving.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

The CARES Act allows individuals who itemize their deductions in 2021 to claim 100% of their Adjusted Gross Income. Applying to cash contributions only, the CARES Act provides donors with the opportunity to sell appreciated securities and donate the cash to charitable organizations. Any giving beyond this 100% limitation may be carried over and used in the next five years.

For individuals who do not itemize their tax deductions, the legislation for 2021 extends the \$300 universal charitable deduction implemented in the CARES Act. It also allows twice the deduction for couples who file their tax return jointly. As a result, a couple in the 32% marginal tax bracket can save \$192 in federal income tax on a \$600 donation, for example.

We hope you will consider taking advantage of the CARES Act by increasing your annual contribution to YIVO in 2021!

FOR CORPORATIONS

The Act also offers enhanced charitable deductions to corporations. Previously, a corporation could take a deduction of up to 10% of its taxable income for the year for gifts made to public charities. The Act increases the cap to 25% of taxable income. Like the individual benefits, the enhanced corporate benefits expire after December 31, 2021.

JOIN THE 1925 LEGACY SOCIETY

Give voice to your philanthropic values by establishing a YIVO Gift Annuity or including a bequest to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in your will or estate plan.

If you have already included YIVO in your estate plan, or would like to remember YIVO in your planning, please contact Melissa Cohen at **212.294.6156** or mcohen@yivo.cjh.org to learn about your options.

THE BENEFITS OF PLANNED GIVING

Generous provisions in U.S. tax laws enable individuals to partner with charitable organizations to make donations that take estate, tax, and financial planning into account. Whether planning for income for retirement, avoiding tax on long-term capital gains, reducing or eliminating estate taxes, easing the tax burden from IRAs or other qualified plans or making tax-advantaged charitable gifts, Planned Giving can offer a variety of strategies.

OPTIONS

Charitable Gift Annuity:

For partially tax-free fixed rate income for life.

Charitable Remainder Trust:

For fixed rate lifetime income and avoidance of tax on long-term capital gains.

Charitable Lead Trust:

To pass property to the next generation at low cost.

Bequest:

Leave a gift after lifetime and reduce estate taxes.

Endowment Fund:

A named gift in perpetuity to carry out a special purpose.

Life Insurance:

Existing or new policies for tax deductions to leverage larger future gifts at low cost.

HOW TO MAKE A PLANNED GIFT

Cash:

Best for charitable gift annuities or outright gifts.

Securities:

Avoid tax on long-term capital gains.

Real Estate:

Deduct appraised value; no tax on long-term capital gains.

IRAs:

Designate charity as a beneficiary and avoid potential double tax.

Life Insurance:

Designate charity as a beneficiary or owner of a policy.

We can assist you and your advisors in customizing a plan.

Please contact Melissa Cohen at **212.294.6156** or mcohen@yivo.cjh.org.



LOCATED IN
THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

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

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

ABOUT YIVO

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.

Currently, YIVO is not open to the public.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and follow New York State and City guidelines. The health and safety of our patrons and staff is our primary concern. YIVO is located at the Center for Jewish History, and is working closely with their team on reopening plans. If you need to reach YIVO staff, please refer to the e-mails listed below.

CONTACT

tel 212.246.6080 | fax 212.294.6125 | yivo.org

Administrative Hours

Mon–Thu 9:00am–5:00pm

Fri 9:00am–4:00pm

General Inquiries

YIVOMAIL@YIVO.CJH.ORG

Archival Inquiries

YIVOREFERENCE@YIVO.CJH.ORG

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

Sound Archives | SOUNDARCHIVES@YIVO.CJH.ORG

Library Inquiries

YIVOREFERENCE@YIVO.CJH.ORG

    Follow us
[@YIVOInstitute](https://www.instagram.com/YIVOInstitute)