



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

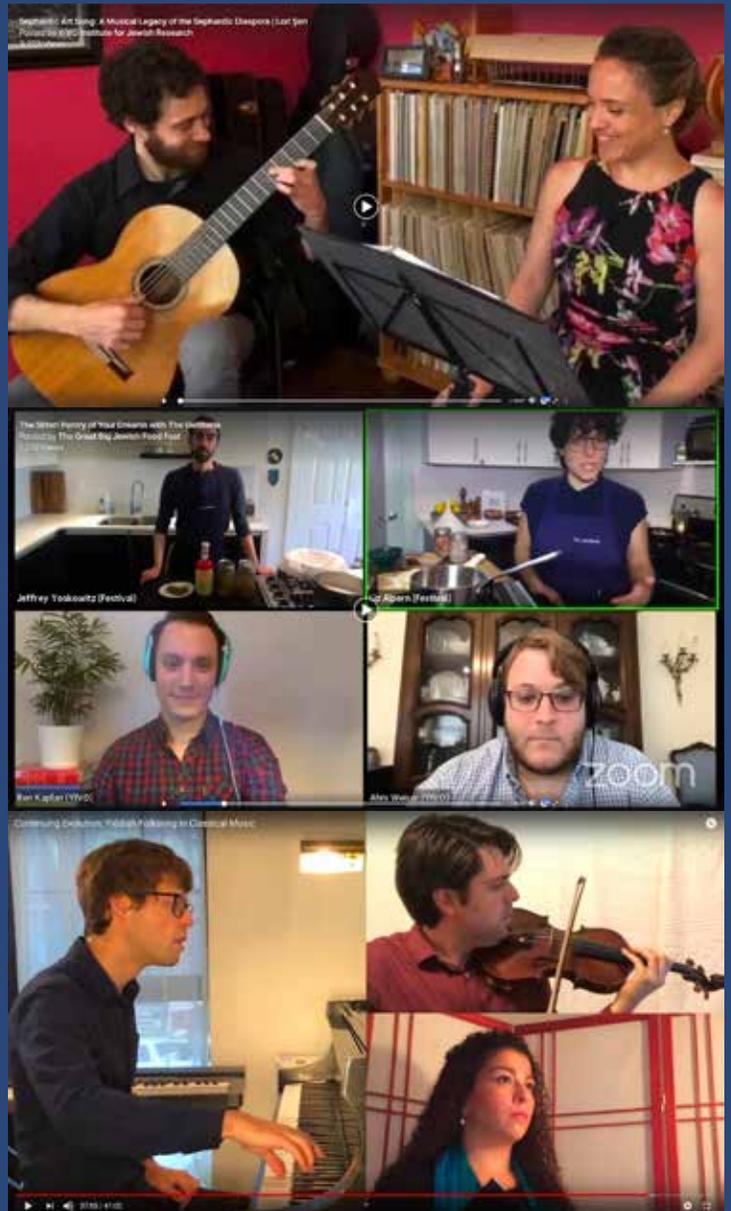
Dear Friends,

This last quarter has been a very exciting chapter for YIVO with a series of firsts for the organization. A few weeks ago, we launched the first exhibition of our landmark **YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum: Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl**. The exhibition, the first of many that are planned, explores East European Jewish life in the 20th and 21st centuries through the true story of one young girl. The YIVO Cernia Slovin Online Museum initiates an exciting new digital chapter in YIVO's history by dramatically expanding our ability to provide widespread public access to the treasures in our collections. For the first time in its 53-year history the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture was held online rather than in-person drawing a record number of students. Our Shine Online Educational Series witnessed unprecedented growth with over 19,500 registrations across 68 countries around the world. Attendance at our online programs and lectures have also experienced historic numbers. YIVO's strategic digital approach enabled us to further adapt and conceive new, innovative, and engaging ways to serve our global community and fulfill our historic mission.

We will continue to share our treasures far and wide so we can have a meaningful impact on Jewish life today by providing a means for people to connect to their identity and, therefore, to themselves. Wishing continued good health and safety for you and all whom you hold close.

We look forward to the day we can meet again in person.

JONATHAN BRENT
Executive Director & CEO



ABOVE:
YIVO hosted more than 80 online programs over the course of the 2020 spring season.

COVER:
Three women posing in front of an open window. Warsaw, 1925. On the right is Pola Goldstein-Jacobowicz, the aunt of Lucjan Borowik, son-in-law of industrialist Abraham Gepner. YIVO Archives.

MULTIPLY YOUR GIFT!

Thanks to YIVO's generous Board Chair, all gifts given through Thursday, October 1 will have an even greater impact.

Don't miss out on your chance to maximize your support this September.

Increases and new gifts will be matched 1:1 and all renewed gifts will be matched 1:2.

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

THURSDAY
SEP 10
4:00PM ET

WEBINAR

Presented by Center for Jewish History, American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, YIVO, and Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization

LIVE ON ZOOM

MIDWIVES, MUSICIANS, SOLDIERS, RABBIS: WHOSE STORIES WILL BECOME JEWISH HISTORY?

Join Elisheva Carlebach, Deborah Dash Moore, Dara Horn, and Itamar Borochoy in a discussion about *Confronting Modernity, 1750–1880*, Vol. 6 of The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization. What happens to our understanding of Jewish civilization when those who are often marginalized move to the center of the story? Discover the unexpected breadth of Jewish culture by hearing the voices rarely included in it.

SUNDAY
SEP 13
1:30PM ET

MEMORIAL

Sponsored by Nusakh Vilne

LIVE ON ZOOM

NUSAKH VILNE MEMORIAL

Join us for our annual event commemorating the Jewish community of Vilna through poetry and music. This year's event will reflect on the history and format of Nusakh Vilna, and the role that music, poetry, and ritual play in holocaust commemoration. Chaired by Elye Palevsky and moderated by YIVO's Alex Weiser, the discussion will feature Rivka Augenfeld and Edna Friedberg (Historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum).

TUESDAY
SEP 22
1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK

LIVE ON ZOOM

MAY GOD AVENGE THEIR BLOOD: A HOLOCAUST MEMOIR TRIPTYCH

Now in English for the first time, *May God Avenge Their Blood: A Holocaust Memoir Triptych* presents three memoirs by Yiddish writer Rachmil Bryks (1912–1974). Join us for a presentation by and discussion with translator Yermiyahu Ahron Taub and Bryks' daughter, cultural activist Bella Bryks-Klein, exploring Bryks' life and work, the genesis of this project, and the related holdings in YIVO's collections.

WEDNESDAY
OCT 07
1:00PM ET

DISCUSSION

LIVE ON ZOOM

YIDDISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The Jewish children's literature field is booming and the call to provide representation of Jewish children, for Jewish children, has played a large part in that. Join us for a conversation on the history of Yiddish children's literature and examine the roles it can play for children today. Moderated by Rokhl Kafrissen (*Tablet Magazine*) with Miriam Udel, Naomi Seidman, and Jennifer Young.

TUESDAY
OCT 20
1:00PM ET

PANEL DISCUSSION

LIVE ON ZOOM

LEFTISTS ON LEFT-WING ANTISEMITISM

This unique panel will bring together four scholars and activists on the Left who have a range of views to discuss conflicting notions of what Left antisemitism consists of, where different parts of the Left stand in relation to this issue, how the Left addresses or ignores the issue, and constructive ways this issue can be dealt with.

When the pandemic began in March, YIVO shifted its programming online. While we look forward to the time when we can all gather together in person again, this has allowed us to expand our reach around the world and we have been thrilled to see so many audience members join us for events online. Looking ahead to our Fall 2020, we will be holding events on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube in the same formats we developed this past Spring. We will also be filming content on-site to bring you some special behind-the-scenes looks at Archival materials. Stay tuned for these videos by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and subscribing to our YouTube channel.



ALEX WEISER

Director of Public Programs

TUESDAY
NOV 10
1:00PM ET

SIDNEY KRUM
YOUNG ARTISTS
CONCERT SERIES

PREMIERING
ON FACEBOOK
AND YOUTUBE

JOEL ENGEL'S "JEWISH FOLKSONGS" VOLUMES I & II

Join us for a performance of Joel Engel's *Jewish Folksongs* (Volume I, 1909/ Volume II, 1912). These 20 songs, which frame Yiddish folksongs with classical piano accompaniments and have proven very influential for a variety of composers, will be performed by singer Lucy Fitz Gibbon with pianist Ryan MacEvoy McCullough, with a special guest appearance by Yurie Mitsuhashi.

WEDNESDAY
NOV 18
1:00PM ET

PANEL DISCUSSION

LIVE ON ZOOM

FERMENTING AND FORAGING: RESOURCEFULNESS IN THE HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN

Today, techniques such as fermenting and foraging are increasingly appealing to those seeking to create economical, nourishing, waste-free meals. This panel, moderated by Jane Ziegelman, will explore today's innovative tactics and the historical precedents for these strategies in the Ashkenazi Jewish immigrant kitchen at the turn of the 20th century.

TUESDAY
DEC 22
1:00PM ET

LECTURE

LIVE ON ZOOM

ASHKENAZI JEWS AND CHINESE FOOD

For many Ashkenazi Jews in the United States, Christmastime sparks memories of egg rolls and General Tso's chicken. How did the affinity for Chinese food amongst many Jews begin? Trace this delicious history from the turn-of-the-century Lower East Side to today's take-out lo mein with Andrew Coe, author of *Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States*.

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

EDUCATION

AMIDST A PANDEMIC, A REVOLUTION IN YIDDISH LEARNING

“ When we decided to make the Summer Program digital this summer, we had no idea just how many students would apply. There is a real yearning to learn Yiddish, and not just from people you would expect. I am happy we were able to serve so many students this year, especially at this difficult time. ”

— BEN KAPLAN, *Director of Education*

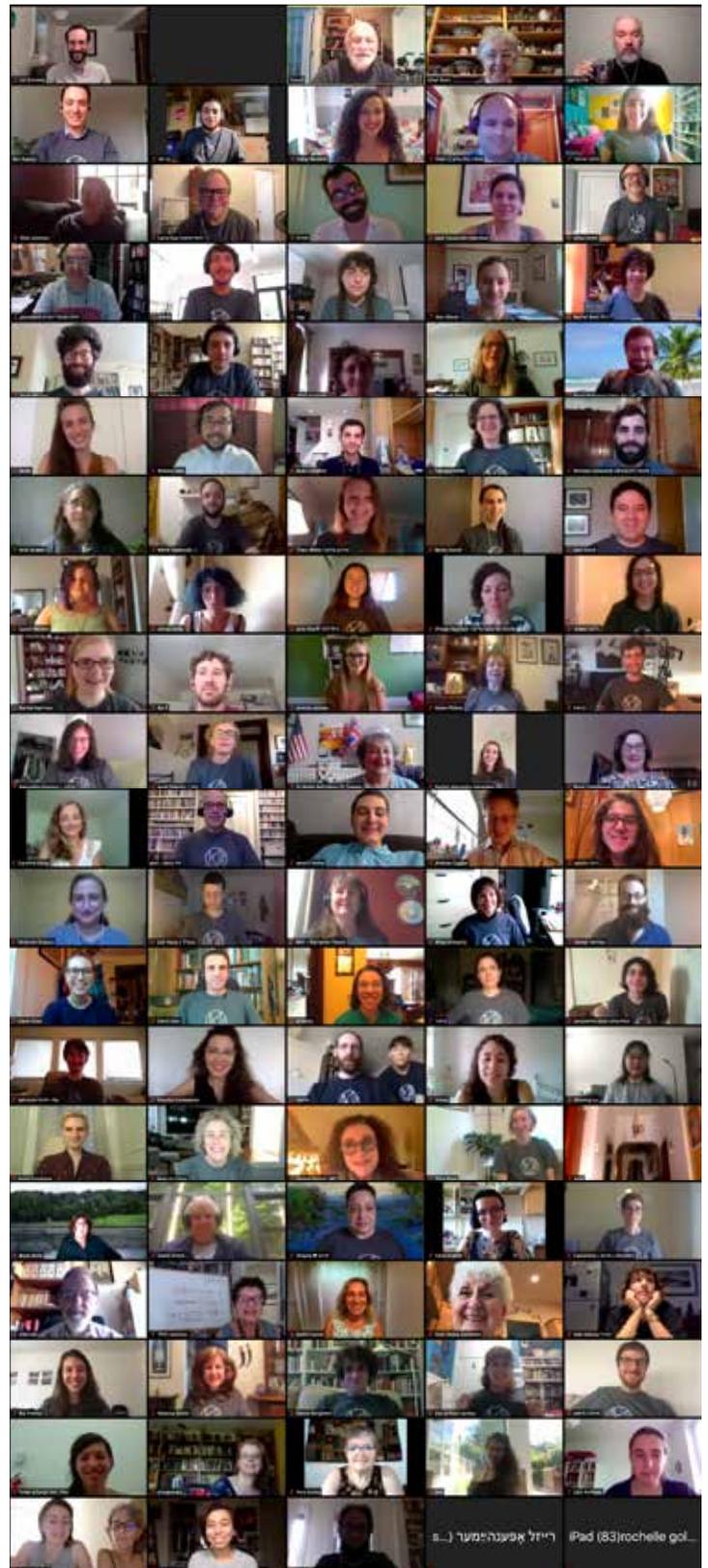
The Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture went digital this summer for the first time in its 53-year history and boasted its largest ever enrollment numbers. It brought together 120 students (from 16 to 84 years old) and nearly two dozen instructors from 14 countries; a 60% increase from last year.

Established in 1968, the program has become a symbol of Yiddish cultural resilience and continuity. While many summer programs were canceled or truncated, YIVO's program ran in full online. Learning a language creates community and brings people together, something greatly needed at a time when so many feel isolated. Shifting online allowed the program to cater to a global audience and create an international community. This summer's cohort included students from Belarus, China, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

YIVO's staff and faculty reimagined the program to meet the needs of virtual classrooms and to ensure a rich experience for students. Lesson times were adapted to accommodate students across five time zones, teaching methods were reimagined to create a dynamic, interactive, socially connected classroom. Teachers held virtual office hours and answered student questions before and after classes.

The program's offerings this year included workshops from singing and acting in Yiddish to making pickles and knishes. The program also included a 9-lecture series called "Yiddish Civilization" covering broad topics from Jewish food and children's literature to journalism and philosophy. One popular new course was Yiddish Yoga, which provided students with a way to learn Yiddish while getting in some physical activity and focusing on mental health.

To help students connect outside the classroom and practice their conversational Yiddish, YIVO also started groups called *krayzlekh* ("clubs" or "associations" in Yiddish). These are Zoom meetings around personal and professional interests such as music & musicians, Yiddish & comparative literature, linguistics, Jewish history, performance studies & Yiddish theater, archival studies and librarianship, and more.



ABOVE:
Students, faculty, and staff attend the סיום (*siem* [graduation]) for the 2020 Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture on Zoom.

NEXT PAGE:
Joan Nathan demonstrates how to make *kuchen* in *A Seat at the Table*, the latest course in YIVO's Shine Online Educational Series.

A SEAT AT THE TABLE: A JOURNEY INTO JEWISH FOOD

“ The course brings up wonderful memories of my parents, both Holocaust survivors, and some of the archival photos allow me to think about how my grandparents would have lived in Poland at that time, grandparents, unfortunately, that I never got to meet. ”

— AVIVA FROM MONTRÉAL

This May, YIVO launched a one-of-a-kind seven-week educational course, *A Seat at the Table: A Journey into Jewish Food*. The newest offering from YIVO's Shine Online Educational Series collaborates with chefs, restaurateurs, cookbook authors, scholars, and writers to create seven weeks of content, including in-depth interviews, roundtable discussions, cooking demonstrations, and the debut of 300 archival objects for an inside look at an often overlooked cuisine.

A Seat at the Table features cultural visionaries such as Joan Nathan (*Jewish Cooking In America*), Michael W. Twitty (*The Cooking Gene*), Alice Feiring (*The Dirty Wine Guide*), Mitchell Davis (James Beard Foundation), Niki Russ Federman and Josh Russ Tupper (Russ & Daughters), Jake Dell (Katz's Delicatessen), Darra Goldstein (Founder, *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*), Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz (The Gefilteria), Lior Lev Sercarz (La Boîte), Adeena Sussman (*Sababa*), Ilan Stavans (Amherst College), Leah Koenig (*The Jewish Cookbook*), Michael Wex (*Born to Kvetch*), and more!

Jewish cuisine is at once steeped in tradition and marked by change. For thousands of years, Jewish recipes used flavors and textures from garden root vegetables, whole grains, fresh herbs, beef, lamb, accompanied by seasonal fruit drinks, jellies, and a plethora of other nutritious foods. Its flavors and ingredients continually evolved as Jews migrated across Eastern Europe and the Americas. The Jewish food repertoire was at the heart of families and annual holidays.

A Seat at the Table has over 10,000 online participants from 59 countries around the world. The course uses YIVO's extensive archives, including the largest collection of Yiddish cookbooks, and a range of experts to explore the staples of Jewish food, sourcing of ingredients, lox slicing, the national popularity of bagels, emergence of Jewish restaurateurs, evolution of Jewish delicatessens and cafes, cross-culturalization within Lower East Side immigrant groups (Jews, Chinese, Japanese), vegetarianism, and more.

Authentic Ashkenazi Jewish cuisine often reflects Jewish spiritual resistance as Jews faced extreme circumstances in their fight for survival and freedom. While food served to sustain and comfort people during the most difficult moments, *A Seat at the Table* offers foodies the opportunity to discover the cornerstones of the Ashkenazi Jewish kitchen.

► To sign up for *A Seat at the Table*, please visit yivo.org/Food.

FALL CLASSES

All of our fall classes are taking place online this semester.
► Register at yivo.org/Classes

BEGINNER CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Begins October 11 | 12 Sessions, Sundays

BEGINNER YIDDISH (MONDAYS)

Instructor: Vera Szabó | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Begins September 14 | 12 Sessions, Mondays

BEGINNER YIDDISH (TUESDAYS)

Instructor: Joshua Price | 7:00pm-8:30pm ET
Begins September 15 | 12 Sessions, Tuesdays

ADVANCED BEGINNER YIDDISH

Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Begins September 14 | 12 Sessions, Mondays

INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH

Instructor: Nina Warnke | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Begins September 16 | 12 Sessions, Wednesdays

ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH

Instructor: Dovid Braun | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Begins September 16 | 12 Sessions, Wednesdays

Y.L. PERETZ AND SHOLEM ALEICHEM: TWO GIANTS OF MODERN YIDDISH LITERATURE

Instructor: Sheva Zucker | 1:30pm-3:00pm ET
Begins September 29 | 8 Sessions, Tuesdays

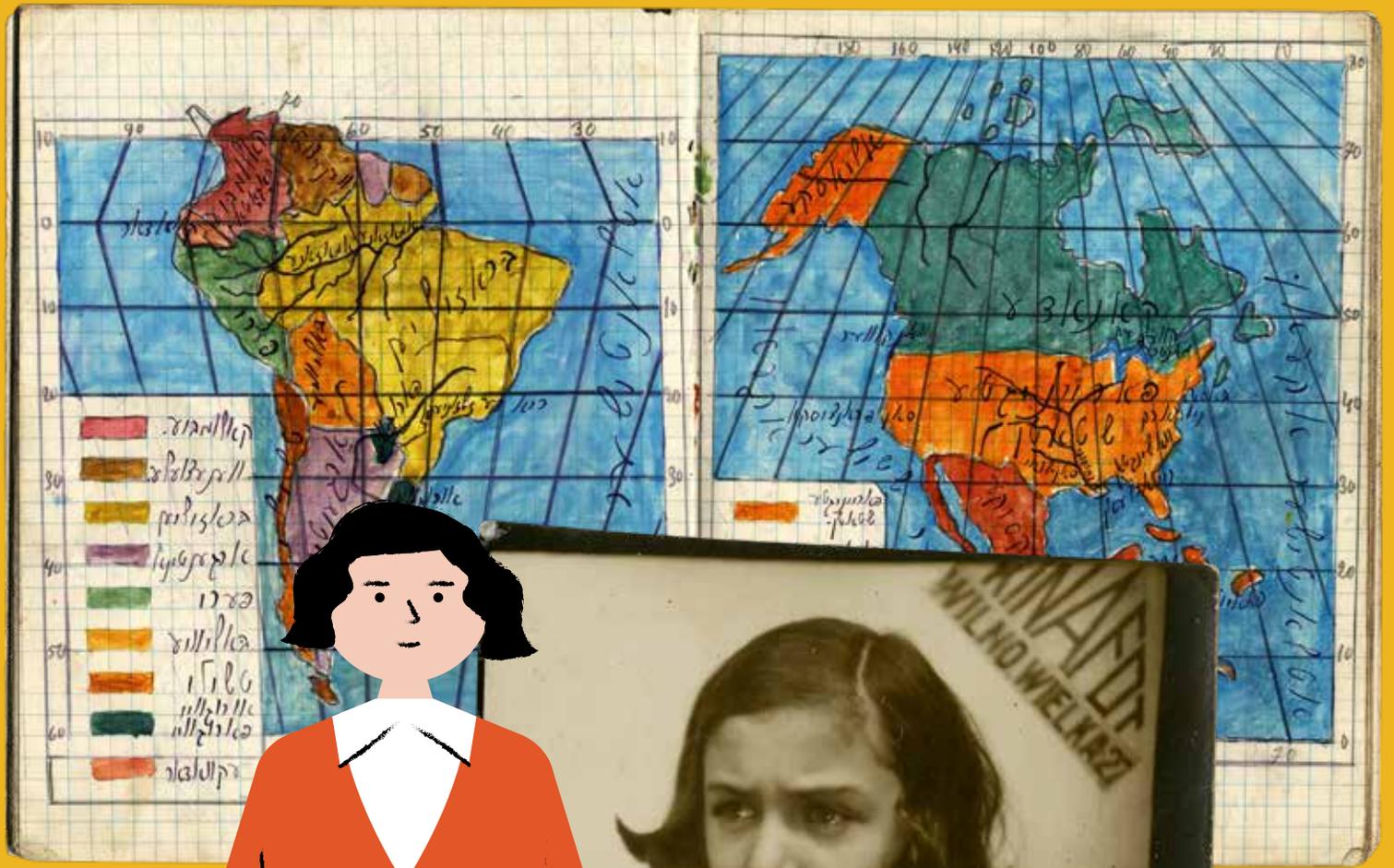
MEDIEVAL MEMORIES IN THE JEWISH DIASPORA

Instructor: E.G. Asher | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Begins October 1 | 10 Sessions, Thursdays

FANTASTIC JOURNEYS

Over 100 students attended *Fantastic Journeys*, a free online course taught by Executive Director & CEO Jonathan Brent. The first full YIVO course to be offered online via Zoom in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, *Fantastic Journeys* investigated the literature of the 'fantastic,' from Kafka and An-ski to Schulz and Capek. The course brought together students from 23 countries across five continents.





YIVO LAUNCHES THE YIVO BRUCE AND FRANCESCA CERNIA SLOVIN ONLINE MUSEUM WITH FIRST INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION EXPLORING EAST EUROPEAN JEWISH LIFE THROUGH THE STORY OF ONE ORDINARY GIRL

“*Beba Epstein lived through extraordinary times, but as her autobiography shows, she was also a regular fifth-grader who loved her summer holidays and spending time with her family.*”

This August, YIVO launched its landmark YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum, which is available free of charge to the global public at museum.yivo.org. The YIVO Cernia Slovin Online Museum's first interactive exhibition *Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl* explores East European Jewish life in the 20th and 21st centuries through the true story of one young girl. The exhibition, developed by YIVO in consultation with scholars and Beba Epstein's family, combines innovative technology with first-rate storytelling to showcase rare materials from YIVO's archive of more than 23 million documents and artifacts. This is the first public presentation of Beba's own childhood autobiography from the 1930s.

The YIVO Cernia Slovin Online Museum dramatically expands YIVO's ability to fulfill its historic mission. YIVO is increasingly using digital technologies and online learning to provide wide-spread public access to the treasures in our collections. This online museum will transform the ways audiences of all ages and backgrounds think about and connect with Jewish

history. Much of this priceless original material has never been available to the general public.

“Beba Epstein lived through extraordinary times, but as her autobiography shows, she was also a regular fifth-grader who loved her summer holidays and spending time with her family. By making her firsthand account and other rare contemporaneous materials available to viewers with the click of a mouse, we hope to inspire empathy and instill understanding that discrimination can alter the course of a single life and whole communities' fate, and no one is immune from it,” said Karolina Ziulkoski, the museum's Chief Curator, a Webby award-winning interactive designer.

Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl was developed from its inception as a digitally native project. Rather than following an object-based approach, the exhibition is divided into ten chapters that span Beba's life, using interactive storytelling to unite over 200 artifacts from YIVO's archives. Within the exhibition, users explore various depths of information at their own pace.

Beba Epstein's autobiography, the centerpiece of the exhibition, was written when she was in fifth grade, before the start of World War II. It was discovered in May 2017 at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania among 170,000 pages of previously unknown YIVO materials thought to have been destroyed by the Nazis. These materials are now part of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections project.

Additional materials available for viewers to explore in the exhibition include videos of Jewish family life in Eastern Europe in the early 20th century, several notebooks from Jewish schools including Beba's primary school, and rare documents like the *pinkas* (record book) of the *kloyz* (study house) of the 18th Century Vilna Gaon, the influential Torah scholar, kabbalist, and communal leader.

Through Beba's story, the audience will learn about many aspects of Jewish life in Eastern Europe including family dynamics, the school system and curriculum, leisure activities, immigration, as well as antisemitism and the Holocaust.

The YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum was established in 2018 with a generous \$3 million gift from Bruce Slovin in memory of his late wife Francesca Cernia Slovin for the purpose of telling the story of Jewish life in Eastern Europe and Russia through YIVO's world-renowned archival and library collections. Future exhibitions planned for the YIVO Cernia Slovin Online Museum will span the history of East European Jewish life over four centuries, drawing from the expansive YIVO archives to create a variety of English language experiential exhibitions.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS

ISER BEZMAN (1867-1930)

In 1927, Iser Bezman celebrated 35 years of activity in the Yiddish theater. This beautifully illustrated folder is stuffed with the congratulatory telegrams and letters he received on that occasion, and later on his 40th jubilee, from his base of Łódź as well as Warsaw, Vilna, Riga, and London. Though his 40 years of activity included acting on the stage, Bezman was best known and respected for his efforts as an impresario and managing director. If the documents inside this folder reveal Bezman's connections and long history in the theater industry and in Łódź, they were well-timed; Bezman had just put together a new troupe in a new space (the Łódź Philharmonic).

This item is in the YIVO Archives' collection, Records of the Yiddish Actors' Union, RG 26, which is currently being processed and digitized as a part of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections project.



SINCE YIVO WENT DIGITAL IN MARCH 2020...



120

2020 Summer Program students from

14
countries



14,500+

registrants for online classes from

68
countries



3,100,000+

minutes watched on YouTube and Facebook



80+

online interviews, check-ins, and programs since mid-March

NEWS FROM YIVO

YIVO'S SHARE YOUR STORY INITIATIVE

Since its founding in 1925, YIVO has used questionnaires to collect the experiences of the Jewish people in their own words, gathering material on everything from Jewish folk legends to holiday preparation to children's games. YIVO collected youth autobiographies and oral histories that covered topics such as the experiences of Jewish soldiers, life during the Holocaust, and stories of migration.

Many of those who answered YIVO's questionnaires in the 1920s thought their stories were not worth writing down, but every response is unique. Today, these sources form the core of YIVO's collections and preserve a history that would have otherwise gone undocumented. They recollect times of prosperity, times of change, and times of great adversity.

Collecting Jewish stories is as important now as it was a century ago. We have heard from people around the world— from Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, England, Israel, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden, the United States, and Vietnam – from an eight-year-old to a ninety-six-year-old – and we want to hear from you.

Please help us document Jewish life during this time by sharing your experiences during this pandemic, from the seemingly trivial to the extraordinary, so they can be preserved for generations to come.

► Share your story with us at yivo.org/Share-Your-Story.

YIVO'S VOLUNTEERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

At the end of March, YIVO announced a call for volunteers to help summarize 100 youth autobiographies from the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections project. In the 1930s, the YIVO Division of Youth Research began a youth autobiography contest. Sixteen- to twenty-two-year-olds submitted their work in hopes of winning a cash prize. The autobiographies provide invaluable insights on everyday life in the interwar period – primarily in Yiddish, though there are also entries in Polish, German, Hebrew, English, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, French, and Czech. About 400 of the over 600 original diaries were recovered after the Holocaust. Forty-three volunteers from around the world are working on writing and editing summaries, which will be added to the online catalog, making the collection significantly easier to navigate.

YIVO BOARD MEMBER LEO MELAMED HONORED AT 2020 CHICAGO INNOVATION FOUNDATION IN-GALA

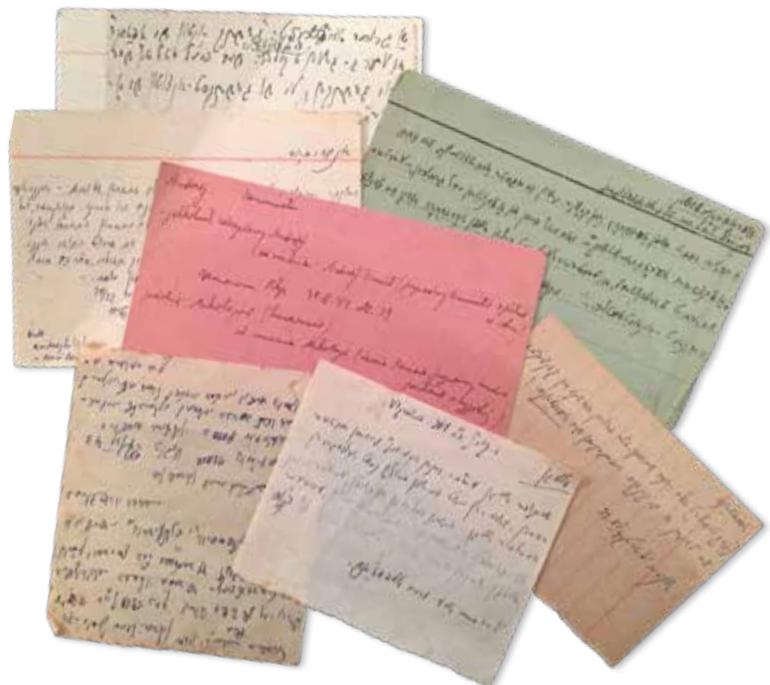
The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research congratulates board member Leo Melamed for being honored at this year's 2020 Chicago Innovation Foundation IN-Gala. Mr. Melamed, one of four members named to the Hall of Fame Class, was chosen for his entrepreneurial spirit.

YIVO RECEIVES CLAIMS CONFERENCE GRANT

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research recently received a grant from the Claims Conference for preserving and digitizing the Archive of Nachman Blumental. The collection contains documents Blumental gathered after World War II that, filled with high-ranking Nazi signatures, reveal the inner administrative workings of the Nazi government. Among his materials are a series of catalog boxes full of his handwritten and typed notecards that form the basis of *Slowa niewinne* (Innocent Words), a dictionary of German Nazi words that were less innocent than their meanings. Many of these documents were used as evidence during the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, as well as numerous other trials in later decades.

► www.claimscon.org

In appreciation to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) for supporting this archival project.



RIGHT: Nachman Blumental's dictionary cards of Nazi terminology. YIVO recently received a grant from the Claims Conference to preserve and digitize the Archive of Nachman Blumental.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING 2020

CONTINUING EVOLUTION: YIDDISH FOLKSONG IN CLASSICAL MUSIC

(JUNE 30) This digital premiere featured performances of 5 new compositions by composers Martin Bresnick, Marti Epstein, Aaron Kernis, Judith Shatin, and Alex Weiser. Commissioned by YIVO, these new works reimagined and were presented alongside archival recordings of folksongs ranging from lullabies to protest songs. The works were performed by ensemble Cantata Profana featuring singers Annie Rosen and Emily Donato, violinist Jacob Ashworth, and pianist Daniel Schlosberg.

DYBBUKS, GOLEMS, S. AN-SKI, AND JEWISH LEGENDS IN TIMES OF FEAR

(JUNE 3) This year marks the 100th *yortsayt* of writer and ethnographer, S. An-ski. S. An-ski's play *The Dybbuk*, a story of possession set in a *shtetl* (think *The Exorcist* meets *Fiddler on the Roof*), is the foundation of modern Jewish drama. In celebration of his life and legacy, scholar Gabriella Safran explored *The Dybbuk's* roots: in Jewish folklore, the scandalous blood libel trial in Kiev in 1913, and the political passions of Russian-Jewish revolutionaries. In composing the play, An-ski was torn between two Jewish myths, each still modern: the tragic ambivalence of the dybbuk, a lost, wandering soul, and the technological triumphalism of the *golem*, a robot set in motion by practical *kabbalah* and capable of defending the Jews from every harm.

YIDDISH IN ISRAEL – A HISTORY

(MAY 27) Rachel Rojanski's new book *Yiddish in Israel: A History* challenges the commonly held view that Yiddish was suppressed or even banned by Israeli authorities for ideological reasons, offering instead a radical new interpretation of the interaction between Yiddish and Israeli Hebrew cultures. In this book talk, Rojanski discussed her new book and findings with Rachel Brenner, Shachar Pinsker, and Sunny Yudkoff.

BEETHOVEN IN THE YIDDISH IMAGINATION

(APRIL 22) In partnership with Carnegie Hall's *Beethoven Celebration*, YIVO hosted this two-part program, which premiered on Facebook. The first part of the program featured baritone Mario Diaz-Moresco and pianist Spencer Myer performing *Ode to Joy* in Yiddish translation alongside *An die ferne Geliebte*, a song cycle Beethoven wrote setting to music poetry by German Jewish poet Alois Isidor Jeitteles. The second part of the program was a live stream with actors Allen Lewis Rickman and Yelena Shmulenson, showcasing a bilingual dramatic reading of *Bethovens levone sonate* – a Yiddish children's story by Shloyme Bastomski retelling an apocryphal story of the origins of the *Moonlight Sonata*.



YIVO IN THE MEDIA

Here are some of YIVO's media highlights from 2020:

ONLINE MUSEUM

The Forward (AUGUST 24, 2020)

In YIVO's first digital exhibition, the story of Vilna's Jews — through the eyes of one girl

The Jewish Week (AUGUST 24, 2020)

7 Startling Artifacts from YIVO's New Online Museum of Eastern European Jewry

URIEL WEINREICH SUMMER PROGRAM

The Forward (AUGUST 14, 2020)

Amid coronavirus pandemic, YIVO completes its largest-ever Yiddish summer program

The Jewish Week (AUGUST 7, 2020)

Times are Shvakh, but Yiddish Classes Are Booming

A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Times of Israel (JULY 28, 2020)

A Seat at the Table

NBC (APRIL 23, 2020)

'A Seat at the Table': Jewish Chefs, Writers Share Recipes, Stories, History of Ashkenazi Cooking

New York Times (APRIL 20, 2020)

Ashkenazi Foodways Explored in Online Course

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Jewish Week (MAY 20, 2020)

Dybbuks, Golems Can Comfort in Ghastly Times

Tablet Magazine (APRIL 22, 2020)

Ode to Joy

Jerusalem Post (APRIL 6, 2020)

Plagues, Jews and fake news

SHARE YOUR STORY ARCHIVAL INITIATIVE

Moment Magazine (JULY 12, 2020)

Archiving COVID-19 As it Happens

Jewish Exponent (APRIL 26, 2020)

YIVO Institute Starts COVID-19 Archive

Jewish Ledger (APRIL 21, 2020)

YIVO launches initiative to gather stories of Jewish life during the pandemic

YIVO NEWS

The Forward (MAY 25, 2020)

Amidst coronavirus pandemic, YIVO looks to the digital future

Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Magazine

(MAY 20, 2020)

Summer of Peace, Love, and Yiddish Song:

The Legacy of New York's Camp Boiberik

Jewish Week (MAY 13, 2020)

Work at YIVO Inspires Finalist for a Pulitzer

Jewish Renaissance (JANUARY 2020)

The Holocaust Dictionary

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 President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the "CARES Act" (hereinafter, "the Act"), on March 27, 2020. The Act contains a few provisions that may have an effect on charitable giving.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

The Act adds an above-the-line charitable deduction. Beginning in 2020, taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions can claim up to \$300 in charitable income tax deductions for cash gifts, and only cash gifts, made to public charities like The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. This will allow many taxpayers to claim charitable deductions who were previously unable to do so due to the increase in the standard deduction in 2017. The Act permits an above-the-line deduction for an outright gift or for funding a charitable gift annuity. The above-the-line deduction is not available for the creation of or additions to donor advised funds, private foundations, charitable remainder trusts (CRTs), charitable lead trusts (CLTs), or pooled income funds (PIFs). Unlike the other charitable provisions in the Act, this above-the-line deduction is permanent and will not expire after 2020 unless additional legislation so requires. For tax year 2020 only, the Act removes the adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation for gifts of cash by individuals. Now a taxpayer may claim a charitable income tax deduction up to 100% of AGI for cash gifts, but not other types of assets, made to public charities. The benefit does not extend to gifts made to donor advised funds, private foundations, or split interest trusts like CRTs, PIFs, and CLTs. Previously, the taxpayer would have had to limit the deduction to 60% of AGI for cash gifts. Donors who make large outright cash gifts to public charities stand to benefit greatly from this enhancement but, as mentioned, the benefit is only available in 2020. The Act temporarily waives required minimum distributions (RMDs) from retirement plans like IRAs and Section 401(k), 403(a) and (b), and 457(b) qualified plans. The waiver of RMDs only applies to these types of plans and only for tax year 2020. A donor's ability to make qualified charitable distributions (direct gifts from IRAs by donors who are 70 ½) is still allowed.

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. Similarly, the cap on deductions for gifts of food inventory are increased from 15% of the C corporation's taxable income to 25%. Like the individual benefits, the enhanced corporate benefits expire after 2020.

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

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NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

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 are closely monitoring the situation and following the guidance from the offices of the Governor and the Mayor. The health and safety of our patrons and staff is our primary concern. YIVO is located at the Center for Jewish History, and we will be working with their team on reopening plans. In the meantime, YIVO staff continue to work remotely and can be contacted via email.

CONTACT

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Administrative Hours

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