

Number Eleven

September 1930



A MAGAZINE WRITTEN, PRINT-  
ED AND ILLUSTRATED BY THE  
CHILDREN OF THE MODERN  
SCHOOL, STELTON, N. J.

THE JEWISH LABOR <sup>AND</sup> POLITICAL ARCHIVES



Eugene M., 7.

Eugene R., 7.



Eugene S., 6.

Lilly D., 7.

### The unhappy cake

Once there was a cake, this cake was a nice looking cake but nobody wanted to buy it one day this cake was very sad and began to cry boo hoo it so happened that a boy and his mother were passing by and heard the crying and the boy said oh let's buy that cake mother; all right Bobby. And they did and the cake I'm sorry to say did not live happily ever after.

VICTORIA ARONOFF

### VOICE OF THE CHILDREN



Linocut Cut by Diana

### THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN

is written, printed and illustrated by the children of The Modern School. Each story is set up, proofread and illustrated by its author, except in the case of very young contributors; they dictate their stories to older children, who also set them up in type. The inexperienced author of five, six or seven asks the spelling of almost every word in the slow and laborious process of building up his story.

The next difficult step is setting up each word in terms of type, and taking an hour or more for setting a single line is not unusual.

Work requiring greater skill, such as distributing type, presswork and binding, in which mistakes are very costly, is usually done by the older children.

Linocut cuts and stories are made by children of all ages with no assistance or suggestions of any kind by members of the staff.



### THE PINE TREE

In a wood stood a tall pine tree. It was a resting place for me. There I would sit with the rabbits and birds. Such happiness could not be expressed in words.

I was a friend of the creatures of the wood, That lived near the place where the pine tree stood.

One day when I was full of sadness, I thought I would go to the place of gladness

## Featured Artifacts

### THE FERRER MODERN SCHOOL IN STELTON, NJ

The Jewish Labor and Political Archives houses a large collection of materials on anarchist movements across the world. Included in this collection are materials relating to the Ferrer Modern School in Stelton, New Jersey. Founded in 1915, the school was named after Francisco Ferrer, a Spanish anarchist and educationist who established a network of secular, private, libertarian schools in Barcelona. Ferrer was executed in 1909 after being convicted of orchestrating a series of insurrections. His death led to an international outcry and the founding of schools following his educational principles. In Ferrer's words, "The whole value of education consists in respect for the physical, intellectual, and moral faculties of the child...education is not worthy of the name unless it be stripped of all dogmatism, and unless it leaves to the child the direction of its powers and is content to support them in their manifestations."

The tenets of the Ferrer Modern School in Stelton were geared toward the development of self-activity, creativeness, judgement, self-reliance, and strength of character. The school included an assembly room for singing, dancing, and dramatic activities; a craft, weaving, and art room; a library; a room for study; a print shop; and a shop for wood and metal craft. Students were encouraged to "do anything their inventive and creative minds may fancy." One such activity was the publication of *Voice of the Children*, a book of poetry and accompanying linocuts entirely written, illustrated, and printed by the students with no assistance or suggestion by any teachers or members of the staff.

PICTURED: Pages from various editions of *Voice of the Children*, ca. 1930s. YIVO Archives.

**YIVO AWARDED  
\$224,000 SAVE  
AMERICA'S  
TREASURES  
GRANT FROM  
THE INSTITUTE  
OF MUSEUM  
AND LIBRARY  
SERVICES**

YIVO is thrilled to receive a grant of \$224,007 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Save America's Treasures grant program. Save America's Treasures grants are awarded to help preserve and conserve nationally significant collections that help tell a more complete story of America and its people. This grant will enable YIVO to process and

digitize two important collections from its Jewish Labor and Political Archives (JLPA) which documents Jewish political, labor, and social movements in the United States and Europe from 1870 to 1992. These collections include the Workmen's Circle Collection, 1893-1972 and the JLPA Photograph Collection, 15,000 Photos.

**YIVO AWARDED  
\$150,000  
GRANT FROM  
THE NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES'  
NATIONAL  
HISTORICAL  
PUBLICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
COMMISSION**

YIVO is delighted to receive a grant of \$150,000 from the National Archives' National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The Commission supports activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources. This grant will enable YIVO to process and digitize three important collections from the JLPA. The collections include

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Collection, 1894-1970s; Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America Collection, 1914-1984; and Jewish Labor Committee Collection, 1930s-1960s.

**YIVO RECEIVES  
\$25,000 GRANT  
FROM THE  
SLOMO AND  
CINDY SILVIAN  
FOUNDATION,  
INC**

YIVO is delighted to announce a grant of \$25,000 from The Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc. for the conservation, processing, and digitization of Holocaust-related materials in the JLPA. Totalling approximately 196,000 pages of archival documents, these materials include

correspondence, manuscripts, newsletters, ephemera, and photographs that recorded life in the camps and ghettos, Nazi atrocities and war crimes, clandestine activities of underground resistance cells, reports and advocacy during the war, and rescue efforts. This is the Foundation's second grant for this multi-year project. YIVO is grateful to the Foundation for its continued support and partnership.

**YIVO AWARDED  
AN ADDITIONAL  
\$9,417 FROM  
THE NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**

YIVO is pleased to announce a second grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities of \$9,417 to purchase housing supplies to reduce the risk of degradation. This follows a \$349,524 grant to process and digitize four collections from the JLPA.

## HOW I COPED WITH EXAMINING TRAGIC DOCUMENTS

*Sarah Hudes writes about her experience as a Project Conservator working on physically preserving collections for the Jewish Labor and Political Archives digitization project.*

by SARAH HUDES, Bard College Class of 2023

One of the first rules of conservation I was taught: remove any non-paper from the documents. Over time, I collected dozens of paper clips, yellowed pieces of tape, and ribbons. I found the debris beautiful; I found it wove an additional story that words couldn't. Edges of letters reinforced with tape, or manuscripts with a dozen more staples than necessary—these were all extra steps to make sure messages were received intact. I hated to discard these little things that revealed parts of human nature, so they piled up on my desk. And sometimes, in between boxes, I would make paper clip chains to decorate my desk.

To me, conservation, especially Jewish conservation, is all about giving dignity to memory. In one of the letters I conserved during my time at YIVO, a woman quotes Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Natural History of Intellect." She includes the excerpt: "Without memory all life and thought were an unrelated succession. As gravity holds matter from flying off into space, so memory gives stability to knowledge; it is the cohesion which keeps things from falling into a lump, or flowing into waves."

In my time working as a paper conservator on the Bund archive, I learned many technical skills, but most of all I gained a glimpse into the thousands of words, letters, receipts, and stories that made up history. Conservation is a symbiotic relationship between the conservator and the documents—it gifted me knowledge, memory of the past, and in return I was lucky enough to gift the documents new life.



## YIVO WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT OF THE JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVES PROJECT (JLPA)

As of December 31, 2023, the project has raised over \$2.5 Million towards its \$8.5 Million goal. This diverse collection includes items related to the Holocaust, labor unions, Jewish political activism, and much more. Together they offer invaluable insights into how Jews in Europe and the United States responded to the momentous events of the 20th century.

Join us on this journey as we make this historic archival collection available to a global audience.

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

For more information and naming opportunities, please contact Melissa S. Cohen at **212.294.6156** or via email at **mcohen@yivo.org**.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

YIVO's Jewish Labor and Political Archives (JLPA) encompasses more than 100 collections (3.5 million pages of documents). The materials cover geographic locations across the United States and Europe from 1870 to 1992. They are rich in correspondence between major political and labor leaders; materials about revolutionary cells; illegal press and pamphlets circulated during the Holocaust, manuscripts of speeches delivered by figures in the Jewish Labor Bund; leaflets and flyers calling for protests and boycotts; posters advertising rallies and marches; and sound recordings of members of the US labor movement.

The collections illustrate how the transnational activities of the Jewish working class were instrumental in the international labor movement. Jews who immigrated to the United States during the period of mass immigration brought their political ideologies, social consciousness, and demand for labor reform to the new and fertile ground of the American working class, joining other ethnic groups in the fight for fair wages and workers' rights. The collections provide valuable insights on the impact of the Jewish immigrant community on American culture and serve as a bridge to understanding the evolution and diversity of the American Jewish experience.

### \$1,000,000+ BUILDER

Irene Pletka

### \$500,000+ PARTNER

### \$100,000+ BENEFACTOR

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Ellen Odoner and Edward Kerson



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities:  
Democracy demands wisdom.