



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

Newsletter

FALL 2016



Letter from the Director



This fall, YIVO continues its vital work to preserve and celebrate our rich cultural past, while creating a space for the past to shape the present and the future. Join us for a full-day conference on Blood Libel, a concert celebrating the work of Young Jewish American Composers, a Yiddish Open Mic, a lecture on the publishing of the secret Warsaw Ghetto Oyneg-Shabes Archive, and a wealth of other concerts, book talks, and lectures here at the YIVO Institute. We welcome you to join us in this vibrant community, as we engage deeply with Jewish life and culture.

Jonathan Brent
Executive Director

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is the leading academic center for East European and Russian Jewish Studies in the world, specializing in Yiddish language, literature, and folklore; the Holocaust; and the American Jewish experience. YIVO preserves, studies, shares, and perpetuates knowledge of the history and culture of East European Jewry to advance scholarship, to strengthen community, and lay a foundation of self-knowledge and pride for future generations.

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Sound Archives | SOUNDARCHIVES@YIVO.CJH.ORG

Library Inquiries
LIBRARYINQUIRIES@YIVO.CJH.ORG

» Travel Directions

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is located in the Center for Jewish History at 15 West 16th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, New York, NY 10011.

by subway

14 St / Union Sq. **L N Q R 4 5 6**
14 St + 6 Ave **F L M PATH** 18 St + 7 Ave **1**
14 St + 7 Ave **1 2 3** 14 St + 8 Ave **A C E L**

by bus

M2 M3 M5 M7 M14

» Hours [CLOSED ON MAJOR FEDERAL AND JEWISH HOLIDAYS]

Gallery Hours
Sun 11:00am – 5:00pm
Mon+Wed 9:30am – 8:00pm
Tue+Thu 9:30am – 5:00pm
Fri 9:30am – 3:00pm
Sat CLOSED

Administrative Hours
Mon–Thu 9:00am – 5:00pm
Fri 9:00am – 4:00pm

Library Hours
Mon–Thu 9:30am – 5:00pm

FROM THE YIVO ARCHIVES



This Japanese transit visa was issued by consul Chiune Sugihara in Kovno, Lithuania, on August 19, 1940, for Doba-Dacha Trunk. The inside of the visa bears the personal stamp of Chiune Sugihara as well as the required Japanese government stamps. A stamped Soviet exit visa, at the left bottom, was required for permission to leave Lithuania. [Papers of Yekhiel Yeshaye Trunk, YIVO Archives.]

STAFF NEWS

Lyudmila Sholokhova Promoted to Director of the Archives and Library

Dr. Lyudmila Sholokhova was recently named the Director of the YIVO Archives and Library. She was Head Librarian at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research from 2011-2016 and Acting Head Archivist from 2014-2016. From 1994 to 2001, she was a Research Associate at the Judaica Division of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Dr. Sholokhova is the author of numerous publications on the history of Jewish music and Jewish bibliography. She is fluent in Russian, Ukrainian, and Yiddish.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YIVO Summer Program Alum Stuart Schear Joins Board of Directors

The newest member of YIVO's Board of Directors is Stuart Schear, Vice President for Communications at American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the leading Jewish international development and human rights organization supporting 550 social change organizations in 19 developing countries. Schear pursued Jewish Studies at Oberlin College, with a focus on East European Jewish history, leading him to take graduate-level classes through YIVO's Max Weinreich Center and conduct research in the YIVO Library. He attended YIVO's Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture in 1975, 1976, and 1978.



News

NextGen Launch

On March 31, YIVO launched its NextGen community, an exciting new group of young professionals and philanthropists between the ages of 25-40. Their first event, **Nosh with NextGen**, was hosted by Irene Pletka and featured a special culinary demonstration and tasting prepared by The Gefilteria co-founders Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz. Jeffrey and Liz delighted a sold-out crowd with a delicious menu inspired by Fania Lewando's groundbreaking *Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook*. The book was first published in 1938, and later rediscovered in the YIVO Archives and republished in an English translation in 2015. *Nosh with NextGen* perfectly captured the spirit of this new community endeavor, which celebrates the treasures in the YIVO Archives and finds innovative ways to share Jewish history and re-imagine Jewish culture.

YIVO NextGen is planning two events for Fall 2016. For more information, please contact David Haskell at DHASKELL@YIVO.CJH.ORG.

YIVO Visits Las Vegas

Jonathan Brent (YIVO Executive Director) and Irma Friedman (YIVO Director of Development) were invited by Dr. Stephen and Elaine Kollins to their home to meet their friends, prominent members of the Las Vegas community, to showcase YIVO. They also premiered *No Asylum: The Untold Chapter of Anne Frank's Story* at Congregation Ner Tamid in Henderson, NV. While there, Jonathan and the film's director, Paula Fouce, were interviewed by local CBS and Fox News affiliates.

YIVO Mission Trip



A group of 20 lucky travelers from around the world participated in a special 11-day group travel experience, **Eastern Europe: Roots and Rebirth Trip to Lithuania and Poland**, organized by YIVO and *The Forward* and chaired by YIVO Board Member Irene Pletka. Resident scholar Professor Samuel Kassow provided unforgettable insight into the history and significance of each stop along the way. Travelers enjoyed private tours of the POLIN Museum in Warsaw as well as the Lithuanian Central State Archives and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, which are both partnering with YIVO on its landmark Vilna Collections Project. They attended special receptions with the United States Ambassador in Vilnius and the Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Culture, met with leaders of organizations leading the revival of Jewish life in Poland, visited restored synagogues, towns of historic Jewish significance, places of somber Holocaust memory, and culminated by participating in the renowned Krakow Jewish Festival.

In September, YIVO will launch a website sharing photos and anecdotes. If you are interested in learning about this trip and YIVO's plans for 2017, please contact David Haskell at DHASKELL@YIVO.CJH.ORG.



PHOTO BY MELANIE EINZIG

Summer Program

The 49th **Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture** brought together students ages 13-70 from four continents this summer. The longest running Yiddish intensive program in the world, this year's program featured courses taught by leading scholars in the field, a lecture by Curt Leviant, and a concert by Klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals. The program trains the next generation of Yiddish scholars, teachers, and students, inspiring communities around the world to experience the Yiddish language in all its history, complexity, and beauty. (Photo: Summer Program class of 2016.)

Shine Online Educational Series at YIVO

In January 2016, YIVO launched its first online class, **Discovering Ashkenaz: Jewish Life in Eastern Europe**, taught by Professor Samuel Kassow. Over 3,000 people from 53 countries have signed up. The course delves into the history and culture of the Jews of Poland, Russia, and Lithuania, from medieval times through the Communist era. YIVO's second online course, **Folksong, Demons, and the Evil Eye: Folklore of Ashkenaz**—exploring music, folktales, rituals, and superstitions of Jewish Eastern Europe—begins November 1st. Register for both courses by visiting yivo.org/Online-Classes.



- ▶ Study Yiddish language and literature with YIVO this fall! See our course offerings at yivo.org/Classes.



PHOTO BY MELANIE EINZIG

Persona Non Grata Private Film Screening

(MAY 4, 2016) This Japanese film depicts the life of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, who saved 6,000 Jews during World War II by issuing them transit visas to Japan. The event also featured an exhibit of visas issued by Sugihara. The New York Japanese Counsel, the Lithuanian Counsel General, and over 200 members of the YIVO community attended.

Tributes to Sholem Aleichem

In conjunction with YIVO's exhibition **Laughter is Still Healthy: Sholem Aleichem 100 Years Later**, YIVO hosted two events for Sholem Aleichem's 100th yortsayt. (MAY 18, 2016) John Zorn and his ensemble held the first-ever live performance of Zorn's music from the documentary film *Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness*. Drawing on and departing from traditions of Jewish music such as klezmer, Zorn's score is filled with lyricism, color, and a keen sense of irony and dark humor. Over 150 people attended. (Photo: John Zorn [bottom left] and his ensemble.) (MAY 22, 2016) YIVO presented readings of Sholem Aleichem's work by Shane Baker and Eleanor Reissa, and a discussion of his legacy by scholars Jonathan Brent, David Fishman, Mikhail Krutikov, Curt Leviant, and Alisa Solomon. Over 250 people attended.

Fall Season Programs

FOR EVENT TICKETS & MORE INFO:

» Visit yivo.org/Events

» Call 212.294.8301 ext. 6108
or email BOXOFFICE@YIVO.CJH.ORG

Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays | 10:30am-3:00pm

Not in the New York area?

Watch past YIVO events at yivo.org/Video.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 12:00pm

Where the Jews Aren't by Masha Gessen

BOOK TALK

Author Masha Gessen discusses the complex, strange, and heart-wrenching story of Birobidzhan, the Soviet "Jewish Autonomous Region." *Ms. Gessen will be available to sign books afterwards.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 | 9:30am-5:30pm

The Blood Libel Then and Now: The Enduring Impact of an Imaginary Event

CONFERENCE

The blood libel, the accusation of Jews committing ritual murder, has been the basis for some of the most hateful examples of organized antisemitism around the world since its fabrication in the Middle Ages. This conference explores the impact of the blood libel over the centuries with a focus on how cultural memory was created, elaborated, and transmitted.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | 7:00pm

Young Jewish American Composers

SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES

A concert of new classical works by young Jewish American composers, featuring conversations with the composers exploring how Jewish history and identity informs the creation of new works of art music.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 6:30pm

Norman Manea Celebration

WRITER RETROSPECTIVE

With the occasion of his 80th Anniversary, YIVO organizes a festive celebration of Norman Manea, Holocaust survivor and one of the most important contemporary Jewish-Romanian-American writers. *Co-sponsored by the Romanian Cultural Institute and the Romanian Consulate in New York.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 7:00pm

Yiddish Open Mic

OPEN MIC EVENT

We want your talent in Yiddish! Join celebrated host, actor, and singer Shane Baker, and special guests for a fun, intimate night of Yiddish performance. Bring your instruments, poems, monologues, manifestos, and films in Yiddish. Sign up starts at 7:00pm, open mic starts at 7:30pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 | 7:00pm

Yuval Waldman 70th Birthday Concert Celebration

CONCERT

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, violinist and champion of Jewish music Yuval Waldman will play a recital-lecture of works by Jewish composers which he commissioned or gave the premiere performance of. *A reception will follow the concert.*

RUTH GAY SEMINAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

To RSVP for the following two programs, email FMOHRER@YIVO.CJH.ORG or call 212.294.6143.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 | 6:30pm Out of the Ghetto: Struggle, Resistance and the Human Spirit. The Ringelblum Archive Publication Project

RUTH GAY SEMINAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

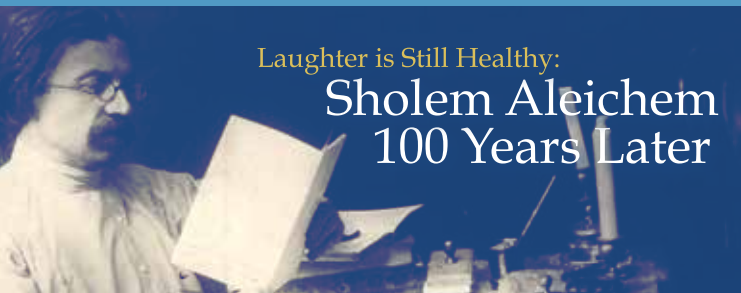
Historian Eleonora Bergman (Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw) discusses the monumental project to publish the entire *Oyneg-Shabes* Archive, secretly gathered in the Warsaw Ghetto by Emanuel Ringelblum and colleagues. With Samuel Kassow (Trinity College), Moderator and Respondent, and Robert Shapiro (Brooklyn College), Panelist.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 3:00pm The Yiddish Theater in America and Poland Between the Two World Wars

RUTH GAY SEMINAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

YIVO's Vilna Collections Scholar-in-Residence, Alyssa Quint, will share her impressions of YIVO's vast Esther Rachel Kaminska Theater Museum Archive and will offer insights about the colossal achievement of the trans-Atlantic interwar Yiddish stage, focusing on the most important theater centers in New York, Warsaw, Lodz, and Vilna.

Exhibitions at YIVO



Laughter is Still Healthy: Sholem Aleichem 100 Years Later

On view in the 3rd Floor Smart Gallery, this exhibit honors Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem's 100th *yortsayt*. The exhibit features the newly acquired **Sholem Aleichem Family Archive**, as well as manuscripts, photographs, and other rarely seen materials from the YIVO Archives.



די קלאסיקער אין קאַריקאַטור Classic Yiddish Writers in Caricature

Now on view in the Constantiner Gallery on the main floor, this exhibit showcases caricature portrayals of Yiddish's "Di klasiker" – the three classic authors of Yiddish literature, Mendele Moykher-Sforim (S. Y. Abramovitsh), Y. L. Peretz, and Sholem Aleichem (Sholem Rabinovitsh). The caricatures are contemporary depictions from the writers' times from Yiddish-language periodicals in Europe and America: *Der groyser kundes*, *Der bezem*, and *Der ashmeday*.



PHOTO BY MELANIE ENZIG

MEMBERSHIP

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

All members receive:

- + Invitation to members-only programs and events
- + Discounts on our public programs
- + Discounts on academic classes and programs, including online classes
- + Institutional Newsletter

+ PLUS additional benefits at each level of giving:

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

ONLINE DONORS ONLY

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

\$54 Individual

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

\$100 Friend

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

\$180 Sponsor

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- + YIVO drawstring bag

\$360 Patron

- + 4 complimentary tickets to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- + YIVO umbrella

\$500 Benefactor

- + 6 complimentary tickets to our public programs, excluding conferences and symposia
- + Invitation to private talks on our collections and special exhibitions
- + YIVO umbrella and drawstring bag

\$1,000+ Builder

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

Become part of our community by visiting yivo.org/Membership, or call the YIVO Membership Office at 212.294.6131.

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

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