



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER |
SPRING 2022

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COVER:

Page from *Shtelt aykh for un molt aykh oys* (Just Think and Imagine!) by Peretz Markish. Moscow, 1936. YIVO Library.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2022 marks the completion of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project, and so I congratulate Stefanie Halpern, director of the YIVO Archives, the YIVO archivists and Archives staff, and all the YIVO staff on this landmark accomplishment. I also congratulate our Lithuanian colleagues for their constant cooperation and goodwill. We are most grateful to the YIVO Board, the Foundations, and the individuals who provided support for this important project.

Over these last two COVID years, YIVO’s commitment to digital outreach has opened up vast new opportunities in public and education programs and shows us that YIVO’s work is in many ways just beginning in training scholars, archivists, librarians, in fundamentally enriching the cultural life of Ashkenazi Jews around the world with the knowledge of who we are and where we came from, and thereby shaping and deepening Jewish cultural identity for future generations. It is an accomplishment of which we are proud because, in the saving of our culture, we create the possibilities of our future. Join us in this great undertaking by becoming a member!

Sincerely,



JONATHAN BRENT
Executive Director & CEO

Visit our special section on the recently completed Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project! See **PAGES I-VIII** ▶

WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you for being a part of the YIVO family. We have accomplished so much over the past year, thanks to the support and engagement of **YOU**, our global community. Become a member today and enjoy discounts on courses throughout the year.

Your enthusiasm inspires us, and we look forward to your continued participation and support in 2022!

Visit yivo.org/Membership or call 212.294.6131.

PROGRAMS Spring Season

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

THURSDAY

FEB 03

1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK

LIVE ON ZOOM

THE LETTERS PROJECT: A DAUGHTER'S JOURNEY

In 1986, Eleanor Reissa went through all of her mother's belongings and found fifty-six handwritten letters from her father in 1949, only four years after Auschwitz. Thirty years later, with her father's letters as her silent guide, Reissa goes on a journey, unearthing the unknowable about her family's past and her own present.

WEDNESDAY

FEB 09

1:00PM ET

COOKING
DEMONSTRATION

PREMIERING
ON YOUTUBE

IRENE PLETKA PRESENTS: AWFUL, OFFAL DINNER

Lung, tongue, liver, and brains were once among the staples of the Eastern European Jewish diet. Join YIVO's Vice Chair Irene Pletka for her *Awful, Offal Dinner*, a tour through culinary delicacies the faint of heart will not want to try at home.

TUESDAY

FEB 15

1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK

LIVE ON ZOOM

THE CLEVER LITTLE TAILOR

Solomon Simon's novel *The Clever Little Tailor* spins tales of a Jewish tailor who impresses kings, judges, thieves, and even giants with his sharp wit. Simon's grandson, David R. Forman, has now translated the novel for the first time into English. Join Forman in conversation with literary scholar Miriam Udel, as they discuss *The Clever Little Tailor*, Solomon Simon's life and thought, and his place in Yiddish children's literature.

THURSDAY

FEB 17

7:00PM ET

LECTURE &
PERFORMANCE

IN PERSON &
LIVESTREAMED
ON ZOOM

AN EVENING OF YIDDISH THEATER IN TRANSLATION: CELEBRATING NAHMA SANDROW'S YIDDISH PLAYS FOR READING AND PERFORMANCE

Join YIVO for scenes of romance, political symbolism, and low comedy in Nahma Sandrow's translations, performed by Yelena Shmulenson, Allen Lewis Rickman, Kevin Sebastian, and Jakob von Eichel. *A wine reception will follow for those attending in-person.*

WEDNESDAY

MAR 02

1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK

LIVE ON ZOOM

AN UNCHOSEN PEOPLE: JEWISH POLITICAL RECKONING IN INTERWAR POLAND

Professor Kenneth B. Moss and Professor Steven Zipperstein discuss Moss's newly published book, which explores the bleak political reality for the largest Jewish community in interwar Europe as a minority population facing poverty, antisemitism, fascism, and nationalism.

THURSDAY

MAR 10

7:00PM ET

FILM SCREENING

IN PERSON

SONG SEARCHER: THE TIMES AND TOILS OF MOYSHE BEREGOVSKY

This documentary film tells the story of musician and scholar Moyshe Beregovsky, who crisscrossed Ukraine with a phonograph in hand during the most dramatic years of Soviet history to record and study the traditional music of Ukrainian Jewry.

MONDAY

MAR 14

1:00PM ET

LECTURE

LIVE ON ZOOM

HOW TO DO RESEARCH AT YIVO: A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION

Join YIVO archivist Hallel Yadin for an overview on how to do research at YIVO. All are welcome to attend: scholars, students, amateur researchers, and anyone who has ever been curious about YIVO's vast collections.

WEDNESDAY

APR 06

1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK

LIVE ON ZOOM

ISRAEL'S MOMENT: INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR AND OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHING THE JEWISH STATE, 1945-1949

Drawing on new research in government, public, and private archives, Jeffrey Herf's new book explores the political realities that underpinned support for and opposition to Zionist aspirations in Palestine in the wake of the Holocaust and during the onset of the Cold War.

THURSDAY

APR 07

12:00PM ET

BOOK TALK

LIVE ON ZOOM

HOPE IS STRONGER THAN LIFE: THE VILNA GHETTO DIARY OF ZELIG KALMANOVICH

Zelig Kalmanovich kept a vivid diary during his time in the Vilna Ghetto describing daily life, the hopes and efforts of the people to retain humanity, and his thoughts about the future of the Jewish people and Jewish culture. Join YIVO for a panel discussion celebrating the new English translation of his important testimony.

WEDNESDAY

APR 13

1:00PM ET

BOOK TALK

LIVE ON ZOOM

FREE AS A JEW: A NEW MEMOIR BY RUTH WISSE

In her new book, Ruth R. Wisse reflects on her experience fleeing the Holocaust as a child, living through the birth of the State of Israel, and teaching Yiddish Literature and Comparative Literature at Harvard University for more than 20 years. This event will feature Wisse in conversation with author and founder of the Yiddish Book Center, Aaron Lansky. *Co-sponsored by the Yiddish Book Center.*

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 01

1:00PM ET

PANEL
DISCUSSION

LIVE ON ZOOM

ARE WE IN THE MIDST OF A YIDDISH RENAISSANCE?

Are we currently experiencing a Yiddish renaissance? YIVO's own community of Yiddish learners has expanded more than 10-fold in the last two years. Duolingo has added Yiddish as a language. Headline after headline touts Yiddish as unexpectedly alive and well. What does this all mean for Yiddish in the 21st century?

Unable to attend our programs?

Watch past YIVO events at yivo.org/Video.

YIDDISHCLUB

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
FEB 20
2:00PM ET
YIDDISH TIKTOK
With Cameron Bernstein (artist and Yiddishist from the Chicagoland Jewish community).

SUNDAY
MAR 27
2:00PM ET
YIDDISH CARTOONS
With Miglė Anušauskaitė (Judaica Research Center of the National Library of Lithuania).

SUNDAY
APR 24
2:00PM ET
YIDDISH THEATER TODAY
With Zalmen Mlotek (conductor, composer, pianist, and the artistic director of the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene [NYTF]).

Visit yivo.org/YiddishClub for details.



YIDDISH *Folksong* FESTIVAL

YIVO's *Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today* is a music festival celebrating Yiddish folksong.

The festival includes premieres of contemporary classical works reimagining Yiddish folksongs; classic compositions which engage with Yiddish folksongs; little-known settings of Yiddish folksongs from YIVO's archival collections; discussions of archival work related to the study and preservation of Yiddish folksong; and performances by contemporary artists engaged with Yiddish folksong.

Live concerts will take place on:

MONDAY MAY 09 7:00PM ET	WEDNESDAY MAY 18 7:00PM ET	SUNDAY MAY 22 4:00PM ET	THURSDAY MAY 26 7:00PM ET
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MONDAY
MAY 23
1:00PM ET
PANEL DISCUSSION
LIVE ON ZOOM
THE YIVO FOLKSONG PROJECT
Join YIVO for a discussion of the YIVO Folksong Project including examples of material from the project, and a demonstration of how to access this material. This panel will feature the original project director Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, ethnomusicologist Mark Slobin, singer and composer Joshua Waletzky, and YIVO Sound Archivist Eléonore Biezunski.

Visit yivo.org/FolksongFestival for details, including venue and livestreaming information.

CONTINUING EVOLUTION: YIDDISH FOLKSONG TODAY

BY ALEX WEISER, *Director of Public Programs*

One of the musical genres that is well represented in YIVO's archival and library holdings is the oral tradition of Jewish songs in the Yiddish language. Its full historic breadth is difficult to gauge, but it is understood to stretch back as early as the 1300s. We have at our disposal today documentation of approximately 7,000 different songs in about 20,000 different variants.

As the YIVO Encyclopedia explains, the genre of Yiddish folksong “constitutes a lyrical reflection of the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of the Jewish people in Yiddish. The songs shed light on religious and secular practices and customs, holidays, and celebrations and convey personal insights into daily life and historical events.” These songs share some qualities with the folksong traditions of co-territorial groups, but also have distinct features.

This tradition began to be studied and documented in the late 19th and early 20th centuries resulting in the creation of archival collections and field recordings by ethnographers, the publishing of collections of song texts, melodies, and analyses, and more. Important examples of all of these can be found at YIVO and are used by scholars

studying this music, performing artists learning this repertoire, and composers and songwriters drawing on these traditions.

In addition to facilitating access to these collections, our knowledgeable staff answering research questions, and our digitization projects making these materials more accessible, YIVO brings attention to these collections through hosting performances of this music and commissioning composers and songwriters to create new work that engages with it.

The latest and most ambitious program of this nature is a music festival YIVO is planning for May 2022. YIVO's *Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today* festival will showcase a variety of new and old music related to Yiddish folksong, bring to light little-known works from our collections, discuss YIVO's collections and digitization efforts, and celebrate Yiddish folksong's continued legacy.

Over the past few years YIVO has commissioned works based on Yiddish folksong from a slew of esteemed composers: Martin Bresnick, Marti Epstein, Aaron Kernis, Judith Shatin, Derek David, David Ludwig, Anthony Russel, Daniel Schlosberg, and Dan Shore. These works were all premiered in online performances during the pandemic and are available for viewing on YIVO's YouTube channel. As a part of our *Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today* YIVO is planning to premiere all of these works in-person in May alongside three brand-new commissions from composers Annie Gosfield, Lainie Fefferman, and Anat Spiegel.

The festival will also feature discussion about performances from the YIVO's 1973-1975 Folksong Project: East European Jewish Folksong in its Social Context. Thanks to a "Recordings at Risk Grant" from the Council on Library and Information Resources, this collection has now been digitized and is available to researchers: archives.cjh.org/repositories/7/resources/20117. This latest recording digitization effort joins YIVO's Ruth Rubin Legacy (ruthrubin.yivo.org) as an important online resource for researchers around the world.

Join us in May as we explore, celebrate, and expand the rich musical legacy of Yiddish folksong!

Sheet music cover for Lazare Saminsky's *Under Little Sarah's Cradle*, featuring one of the Society for Jewish Folk Music's standard sheet music cover designs with art by Moses Maimon. Printed in Leipzig, 1914. YIVO Archives.

Fall 2021

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

"WHEN I GROW 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. Krimstein, joined by scholar Jeffrey Shandler, discussed his new book, which was named an NPR Best Book of the Year, a *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year, a *Chicago Tribune* Fall "Best Read", and an *Alma* most anticipated book of November.

NAZISM, NEO-NAZISM, AND MUSIC

How did German Nazis use music to help facilitate mass murder during the Holocaust? How did neo-Nazism become entangled with various music-based subcultural scenes? Researcher, writer, and activist Spencer Sunshine moderated this panel, featuring Luca Signorelli (author of *L'Estetica Del Metallaro*), Shannon Foley Martinez (consultant for American University's Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab), Kirsten Dyck (author of *Reichsrock: The International Web of White-Power and Neo-Nazi Hate Music*), and Edward B. Westermann (author of *Drunk on Genocide: Alcohol and Mass Murder in Nazi Germany*).

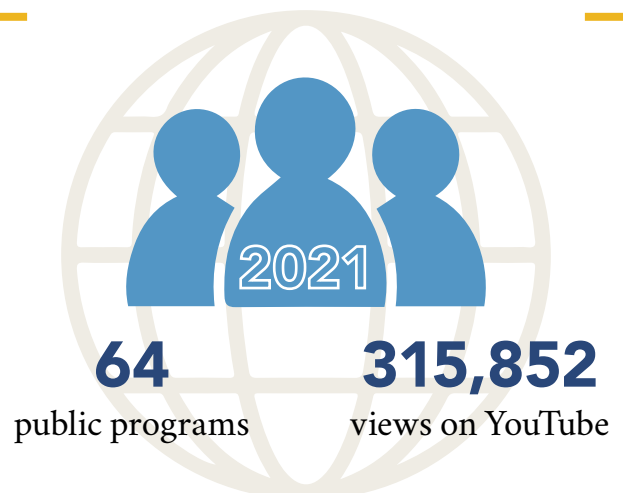
JEWISH IDENTITY IN LITHUANIA TODAY

Lithuania has seen a resurgence of interest in Jewish identity. In a conversation moderated by Jonathan Brent, Miglė Anušauskaitė (a Lithuanian cartoonist and archivist working on the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project), Anna Avidan (Managing Director of LitvakWorld), Kęstas Pikūnas (publisher of Passport), and former Lithuanian Minister of Culture, Mindaugas Kvietkauskas discussed the historical and social realities of Jewish-Lithuanian relations and the challenges of building a multi-cultural, democratic society in Lithuania today.

10 YIDDISH SONGS BY ALEXANDER KREIN

One of two Sidney Krum Young Artists Concerts this fall, this online premiere featured 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.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS



FROM THE YIVO COLLECTIONS

THE MYSTERY OF MORRIS RUND

BY LEO GREENBAUM, *Accessions Archivist / Bund Archivist*

In YIVO's collection of Yiddish broadsides there are lyrics to a song, titled "The Two Orphans." It was apparently published on the Lower East side in 1909. The lyricist's name is given as Morris Rand or Rond, though further research indicated that his name was Rund.

The musicologist Irene Heskes has located one hundred and thirty-three pieces of sheet music in which Rund is the lyricist and/or the composer. Rund was sufficiently prominent to have his lyrics utilized by such composers as Sholem Secunda. Moreover, there are at least thirty-seven sides of 78 rpm recordings of Rund's compositions, including five sides by Aaron Lebedeff.

The lexicographer Berl Kagan lists Rund as the author of a Yiddish song booklet titled "In [a] Strange Land;" however, it is unclear which library holds a copy.

A website claims that Rund was born in Austria-Hungary in 1879; that he was a baker by occupation, and he died on May 28th, 1940.

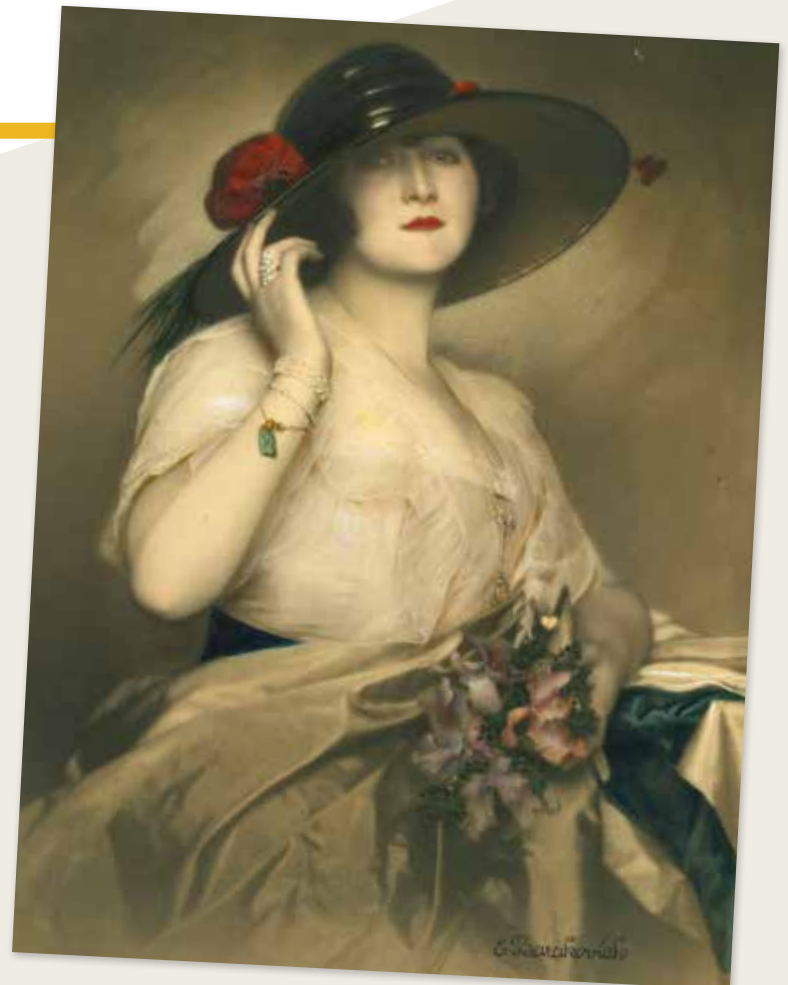


The lyrics to "The Two Orphans" by Morris Rund. New York, 1909. YIVO Archives.

Recent Accession

Prof. Victoria De Grazia donated the papers of **Lilliana Weinman Teruzzi** (1892-1987). For several years, the latter performed leading operatic roles in Italy and other countries under the stage name Lilliana L(l)orma. She then married Atillio Teruzzi who, among his offices, was governor of Cyrenaica and commander of Benito Mussolini's Black Shirts. The marriage lasted about three years, and Lilliana Weinman Teruzzi returned to America. Her extensive papers include very numerous photographs, including the couple in company with Mussolini.

Lilliana Weinman Teruzzi in Vienna, undated. This photograph was taken by Edith Barakovich (1896-1940), an Austrian photographer known for fashion work and portraiture. YIVO Archives.





The Edward Blank
YIVO Vilna Online Collections

YIVO COMPLETES LANDMARK DIGITIZATION AND PRESERVATION PROJECT REUNITING MATERIALS NEARLY DESTROYED BY THE NAZIS

YIVO COMPLETED THE EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA Online Collections Project (EBYVOC), a historic 7-year, \$7 million initiative to process, conserve and digitize YIVO's divided prewar library and archival collections. Through the Project, these materials have been digitally reunited through a dedicated web portal, making them accessible to a worldwide audience for the first time.

The EBYVOC Project is an international partnership between YIVO and three Lithuanian institutions: the Lithuanian Central State Archives, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, and the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

In 1941, the Nazis ransacked the YIVO Institute in Vilna. Many documents were destroyed and a group of Vilna ghetto workers (many of whom had worked for or been associated with YIVO) were forced to sort through the collections and select materials to be shipped to Frankfurt, for use in the Nazi Institute for the Study of the Jewish Question. In 1946, the U.S. Army recovered these documents and sent them to YIVO in New York.

These Ghetto laborers, who became known as the Paper Brigade, however, did not send all the material they sorted to Frankfurt. They risked their lives to hide other precious materials on their bodies and smuggle them from the YIVO building into the Vilna Ghetto where they were secretly hidden. These materials were uncovered after the war and then again saved in 1948 from the Soviets by the Lithuanian librarian Antanas Ulpis and remained hidden in the Church of St. George (converted by the Soviets into the Lithuanian Book Chamber) until they were discovered in 1989.

In 2017, approximately 170,000 additional documents were discovered in the National Library of Lithuania, including rare and unpublished works.

These surviving books and documents—split apart by history and located in New York City and Vilnius, Lithuania—are cultural survivors of the Holocaust. Comprised of approximately 4.1 million pages of original books, artifacts, records, manuscripts, and documents, the EBYVOC Project is the first of its kind in Jewish history and represents a milestone in preserving Jewish history.

This unparalleled collection includes materials from Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Germany, France, and the United States among other countries and will benefit scholars, students, and the global public for generations to come.

YIVO's original prewar archives and library are the preeminent source of documentation on the subject of East European Jewish civilization, which spanned over 1,000 years. The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project has created the single largest digital collection related to East European Jewish civilization.

The collections tell us how Jews lived, where they came from, how they raised and educated their families, how they created art, literature, music, and language. These documents also reveal the relations between Jews and their non-Jewish neighbors, how they understood their place in the world both politically and socially and how they faced the turmoil and promise of modernity. ■

COMPLETED AS OF
JANUARY 10, 2022

OVER 4 MILLION
pages digitized

We invite you
to explore
the collections at
vilmacollections.yivo.org

Need assistance?

Please email

reference@yivo.org



Scene from *Motl peysi dem khazns* (Motl, the Cantor's Son) by Sholem Aleichem, illustrated by a student in the Y. L. Peretz School, Section VI. Lublin, c. 1920s. Digitized as part of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project.

HONORING SIMA AND RUBIN WAGNER, PROUD "VILNERS"

Supporting the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project was especially meaningful to YIVO board member Harry Wagner and his wife, Myra, in memory of his beloved parents, Sima and Rubin (z"l), proud Vilners.

Born in 1919, Sima, the eldest of four sisters, was raised in a traditional Jewish home, her mother Leah a grocery store owner, and her father Yisroael, a butcher. After graduating from a Jewish girls' school, Sima learned the millinery trade. Ruby and his brother Mendel were the sons of Aaron and Soreh-Khaye Wagner, beauty salon owners. Ruby attended public school and studied Torah in the afternoons. His high school studies ceased when war broke out in 1938.

Introduced by a mutual friend, Sima and Ruby married in 1940, during the Soviet occupation of Vilna. The Nazis attacked the Soviet Union and occupied Vilna in 1941, building ghettos to isolate the Jewish population, including Sima, Ruby, and their baby girl Sheyna. Thousands were forced to serve in labor brigades and executed in Ponary Forest, where Mendel perished. In 1943, surviving men were sent to Estonian labor camps and women to Latvian camps. Struggling separately and desperate to be reunited, Sima and Ruby never saw Sima's parents, Ruby's mother, or Sheyna again.

Post-war, the Wagner's reunited in Lodz and lived in the Heidenheim, Germany DP Camp, where Harry was born. In 1949, the family emigrated to the United States, building new lives.

Harry shared, "Seeing the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Project to fruition was a personal goal. I feel it is a fitting tribute to my parents' Vilna heritage." YIVO is grateful to Myra, Harry, and the many contributors who supported this landmark digitization project.



Sima and Ruby Wagner

Of course, daily work with the documents from the YIVO collection is quite different than their discovery.



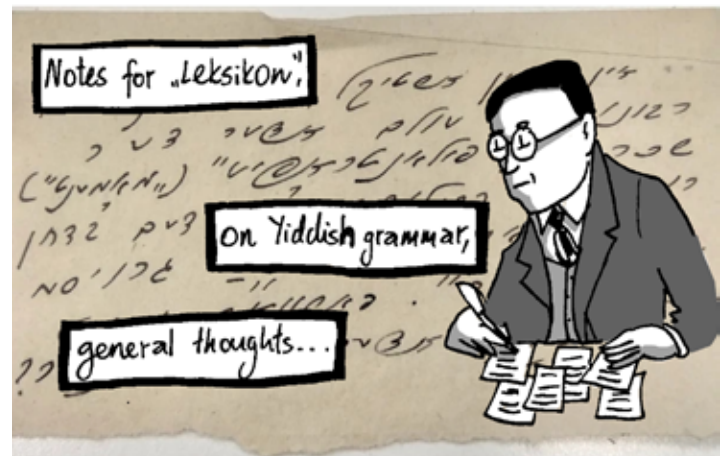
But it's ok, because by sorting and cataloging



We're making the documents SEARCHABLE and ACCESSIBLE to others!



That being said, sometimes it's hard not to get drawn into some parts of the collection while working!



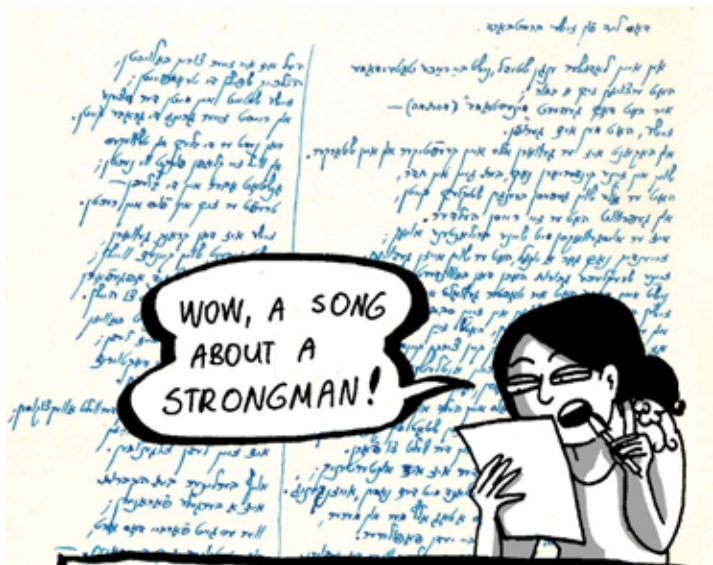
I wonder what it's like to try to INFER THE RULES of YOUR OWN LANGUAGE!

WORKING WITH THE YIVO COLLECTIONS

A COMIC BY MIGLĖ ANUŠAUSKAITĖ

Miglė Anušauskaitė is a Judaica researcher and a cartoonist from Lithuania. She worked in the Judaica Research Center of the National Library of Lithuania, mainly with the manuscripts in Yiddish from the Interwar period. Apart from her direct responsibilities and participation in the YIVO project, Miglė has worked extensively with texts and translations from Yiddish and from English to Lithuanian. She has translated two non-fiction books from English and an autobiography from Yiddish to Lithuanian and English. She has recently made three small comic books about the culture of Ashkenazi Jews. She has also

YIVO Ethnography collection:



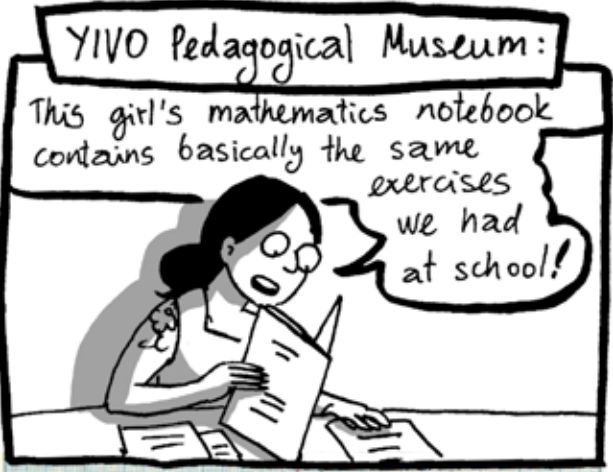
How do you avoid researching more? And turns out, it was not A strongman, but **THE** strongman:



(I translated the song into Lithuanian, because it was just too good)

written and drawn many comics about literature, science, and history, among them – a graphic novel on Greimassian semiotics, presently being adapted into an animated movie.

Miglė's participation in the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project included sorting the newly-found documents according to provenance, preparing them for cataloging, and later – cataloging as the first step in the documents' journey of being restored, scanned, and reunited virtually in the YIVO online collection.



AND THE SAME TERMS!

ABSCISSA

ORDINATE



PROJECT DONORS

We greatly appreciate and acknowledge the following donors for their generous support of the Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections Project.

\$1,000,000+

Anonymous (2)

\$100,000+

Anonymous (2)

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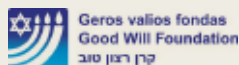
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*Contributions received through
DECEMBER 31, 2021*



“ The completion of this project marks a milestone in the recent history of the YIVO Institute and a true fulfillment of our essential mission. It honors those heroes and martyrs who risked and lost their lives to preserve these books and documents and honors the scholars and visionaries who understand that the meaning of these materials goes far beyond the words written on the page. We are grateful for the participation of our Lithuanian partners, the tireless efforts of our archivists and librarians in NY and Vilnius, and our generous donors, without whom none of this would have been possible.

— **Ruth Levine**

Chair of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

“ We must remember and celebrate the heroic efforts of the Jewish librarians, archivists, poets, and scholars in the Paper Brigade, who risked their lives to ensure the survival of an astonishing trove of documents that preserve the rich culture of Jewish life across Eastern Europe. The Lithuanian librarian Antanas Ulpis, should also be added to the list of those willing to risk everything so that later generations could access the records of an entire civilization, attacked in the most vicious way imaginable, but which has endured. This history can now be accessed thanks to the great work of YIVO and their Lithuanian partners.

— **Richard Ovenden**

Bodley's Librarian at the University of Oxford

“ This astonishing achievement is a triumph over evil. The project of gathering these great cultural treasures of the Jewish people—begun in Vilna a century ago, continued by heroic Jewish writers smuggling materials out of Nazi hands, and protected by brave Lithuanians during decades of Soviet occupation—is finally complete. The bridge connecting the past and the future is now open.

— **Dara Horn**

Author of PEOPLE LOVE DEAD JEWS and ETERNAL LIFE

“ [...] I am especially glad that this virtual library will be available to everyone wishing to discover and understand the life, language, and culture of the centuries-old Jewish civilization from Lithuania and the entire Eastern Europe.

At the same time, the project has shown, how much we—Lithuania and the world—have lost. The Project team—in Vilnius and New York—have had an extremely important mission and have done an excellent job, perpetuating the historical and intellectual legacy of Lithuanian Jews. [...]

— **Ingrida Šimonytė**

Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

“ Working in the YIVO library first as a doctoral student in the late 1970s, later time and again over the course of the last several decades, I was aware that elsewhere, in Vilna, there were treasures once belonging to YIVO yet beyond reach. Now, finally, this veritable goldmine is united, virtually, opening for the scholar and the general reader knowledge about a vanished world immeasurably more accessible because of this new, extraordinary resource.

— **Steven J. Zipperstein**

Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History, Stanford University; Author of POGROM: KISHINEV AND THE TILT OF HISTORY

View of an archway in Jatkowa Street in the Jewish Quarter, Vilna, c. 1920s. Photograph by Alter Kacyzne. YIVO Archives.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: DEBORAH VEACH



“My mameloshen is Yiddish.”

I grew up in a traditional Yiddish-speaking family. Both my parents were from Belarus (then Poland). After the Holocaust, they spent four to five years in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany, where I was born, immigrating to the United States in March 1950.

My childhood memories are of adults who spoke Yiddish and broken English and of listening to WEVD radio with my father. I was completely baffled by the English instruction in school. I learned English by playing with other

children and began answering my parents’ Yiddish in English. My family attended Yiddish theater and watched Yiddish films. Summers, we often went to Grinne Felder, a bungalow colony in the Catskills. In its heyday, Isaac Bashevis Singer and other Yiddish luminaries spoke there.

After eighth grade, I enrolled in a Yeshiva High School, excelling in secular and Hebraic studies. I continued my Hebrew studies at Barnard College and spent my junior year at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, often visiting my aunt and uncle, who spoke only Yiddish. Realizing I needed to resurrect my Yiddish, I enrolled in Yiddish classes, learning to read and write in Yiddish. After college, I lived on the Upper East Side and often visited the YIVO library on Fifth Avenue and 86th Street.

My husband, Jim, and I have joined two YIVO trips. The first was the Poland/Lithuania trip; the second was a literary tour of Ukraine. I’ve been to many lectures at YIVO on 16th Street, and I’ve researched my family surnames in the much-modernized library. I look forward to the opportunity to complete my Yiddish journey as a member of the YIVO Board of Directors.

Here are some of YIVO’s media highlights from Fall 2021:

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Times of Israel (DECEMBER 23, 2021)

The Quest For Revenge And Justice In Postwar Poland

Sheldon Kirshner (NOVEMBER 25, 2021)

Nazism, Neo-Nazism And Music

Jewish Ledger (OCTOBER 5, 2021)

Little-Known work of Sholem Aleichem translated into English

Jewish Boston (SEPTEMBER 27, 2021)

Triumph of the Creative Spirit Through Yiddish Art During COVID

YIVO NEWS

JTA (DECEMBER 21, 2021)

She loves Jewish literature. He loves her. So he proposed in a Yiddish library.

Jewish Standard (NOVEMBER 17, 2021)

‘I figured I better learn some more Yiddish’

YIVO ARCHIVES

Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Magazine

(DECEMBER 1, 2021)

The Modern Potato Latke Was Not Inevitable

Chicago Tribune (NOVEMBER 18, 2021)

What We’re Reading: ‘When I Grow Up’ is a graphic novel created from discovered stories of Yiddish teenagers, just before Hitler’s invasion

CBS (NOVEMBER 5, 2021)

New graphic novel illustrates long-lost pre-WWII essays by Jewish teens

eJewish Philanthropy (NOVEMBER 5, 2021)

YIVO is professionalizing, growing and reviving a lost world

EDUCATION

NPR (DECEMBER 25, 2021, MENTION)

For some secular Jews, their pandemic hobby has been learning Yiddish

New Jersey Jewish Standard (AUGUST 18, 2021, MENTION)

Yiddishist unearths Leonia’s history

אַ שיינעם דאַנק!

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EDUCATION

WINTER PROGRAM AND WINTER YIDDISH

Held annually in January since 2012, the YIVO-Bard Winter Program invites students to delve into Ashkenazi Jewish life and culture covering its thousand-year history

in Eastern Europe and across the diaspora. Hosted online for the second time, the 2022 Winter Program boasted 203 student registrations and featured courses taught by Jonathan Brent, Elisabeth Gallas, Eric Goldstein, Elzbieta Janicka, Dovid Katz, Enrico Lucca, Tony Michels, Anita Norich, and Ilan Stavans. The keynote lecture, delivered by Yale historian Timothy Snyder, was entitled “How should we think about freedom?” and discussed freedom as the capacity to choose among values and envision futures.

Running concurrently with the Winter Program was YIVO’s Winter Yiddish series. These short winter Yiddish classes explored special topics in Yiddish language, literature, and culture. 140 students registered for these courses.

2022 URIEL WEINREICH SUMMER PROGRAM IN YIDDISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

Learn more and apply at summerprogram.yivo.org.

JUNE 21 – JULY 29, 2022

For the first time ever, our six-week intensive program will offer the option to participate online or in-person. The program provides peerless instruction in the Yiddish language and an in-depth exploration of the literature and culture of East European Jewry and its diaspora communities. The program features six levels of language study, history and culture seminars, *shmuess* (conversation) classes, a theater workshop, lectures by visiting scholars, a Yiddish song workshop, and more.

The Weinreich Program treats Yiddish as a living language and emphasizes spoken Yiddish.

Financial Aid Applicants Apply by: **February 25**

General Applicants Apply by: **March 11**

If six weeks isn’t enough, join us for our additional programs to expand your Yiddish learning:

REFRESHER COURSE | JUNE 13-17, 2022

Instructor: Dovid Braun

YIDDISH: THE NEXT LEVEL | AUGUST 1-12, 2022

Instructors: Miriam Trinh and Eliezer Niborski

SPRING CLASSES

This spring we are offering 43 online courses—all held remotely on Zoom. 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!

STANDARD YIDDISH

14 weeks
14 total sessions
1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I YIDDISH

(Sunday) Feb. 13 – May 29 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

(Monday I) Feb. 14 – May 23 | 5:00pm-6:30pm ET
Instructor: Nina Warnke

(Monday II) Feb. 14 – Jun. 6 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Miri Koral

(Tuesday AM) Feb. 15 – May 17
10:00am-11:30am ET | Instructor: Nina Warnke

(Tuesday PM) Feb. 15 – May 17 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

BEGINNER II YIDDISH

(Sunday AM) Feb. 13 – May 29 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Instructor: Philip Schwartz

(Sunday PM) Feb. 13 – May 22 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

(Friday) Feb. 18 – Jun. 3 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

BEGINNER III YIDDISH

(Sunday) Feb. 13 – May 22 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

(Monday) Feb. 14 – May 23 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

(Thursday) Feb. 17 – May 26 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET
Instructor: Nina Warnke

BEGINNER IV YIDDISH

(Sunday) Feb. 13 – May 22 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Nina Warnke

(Monday) Feb. 14 – May 23 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó

INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH

Feb. 14 – May 23 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH

Feb. 13 – May 29 | 1:30pm-3:00pm ET
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH

Feb. 15 – May 17 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Dovid Braun

INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH

Feb. 13 – May 22 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

ADVANCED I YIDDISH

Feb. 20 – May 29 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET
Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

INTENSIVE YIDDISH

14 weeks
28 total sessions
1.5 hours each

INTENSIVE BEGINNER I&II YIDDISH

Feb. 14 – May 26 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

INTENSIVE BEGINNER III&IV YIDDISH

Feb. 13 – Jun. 2 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE I&II YIDDISH

Feb. 14 – May 26 | 9:00am-10:30am ET
Instructor: Vera Szabó

INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE III&IV YIDDISH

Feb. 13 – May 26 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

INTENSIVE ADVANCED I&II YIDDISH

Feb. 15 – May 26 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

INTENSIVE ADVANCED III&IV YIDDISH

Feb. 15 – May 26 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

INTENSIVE ADVANCED V&VI YIDDISH

Feb. 13 – May 26 | 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

(Sunday) Feb. 27 – May 22 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

(Tuesday) Mar. 1 – May 24 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

BEGINNER II CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

Feb. 24 – May 19 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET
Instructor: Alexandra Polyan

BEGINNER IV CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

(Morning) Feb. 27 – May 22 | 10:00am-11:30am ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

(Afternoon) Feb. 27 – May 22 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

READING YIDDISH

12 weeks
12 total sessions
1.5 hours each

BEGINNER I READING YIDDISH

Feb. 17 – May 12 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET
Instructor: Josh Price

BEGINNER II READING YIDDISH

Feb. 18 – May 20 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET
Instructor: Josh Price

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN ENGLISH)

10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

DI FROYEN VELT: EASTERN EUROPEAN TEXTILE HERITAGE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

Mar. 13 – May 22 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET
Instructor: Elena Solomon

HOLOCAUST AND THE LAW

Mar. 13 – May 22 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET
Instructor: Vanda Rajcan

JEWS AND JEWISHNESS IN ENGLISH RENAISSANCE LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Mar. 15 – May 17 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET
Instructor: Becky Friedman

JEWISH BERLIN THEN AND NOW: CULTURE, SOCIETY AND THE GERMAN CAPITAL FROM THE 18TH CENTURY UNTIL TODAY

Mar. 17 – May 26 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Elisabeth Becker Topkara

JEWISH LITERATURE AND FILM UNDER DICTATORSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA

Mar. 14 – May 16 | 7:00pm-8:30pm ET
Instructor: Sarah Valente

THE JEWISH SOLDIER, 1788-1948

Mar. 13 – May 22 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET
Instructor: Orel Beilinson

SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN YIDDISH)

10 weeks
10 total sessions
1.5 hours each

AVROM SUTZKEVER AFTER 1945: BETWEEN EUROPE AND ISRAEL

Mar. 15 – May 17 | 2:30pm-4:00pm ET
Instructor: Miriam Trinh

TALES FROM EARLY YIDDISH LITERATURE

Mar. 24 – June 9 | 9:00am-10:30am ET
Instructor: Claudia Rosenzweig

YIDDISH LITERATURE SEMINAR: SHORT STORIES

Feb. 14 – April 18 | 5:30pm-7:00pm ET
Instructor: Anna Fishman Gonshor

לייענקרײַז YIDDISH READING GROUP: A BINTEL BRIV

Co-sponsored by the Yiddish Book Center.

(Monday) Mar. 14 – May 16 | 7:00pm-8:15pm ET
Instructor: Anita Norich

(Wednesday) Mar. 9 – May 18 | 5:30pm-6:45pm ET
Instructor: Anita Norich



107 classes
1,316 students
18 countries

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

OUR SUPPORTERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

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Alma Dorin z"l	Leora Klaymer Stewart z"l	Milton Ohring	Bruce Slovin	
Jean Dubinsky Appleton z"l	Joseph Koenig z"l	Louis Osofsky	Sara Snyder z"l	
Harvey Eagle	Lucy Kohn z"l	Donna and Elye Palevsky	Merle Spiegel z"l	
Eva H. Eckert	Esther Koplovitz z"l	Martin Peretz	Fanny Spivack z"l	

** formerly known as
the Gaon Society*

Comprised of people who have included YIVO in their estate planning through a bequest or other forms of planned gifts, as a member of the 1925 Legacy Society, you ensure that YIVO will continue in its mission to preserve, study, and celebrate East European Jewish culture.

Please consider these opportunities, which allow you to make an important impact and help shape YIVO's future:

- ▶ **Make a gift through your will**
- ▶ **Boost your retirement income** – a gift annuity allows you to support YIVO while providing regular income payments.

- ▶ **Reduce taxes on your retirement plan assets** – donating Individual Retirement Assets (IRAs) and 401(k) s/403(b)s will allow you to avoid potential double tax
- ▶ **Make an easy gift and save on taxes** – an easy and tax-wise way to support YIVO can be accomplished by changing the beneficiary designations on a document or form – including retirement account assets, a savings account, certificate of deposit, or a life insurance policy.

You have the ability to educate and inspire future generations of scholars, researchers, and people around the globe.

We can assist you and your advisors in customizing a plan. Please contact Melissa Cohen at 212.294.6156 or MCOHEN@YIVO.ORG.



LOCATED IN
THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

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

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

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.

CONTACT

tel 212.246.6080 | fax 212.294.6125 | yivo.org

General Inquiries

INFO@YIVO.ORG

Archival Inquiries

REFERENCE@YIVO.ORG

Photo/Film Archives | PHOTOFILM@YIVO.ORG

Sound Archives | SOUNDARCHIVES@YIVO.ORG

Library Inquiries

REFERENCE@YIVO.ORG

Currently, entry to the Center for Jewish History is by appointment only.

To ensure compliance with local health and safety guidelines, proof of full COVID-19 vaccination (*at least 14 days after your final vaccine dose*) with matching ID is required for all visitors 12 and older. For the most up-to-date vaccination and masking requirements, or to make an appointment, go to yivo.org/Visit.

HOURS [closed on major federal and Jewish holidays]

Reading Room Hours

Tue–Thu 10:00am–4:00pm

Administrative Hours

Mon–Thu 9:00am–5:00pm

Fri 9:00am–4:00pm

Gallery Hours

Sun CLOSED

Mon–Thu 10:00am–4:00pm

Fri 10:00am–3:00pm

Sat CLOSED

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 W 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**



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