



# YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH



**NEWSLETTER**

FALL 2022

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

From educational classes, public programs, exhibitions, digitization projects as well as extensive research and translation assistance, YIVO continues its commitment to protecting our common heritage and ensuring that our traditions can be passed on to future generations. Yet as this newsletter amply testifies, over the past decade YIVO has begun to expand its activities and programs in exciting ways: from programs on the recent shuttering of Memorial (the Russian institution that addressed the crimes of the Soviet regime) and discussions of the war in Ukraine; an exhibition on Jews and Cannabis; to classes on the East European literary avant-garde, South American Jewish literature, tyranny in the modern world; and the world of Bruno Schulz—and much more. For the first time, YIVO presented at the prestigious Oxford Literary Festival in Oxford, England; as well as before the Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament). Finally, schools around the globe—from Stuyvesant High School in New York City to The Sholem Aleichem College in Melbourne, Australia—have been using YIVO’s Online Museum to teach Jewish history and the Holocaust.

These new initiatives—and there are more to come!—reflect YIVO’s vibrant staff and community of scholars, teachers, students, researchers, poets, artists, musicians who deepen their knowledge of themselves and the world, past and present, through YIVO. Join our community and become part of this exciting future.



JONATHAN BRENT  
*Executive Director & CEO*

COVER:  
Ceramics course hosted by ORT (The Society for Handicraft and Agricultural Work among the Jews of Russia [Obshchestvo Remeslennago i Zemledelecheskago Truda Sredi Evreev v Rossi]). Budapest, Hungary, c. 1945. YIVO Archives.

# DO YOU KNOW THE WHOLE STORY?

Experiencing YIVO is like opening a book to one of the richest, most extraordinary stories ever told...and it's all true.

Learn more:  
[yivo.org/The-Whole-Story](https://yivo.org/The-Whole-Story)



# PROGRAMS Fall Season

For tickets, more information, and program updates: [yivo.org/Events](https://yivo.org/Events)

SUNDAY  
**SEP 11**  
1:00PM ET  
ANNUAL  
MEMORIAL  
IN PERSON &  
LIVESTREAMED  
ON ZOOM

## NUSAKH VILNE MEMORIAL

For 2022's commemoration of the Jewish community of Vilna, Justin Cammy discusses the poetic legacy of *Yung-vilne* and Avrom Sutzkever. A mini concert featuring musical settings of poetry of Avrom Sutzkever will follow Cammy's presentation.

TUESDAY  
**SEP 13**  
1:00PM ET  
PANEL  
DISCUSSION  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## THE YIVO SOUND ARCHIVE AT 40: A CELEBRATION

YIVO explores the history of the YIVO Sound Archive, important areas of the collection, projects facilitated by the Sound Archive, and other interesting stories from the past 40 years. *Co-sponsored by the Klezmer Institute.*

WEDNESDAY  
**SEP 14**  
1:00PM ET  
BOOK TALK  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## THE DANCER AND THE HOLOCAUST: A BIOGRAPHY OF POLA NIREŃSKA

In her book *Tancerka i Zagłada* (The Dancer and the Holocaust), Weronika Kostyrko uncovers the story of dancer Pola Nireńska (1910-1992) whose career was repeatedly interrupted by antisemitism and fascism. YIVO Executive Director Jonathan Brent joins Kostyrko to discuss this important new biography.

THURSDAY  
**SEP 22**  
1:00PM ET  
BOOK TALK  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## HIDDEN HERETICS: JEWISH DOUBT IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Ayala Fader investigates the doubt, digital media, and "double lives" of married ultra-Orthodox Jewish men and women in 21st century New York.

THURSDAY  
**SEP 29**  
1:00PM ET  
WORKSHOP  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## HOW TO DO RESEARCH AT YIVO: WHAT IS AN ARCHIVE?

Join YIVO archivist Hallel Yadin for an overview on how to do research at YIVO. The program will cover key terminologies as well as the basics of how to search for material at YIVO.

THURSDAY  
**OCT 06**  
1:00PM ET  
BOOK TALK  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## DINEH: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Yermiyahu Ahron Taub discusses his English translation of Ida Maze's haunting Yiddish portrait of her rural, village, and small-town life in White Russia at the turn of the 20th century.

THURSDAY  
**OCT 20**  
1:00PM ET  
BOOK TALK  
PREMIERING  
ON YOUTUBE

## HUGO KAUDER: COMPOSER, MUSICAL PHILOSOPHER, MUSIC THEORIST

YIVO Director of Public Programs Alex Weiser and biographer, scholar, and pianist Karin Wagner discuss Viennese Jewish composer Hugo Kauder, his work, and his legacy. *Co-sponsored by Hugo Kauder Society, Leo Baeck Institute, and American Society for Jewish Music.*

THURSDAY  
**OCT 27**  
7:00PM ET  
CONCERT  
IN PERSON &  
LIVESTREAMED  
ON ZOOM

## MUSIC OF HUGO KAUDER

This concert explores a selection of Viennese Jewish composer Hugo Kauder's vocal music, piano music, and chamber music, including the newly available Violin Sonata in a minor. *Co-sponsored by Hugo Kauder Society, Leo Baeck Institute, and American Society for Jewish Music.*

MONDAY  
**OCT 31**  
1:00PM ET  
WORKSHOP  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## HOW TO DO RESEARCH AT YIVO: ACCESSING DIGITIZED MATERIALS

Join YIVO archivist Hallel Yadin for an overview of how to access YIVO's digitized holdings. This program will go over the portals that contain digitized archival and library materials, as well as tips for navigating each portal effectively.

THURSDAY  
**NOV 03**  
1:00PM ET  
BOOK TALK  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## THE GOLDEN PEACOCK: THE VOICE OF THE YIDDISH WRITER

Sheva Zucker discusses a special project with bilingual audio recordings and texts of twelve Yiddish writers, including Kadya Molodowsky, Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman, and Elie Wiesel.

WEDNESDAY  
**NOV 09**  
7:30PM ET  
CONCERT  
IN PERSON

## KRISTALLNACHT AND ITS AFTERMATH

A fitting tribute to those whose lives forever changed by Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938, "The Night of Broken Glass," this concert will feature pieces by three composers who were forced to re-start their promising young careers as immigrants in new countries. *Co-sponsored by American Society for Jewish Music, Center for Jewish History, and Leo Baeck Institute.*

WEDNESDAY  
**NOV 16**  
7:00PM ET  
FILM SCREENING  
& DISCUSSION  
IN PERSON

## "VER VET BLAYBN?" (WHO WILL REMAIN?) — A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT AVROM SUTZKEVER

Join us for the New York premiere screening of *Ver Vet Blaybn? (Who Will Remain?)*, an award-winning documentary about the life and survival of Yiddish poet Avrom Sutzkever, featuring his granddaughter, actress Hadas Kalderon. A Q&A with the filmmakers will follow the screening. *Co-sponsored by the Yiddish Book Center.*

TUESDAY  
**NOV 29**  
7:00PM ET  
FILM SCREENING  
IN PERSON

## I AM FREE ... BUT WHO IS LEFT?

A new documentary created by Joanne Weiner Rudof and Lawrence Langer tells the story of a family that thrived in pre-war Poland and what happened to them when the Nazis invaded. *Co-sponsored by Yale Fortunoff Video Archive For Holocaust Testimonies.*

WEDNESDAY  
**NOV 30**  
12:00PM ET  
BOOK TALK  
LIVE ON ZOOM

## YIDDISH PARIS: STAGING NATION AND COMMUNITY IN INTERWAR FRANCE

Nick Underwood explores how left-wing Yiddish-speaking emigrants from Eastern Europe created a Yiddish diaspora nation in Paris in the 1920s and 1930s.

Unable to attend our programs?  
Watch past YIVO events at [yivo.org/Video](https://yivo.org/Video).

THURSDAY  
**DEC 07**  
7:00PM ET  
BOOK TALK  
IN PERSON

**IRENA KLEPFISZ:  
HER BIRTH AND LATER YEARS: NEW  
AND COLLECTED POEMS, 1971-2021**  
Lesbian poet, child Holocaust survivor, and political activist Irena Klepfisz discusses her newly published book, the first and only complete collection of her work. *In collaboration with The Workers Circle.*

SUNDAY  
**DEC 18**  
3:00PM ET  
CONCERT  
IN PERSON

**HANUKKAH CONCERT**  
This annual Hanukkah concert showcases songs and stories that charm and delight, both familiar and new. *Co-sponsored by American Society for Jewish Music, Center for Jewish History, and Leo Baeck Institute.*

THURSDAY  
**DEC 22**  
7:00PM ET  
LECTURE  
LIVE ON ZOOM

**A VERY JEWISH CHRISTMAS: JESUS AND  
SHABBTAI ZVI, FROM HERETIC TO HERO**  
David Biale examines how modern Jewish culture has remembered Jewish Messiahs such as Jesus and Shabbati Zvi, revealing how Jews in the 19th and 20th centuries thought about heretics in Jewish history and how they transmuted heretics into modern heroes.

## YIDDISH CLUB

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

SUNDAY  
**OCT 23**  
2:00PM ET

**CONTEMPORARY YIDDISH  
CREATIVITY IN ISRAEL**  
*With Mendy Cahan (founder of the YUNG YiDiSH Library and Cultural center in Tel Aviv).*

SUNDAY  
**NOV 20**  
2:00PM ET

**YIDDISH SONGWRITING TODAY**  
*With Adah Hetko, a Yiddish singer, songwriter, and educator.*

SUNDAY  
**DEC 11**  
2:00PM ET

**YIDDISH IN RIO**  
*With Sonia Kramer, Professor at Pontific Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro/PUC-Rio and coordinator of the Núcleo Viver com Yiddish [Lebn far Yiddish Center]: research, courses, and cultural projects.*

Visit [yivo.org/YiddishClub](http://yivo.org/YiddishClub) for details.

### PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

44

public programs  
in Spring 2022

17,000+

registrations

~70

countries registered

1,000,000+

views on YouTube  
achieved early this year

## Spring 2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### HOW SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT FREEDOM?

(JANUARY 5) Freedom is the main idea of American political life, but no one knows what it means. What would it take to have a country of free speakers and free people? In this lecture, Timothy Snyder defined freedom and presented a vision of a future where Americans are far freer than we are today, and in which their freedom leaves them more secure and more capable of addressing the ecological and other existential threats we face as a species. This program has over 5,600 views on YouTube.

### THE SHUTTERING OF MEMORIAL, A RUSSIAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

(JANUARY 18) In 1989 in Moscow an NGO called Memorial was founded to document and publish the crimes of the Soviet regime. In late 2021, the Russian Supreme Court and Moscow's City Court ordered Memorial to shut down. Russian prosecutors claimed that Memorial defied Russia's "foreign agents" law and stoked support for extremists. Historians and international diplomats called this an attack on civil society and human rights. YIVO's Jonathan Brent, journalist and author Masha Gessen, Russian researcher and journalist Grigory Okhotin, and author Anna Nemzer discussed Memorial and the meaning of the Russian government's actions. This program has over 700 views on YouTube.

### FROM THE VILNA GHETTO TO NUREMBERG: MEMOIR AND TESTIMONY

(JANUARY 27) After escaping the Vilna Ghetto and surviving winter in the forest among partisan fighters, Avrom Sutzkever was airlifted to Moscow in 1944. The renowned Yiddish poet detailed his two years in the Vilna Ghetto, writing about the Nazi occupation and establishment of the ghetto, daily life in the ghetto, and mass killings at Ponar. He also details armed Jewish resistance, how Jews organized collectively to retain their dignity, and demand for historical justice. Originally published in Yiddish 1946, Sutzkever's memoir has been translated into English for the first time by professor of Jewish studies and world literatures Justin Cammy. Cammy and YIVO's Jonathan Brent's discussion on the great poet's account of the Holocaust has over 1,000 views on YouTube.

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

(FEBRUARY 17) Yelena Shmulenson, Allen Lewis Rickman, Shane Baker, and Jakob von Eichel performed scenes of romance, political symbolism, and low comedy from Nahma Sandrow's translations. The program reflected the variety and range of Yiddish theater repertory, which Sandrow's new book, *Yiddish Plays for Reading and Performance*, illustrates through three full plays and nine independent scenes, with directors' notes. Sandrow introduced and narrated the program, putting the scenes in the context of Yiddish theater history and dramaturgy. Nearly 700 people registered to attend in person and on Zoom.





PHOTOS: STEVEN PISANO

## YIDDISH *Folksong* FESTIVAL

(MAY 9-26) The largest music festival of its kind, *Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today* celebrated Yiddish folksong with performances including the live premiere of newly commissioned classical works alongside a wealth of lesser-known compositions from YIVO's archival collections. Among the commissioned composers and performers are Grammy Award winners, a Pulitzer Prize recipient, and Guggenheim fellows. Many of the composers and performers have studied Yiddish at YIVO.

4 concerts

12+ premieres

30+ performers

~2,000 registrations

5,000+ views on YouTube





HOWARD BROWN, *Summer Program '75*

In 1975 I was a student at Cornell University with an abiding interest in labor history. I had written a research paper about the “Uprising of the 20,000,” the historic 1909 strike of garment workers in New York. Somehow (perhaps a notice on a school bulletin board) I learned of the Weinreich Summer Program. I applied and was accepted, with a scholarship to boot.

That summer I began to learn Yiddish. Although my grandparents were all Yiddish speakers born in Ukraine, and Yiddish was the first language of my Bronx-born mother, I had very little knowledge of the language. Thanks to the program’s teachers and with the help of *College Yiddish*, I got a basic grounding in Yiddish, enough to update my research paper by reading the 1909 strike coverage in the *Forverts* on microfilm. The change in perspective from the *Times* to the *Forverts* was enlightening!

Later, during a year of graduate study in history at Columbia, I was privileged to continue my Yiddish education for a semester with Professor Mordkhe Shaechter. What a pleasure it was to learn from him. I also participated in a graduate history seminar at YIVO. I have very fond memories of days spent in research at the former YIVO building on Fifth Avenue as a graduate student.

Fast forward a few decades. I became an employment lawyer in Boston, not a labor historian in New York. But I have always kept in touch as a member of YIVO, making annual contributions to help preserve this wonderful institution.

Last year I participated in one of YIVO’s online Yiddish classes and was pleased to find that I had retained much of what I had learned in the *zumer* program and in Professor Shaechter’s class. There is no better way to connect with the history and culture of Ashkenazic Jewry than learning Yiddish.

What will I do next with Yiddish? I can’t say for sure, but I hope to enroll in in-person classes at YIVO as we move from pandemic to endemic. I am deeply grateful to YIVO and plan to continue to support it as I can.



CALEB SHER, *Summer Program '22*

I came into the summer program having not spoken or read Yiddish for the better part of a year, and yet I left feeling as if I had been speaking non-stop Yiddish for the last three years. The staff, faculty, and fellow students were all united in building a true *yidische svive*, a Yiddishland.

Perhaps the greatest strength of the YIVO summer program compared to other Yiddish intensives in which I have taken part, is the program’s community of truly dedicated, engaged, and top-quality faculty. Besides the numerous opportunities to get to chat with and learn from the stars of the Yiddish world via the lecture series, informal *shmues krayzlekh*, and the like, the core faculty seemed constantly engaged and invested in their students’ journey with Yiddish. Just as when one begins learning a language, it is valuable to be willing to consider oneself a child, and to have faculty willing to guide one through the language as if one were a child, as an advanced student, it was both invigorating and confidence-building to work with faculty who treated us as capable, engaged scholars. While their teaching styles varied widely, all faculty shared in the ability to engage with us at the right level, and to push us to go beyond that level.

Moreover, the quality of resources available to me as a YIVO student was unlike any other Yiddish intensive in which I have taken part. While I do not necessarily consider myself an advocate for *klal shprakh*, I cannot deny that as a heritage learner of the language, being at the heart of standard Yiddish helped build in me a solid basis for going out into the wider world and finding *my* Yiddish.

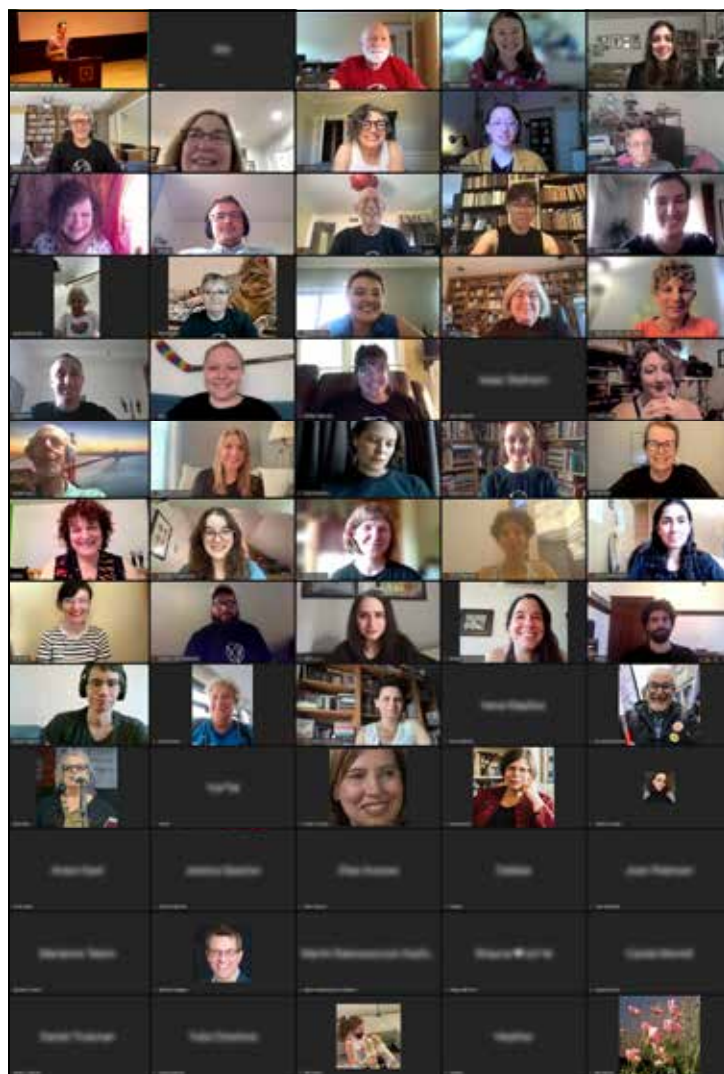
The academic rigor, the camaraderie of the students and faculty, combined with the program’s location in NYC—if I may be so bold, the true center of Yiddish life in the 21st century—really did make me feel like I was living in Yiddishland for six weeks. On the whole, I spent more time during my six weeks at YIVO speaking Yiddish than I did speaking English: to me, there are few joys as great as that.

# AM IN YIDDISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

For the first time ever, the YIVO Summer Program took place both in person and online in 2022.




PHOTO: MELANIE EINZIG



TOP & LEFT: Students, faculty, and staff attend the סיום (siem [graduation]) for the 2022 Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, in person at YIVO and on Zoom.

RIGHT: In-person students play Yiddish Jeopardy.

 **76** students  
**11** countries  
**23** U.S. states

**מזל טוב!**  
*Congratulations to the class of 2022!*



# FALL CLASSES

This fall we are offering 41 courses, all held remotely on Zoom unless otherwise noted. 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](https://yivo.org/Classes).

Questions?

Visit [yivo.org/Class-FAQ](https://yivo.org/Class-FAQ) to help determine which class is right for you!



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

**GET STARTED TODAY!**

**[YIVO.ORG/SHINE](https://YIVO.ORG/SHINE)**

## ONCE-A-WEEK YIDDISH

12 weeks

12 total sessions

1.5 hours each

### BEGINNER I YIDDISH

**(Sunday AM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET  
Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

**(Sunday PM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

**(Monday)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 10:30am-12:00pm ET  
Instructor: Daniel Birnbaum

**(Wednesday)** Sep. 14 – Dec. 14 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Miri Koral

**(Thursday)** Sep. 22 – Dec. 15 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET  
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

**(In-person)** Sep. 22 – Dec. 15 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Noa Tsaushu

► *This class is held in-person at YIVO in NYC.*

### BEGINNER II YIDDISH

**(Sunday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET  
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

**(Monday I)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 5:00pm-6:30pm ET  
Instructor: Nina Warnke

**(Monday II)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Miri Koral

**(Tuesday)** Sep. 13 – Dec. 27 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

**(Thursday)** Sep. 15 – Dec. 15 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
Instructor: Nina Warnke

### BEGINNER III YIDDISH

**(Sunday AM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 11 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
Instructor: Philip Schwartz

**(Sunday PM)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 12:30pm-2:00pm ET  
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**(Friday)** Sep. 23 – Dec. 16 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

### BEGINNER IV YIDDISH

**(Sunday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**(Monday)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

**(Thursday)** Sep. 15 – Dec. 15 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET  
Instructor: Nina Warnke

### INTERMEDIATE I YIDDISH

**(Sunday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

**(Monday)** Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
Instructor: Vera Szabó

### INTERMEDIATE II YIDDISH

Sep. 12 – Dec. 19 | 6:30pm-8:00pm ET  
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

### INTERMEDIATE III YIDDISH

Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 1:30pm-3:00pm ET  
Instructor: Karolina Szymaniak

### INTERMEDIATE IV YIDDISH

Sep. 13 – Dec. 27 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Dovid Braun

### ADVANCED I YIDDISH

Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva



## TWICE-A-WEEK YIDDISH

12 weeks  
24 total sessions  
1.5 hours each

### INTENSIVE BEGINNER I&II YIDDISH

Sep. 15 – Dec. 18 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Perl Teitelbaum

### INTENSIVE BEGINNER III&IV YIDDISH

Sep. 15 – Dec. 19 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

### INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE I&II YIDDISH

Sep. 15 – Dec. 18 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sonia Dratwa-Pinkusowitz

### INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE III&IV YIDDISH

Sep. 15 – Dec. 19 | 9:00am-10:30am ET  
Instructor: Vera Szabó

### INTENSIVE ADVANCED I&II YIDDISH

Sep. 13 – Dec. 20 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

### INTENSIVE ADVANCED III&IV YIDDISH

Sep. 13 – Dec. 20 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sharon Bar-Kochva

## CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH

12 weeks  
12 total sessions  
1.5 hours each

### BEGINNER I CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

▶ These classes meet for 12 sessions.

**(Morning)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 11:00am-12:30pm ET  
Instructor: Lila Thielemans

**(Afternoon)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 2:30pm-4:00pm ET  
Instructor: Alexandra Polyan

or

6 weeks  
6 total sessions  
1.5 hours each

### BEGINNER II CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

▶ These classes meet for 12 sessions.

**(Sunday)** Sep. 11 – Dec. 18 | 6:00pm-7:30pm ET  
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

**(Wednesday)** Sep. 14 – Dec. 14 | 3:00pm-4:30pm ET  
Instructor: Reb Noyekh (Noah Barrera)

### INTERMEDIATE I CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS

▶ These classes meet for 6 sessions.

**(Morning)** Sep. 11 – Oct. 16 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

**(Afternoon)** Sep. 11 – Oct. 16 | 12:00pm-1:30pm ET  
Instructor: Mikhl Yashinsky

## READING YIDDISH

12 weeks  
12 total sessions  
1.5 hours each

### BEGINNER I READING YIDDISH

Sep. 14 – Dec. 14 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET  
Instructor: Josh Price

## SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN ENGLISH)

10 weeks  
10 total sessions  
1.5 hours each

### ODESA MYTH

Oct. 12 – Dec. 21 | 4:00pm-5:30pm ET  
Instructor: Tetyana Yakovleva

### POLISH JEWISH HISTORY AFTER THE HOLOCAUST, 1944 - PRESENT

Oct. 12 – Dec. 21 | 5:00pm-6:30pm ET  
Instructor: Frankee Lyons

## SEMINARS & ELECTIVES (IN YIDDISH)

10 weeks  
10 total sessions  
1.5 hours each

### YIDDISH FOLKTALES

Sep. 28 – Dec. 14 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
Instructor: Vera Szabó

### BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: WOMEN IN YIDDISH LITERATURE

Oct. 12 – Dec. 21 | 1:00pm-2:30pm ET  
Instructor: Sheva Zucker

### YIDDISH REFERENCE WORKS AND HOW TO USE THEM

Oct. 7 – Dec. 16 | 10:00am-11:30am ET  
Instructor: Dovid Braun

## EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



42 classes

(an increase of 83% from spring 2021)

446 students

(an increase of 26% from spring 2021)

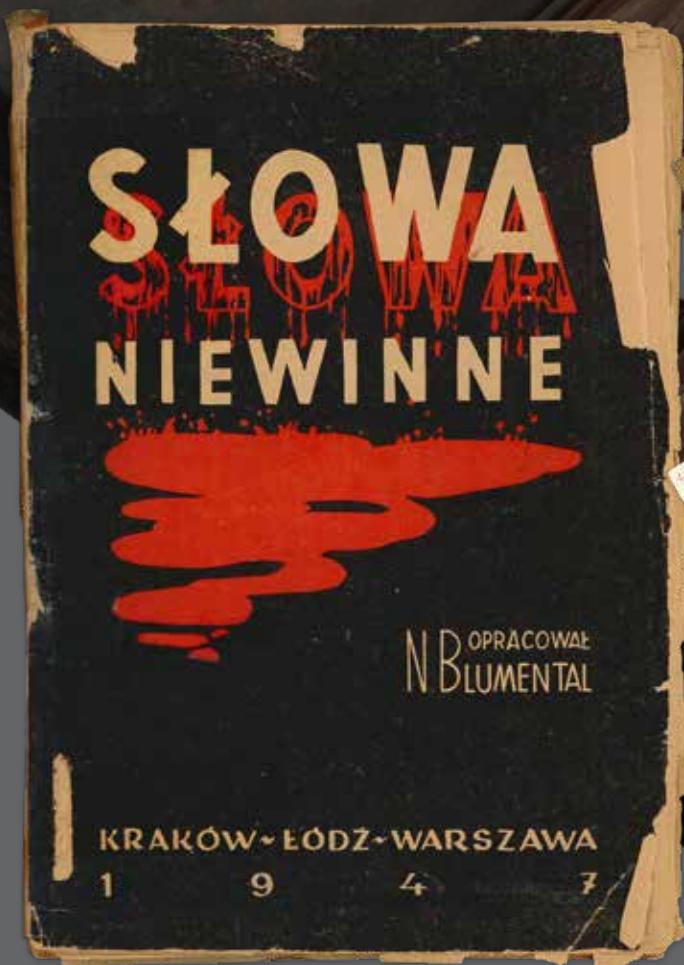
119 Beginner I Yiddish students

(an increase of 33% from spring 2021)

17 countries

37 U.S. states

# FROM THE YIVO COLLECTIONS



## THE NACHMAN BLUMENTAL COLLECTION

Historian, scholar, and philologist Nachman Blumental contributed greatly to the study of Polish Jewry before the war, and during and after the Holocaust. Blumental collected ethnographic and historical documents before World War II for YIVO. After surviving the Holocaust in a non-German occupied part of the Soviet Union, he travelled around Poland in order to collect all documents and materials (no matter how seemingly insignificant) related to ghettos, camps, sites of mass murder, and Holocaust survivors. Among these materials were survivor testimonies, eyewitness accounts, official Nazi documents, as well as songs, poems, jokes, and children's schoolwork written during the war, often in camps and ghettos. Many of these documents served as evidence in high-profile post-war trials against Nazi perpetrators in Poland, and Blumental himself appeared as an expert witness in numerous trials. The documents, in German, Yiddish, Polish, Russian, and Hebrew, also served as source material for Nachman

- "Dismiss"** [German: Entlassen]  
..... Murder
- "Eviction"** [German: Aussiedlung]  
..... Destruction and robbery of property
- "Farmhouses"** [German: Bauernhäuser]  
..... Gas chambers
- "Recreation"** [German: Erholung]  
..... Prison

Blumental's ambitious and life-long linguistic project – a dictionary of German Nazi terminology, as well as a collection of words and expressions used by Holocaust victims. Blumental considered Nazi language to have been a powerful tool that played a huge role in facilitating Nazi persecution and extermination policies.

The Nachman Blumental Collection has undergone conservation and is currently being arranged and described. The entire collection will be digitized and available for use online in 2023.

LEFT: *Słowa niewinne* (Innocent Words) by Nachman Blumental. Kraków: Centralna Żydowska Komisja Historyczna w Polsce, 1947. YIVO Library.

TOP RIGHT: Nachman Blumental's dictionary cards. YIVO Archives.

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The YIVO Archives has successfully launched a new paid Research Assistant program which pairs patrons with one of YIVO's highly skilled researchers to help answer in-depth inquiries that require searching not only the YIVO Archives, but also repositories around the world. YIVO's seventeen research assistants, who specialize in topics as varied as genealogy, art and music, rabbinic texts, and more, are capable of conducting archival research in over a dozen languages including Yiddish, Hebrew, Polish, Russian, Lithuanian, and even Serbo-Croatian.

This latest reference offering from the YIVO Archives further builds on our remote research sessions and complimentary reference photo service in an effort to continue providing enhanced access to patrons who are unable to visit YIVO in person. These combined services have allowed YIVO to assist over 300 remote patrons and provide nearly 40,000 reference photos in the past year free-of-charge.

To learn more about and sign up for our Research Assistance Program and our other remote reference services, please visit [yivo.org/Remote-Research](https://yivo.org/Remote-Research) or email [reference@yivo.org](mailto:reference@yivo.org) explaining your research needs.

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RIGHT: Slide of the Great Synagogue in Stockholm, Sweden, from the Harry Kamel Collection, 1983. YIVO Archives.

BELOW: YIVO summer intern Ezra Lebovitz fulfilling a complimentary reference photo request using an overhead document camera.

## YIVO CATALOGS 500 COLLECTIONS

The YIVO Archives has just completed a project to catalog 500 collections that were donated over the past several years. Descriptions of these collections are now available through our online catalog, making them fully discoverable and available for use by researchers in the Reading Room. Some notable materials include the papers of prominent Yiddish writer and granddaughter of Sholem Aleichem, Bel Kaufman, consisting of manuscripts, photographs, and sound recordings; the Harry Kamel Collection which contains nearly 2,500 slides containing images of 500 synagogues from the United States and Eastern Europe; the Jody Rosen collection containing antisemitic drawings, cartoons, postcards, and sheet music from the late 1800s to the 1920s; and the Lazare Saminsky Collection which includes manuscript and published music scores, programs, photographs, and correspondence from the well-known composer of Jewish music.



# NEWS FROM YIVO

## YIVO PARTICIPATES IN 35TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOLOCAUST ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE

Karolina Ziulkoski, the Chief Curator of the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum and Director of Digital at the YIVO Institute, took part in a panel at the 35th Annual Association for Holocaust Organizations Conference in Charlotte,

North Carolina, in June 2022. The session was titled “Our new reliance on the digital world: The intersections of Holocaust education, virtual learning, and digitized resources”. Ms. Ziulkoski presented the first exhibition of YIVO Cernia Slovin Online Museum, called “Beba Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl” and participated in a discussion with Dr. Lauren Granite, Director of US Educational Programs at Centropa, Ellen Resnek, Educational Programs and Outreach Manager at Classrooms Without Borders, and Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather, Director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

They talked about the reliance on the digital world and some of the many changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the online museum to a room full of Holocaust educators and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

## YIVO'S JONATHAN BRENT PARTICIPATES IN 5TH WORLD LITVAK CONGRESS AND THE OPENING OF A NEW TARTLE EXHIBIT

YIVO Executive Director & CEO Jonathan Brent visited Vilnius, Lithuania in May 2022 to participate in two important events. The first was the opening ceremony for the 5th World Litvak Congress, where Brent gave a speech before the Lithuanian Seimas titled “YIVO: The Geography of Freedom” as part of the 2022 Litvak Days festival. Litvak Days is an annual event

in Vilnius celebrating the heritage of Lithuanian Jewry.

The second was the opening the Lithuanian Art Centre TARTLE's new exhibition, *Vilnius Forever. A Dialogue of Artworks and Guides to the City*, for which YIVO Institute loaned materials from its archives. The exhibition explores how the touristic profile of Vilnius was formed in the middle of the 19th century, and how it changed over more than a century. The materials loaned by YIVO include eight drawings representing Vilnius by the Ukrainian-born American Jewish artist Lionel Reiss from the 1920s, and a photograph with a view of the Old Town from the side of the City Hall from the 1930s. These works have never been exhibited either in Lithuania or, to YIVO's knowledge, anywhere in the world, and will hopefully give visitors knowledge about Jewish Vilnius and a wider picture of the city's multicultural character.

## YIVO DELEGATION VISITS BODLEIAN LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

YIVO was invited to participate in the prestigious Oxford Literary Festival. Held in April, this annual event in Oxford is sponsored by the UK *Financial Times*. YIVO's Executive Director & CEO, Jonathan Brent, delivered a master class on the history of YIVO and its recent landmark achievement in reuniting its pre-war archive. Brent was joined by the head of the Bodleian Library, Richard Ovenden, to discuss why an organization established nearly one hundred years ago is still as relevant and important as ever.

Stefanie Halpern, Director of the YIVO Archives, led a public workshop for the Literary Festival on Yiddish children's books from YIVO's collections. As a part of the same workshop Catriona Kelly and César Merchán-Hamann from the University of Oxford provided complementary presentations focusing on Russian-language Jewish children's books and Hebrew children's books from the Bodleian's collections.

YIVO's delegation, which also comprised Shelly Freeman, YIVO's Chief of Staff, and Alex Weiser, YIVO's Director of Public Programs, was generously treated to tours of the Bodleian's beautiful facilities, including the Bodleian Library's digitization and conservation studios and its Leopold Muller Memorial Library which is a part of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. The visit presented opportunities for YIVO's staff to exchange working methods and techniques and discuss programmatic activities with corresponding Bodleian staff.

The visit included a private show and tell led by Merchán-Hamann featuring some of the beautiful illuminated *Makhzors* and *Tanakhs* and incredible early print and manuscript Yiddish works that are a part of the Bodleian Library's collections. A dinner with scholars, dignitaries, and supporters of Jewish studies at Oxford celebrated YIVO's visit, and tea with Richard Ovenden provided an opportunity to discuss future exciting collaborations between YIVO and the Bodleian Library.

- 1 Karolina Ziulkoski, Chief Curator of the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum and Director of Digital at YIVO, speaks at the 35th Annual Association for Holocaust Organizations Conference.
- 2 Jonathan Brent, YIVO Executive Director & CEO, gives remarks before the Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament) at the opening ceremony for the 5th World Litvak Congress.
- 3 At the opening of the Lithuanian Art Centre TARTLE's new exhibition, *Vilnius Forever. A Dialogue of Artworks and Guides to the City*. Left to right: Jurgita Semenauskiene (TARTLE), Laima Laučkaitė (TARTLE), Jonathan Brent (YIVO), Anna Avidan (Litvak World), Frances Brent.
- 4 Stefanie Halpern, Director of the YIVO Archives, presents children's books from YIVO's collections at the Bodleian Library's Oxford Literary Festival.



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# IN THE MEDIA

Here are some of YIVO's media highlights from Spring 2022:

## YIVO ARCHIVES

*In Geveb* (MARCH 9, 2022)

Three Giants of Modern Jewish Literature at YIVO:  
Excerpts from the Diary of Ezekiel Lifschutz

*Jewish Boston* (JANUARY 24, 2022, MENTION)

Graphic Novel Rescues Part of Holocaust History From Oblivion

*Jewish Renaissance* (WINTER 2022)

Back to Nature

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

*Tablet Magazine* (JUNE 24, 2022)

Yiddish Folk Song in Classical Music

*The Jewish Standard* (MAY 11, 2022)

Reviving forgotten Yiddish folk songs

*Broadway World* (MARCH 31, 2022)

YIVO Yiddish Folksong Festival Returns with  
Continuing Evolution: Yiddish Folksong Today

*The Jewish Standard* (MARCH 31, 2022)

The diary of Zelig Kalmanovich

## EXHIBITIONS

*Times of Israel* (MAY 11, 2022)

Is weed the Chosen People's drug of choice? These artifacts suggest it may be

*Gothamist* (MAY 4, 2022)

Menorah bongos and Talmudic toking:  
The secret history of Judaism and cannabis

*The Forward* (MAY 3, 2022)

The history of Jews and marijuana goes back a lot farther than you think

*Time Out* (APRIL 20, 2022)

Am Yisrael High: The Story of Jews and Cannabis

*Social Education* (MARCH/APRIL 2022)

Connecting the Past to the Present:  
A Digital Exhibition about One Jewish Girl's Life in Eastern Europe

*The Algemeiner* (MARCH 14, 2022)

New Jersey Exhibit Examines Lives of Holocaust  
Survivors After World War II, UN Response

## EDWARD BLANK YIVO VILNA ONLINE COLLECTIONS

*NPR* (JANUARY 27, 2022)

Here & Now: The largest archive of Jewish history is now online

*Haaretz* (JANUARY 27, 2022)

The Holocaust Left a Brutal Absence at the Heart  
of American Jewish Culture. Until Now

*BBC Worldwide News* (JANUARY 10, 2022)

Preserving Jewish History

*The Jewish Chronicle* (JANUARY 6, 2022)

The Paper Brigade's death-defying mission

*The New York Times* (JANUARY 5, 2022)

YIVO Institute Makes Archives of Yiddish Life Available Online

# EXHIBITIONS

“ THE STORY OF JEWS AND CANNABIS BEGINS IN ANCIENT TIMES AND CONNECTS TO RELIGION, SCIENCE, MEDICINE, AND LAW. IT’S A STORY THAT CONTINUES TO EVOLVE.

— EDDY PORTNOY

*YIVO’s Senior Academic Advisor & Director of Exhibitions*

*Am Yisrael High: The Story of Jews and Cannabis* opened this past May. YIVO’s first on-site exhibition since COVID, it will be on view at YIVO (in the Center for Jewish History building at 15 West 16th Street, New York) through the end of the year.

Surprising to some, there is a rich history and long relationship between Jews and cannabis. References to this plant appear in the Bible, the Talmud, and numerous other Jewish texts. Rabbis, from Rambam to R’ Moshe Feinstein, have considered it in their writings. Cannabis has been used by Jews in religious ritual and for medicinal purposes from ancient times until today.

More recently, Jews have been at the forefront of scientific research and medical applications of cannabis. Many Jews have also been deeply involved in the counterculture and medical marijuana movements, both of which strove for legalization in different ways. Commercial aspects of the modern cannabis industry, from horticulture to distribution to paraphernalia, have also involved numerous Jewish businesspeople.

The exhibit explores the contributions Jews have made in the field of cannabis by showcasing materials from medieval documents to dozens of contemporary artifacts ranging from rare original art to menorah bong.

*Am Yisrael High* kicked off with a full house on opening night, which featured a panel discussion moderated by the exhibit’s creator Eddy Portnoy. Panelists included horticulturist, educator, and legalization activist Ed Rosenthal, attorney Adriana Kertzer, Rabbi/Dr. Yosef Glassman, and journalist Madison Margolin. Their discussion considered the many connections of the Jews to cannabis – religious and spiritual, historical, scientific, and more. Over 1,300 people registered to attend the opening night program, which has almost 2,000 views on YouTube.

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Tunisian Jewish women smoking. Postcard published by Levy Fils et Cie, Paris, c. 1920. YIVO Archives.



# SUPPORT YIVO

## ENRICHING THE FUTURE

Individuals who have included the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in their estate plans or through life income gifts become members of YIVO's **1925 Legacy Society**. These donors' legacy of giving ensures we can continue preserving our cultural heritage, inspiring generations to come.

Participation includes:

- ▶ Invitations to special events
- ▶ Recognition in YIVO's spring newsletter and on our website

If you have already included YIVO in your will, trust, or estate plans, please let us know so we can add you to the 1925 Legacy Society.

### Bequests

Making a bequest – a gift made in your will or living trust – to YIVO will have a deep impact on YIVO for years to come. Bequests can be a specific amount, percentage, or remainder of assets.

Sample language might be stated as follows: *I give and bequeath to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research \_\_\_\_\_ % of my total estate.* Or, you can state a specific dollar amount.

We always suggest seeking legal consultation.

### Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity – usually cash or stocks – allows you to support the YIVO's mission while receiving a tax deduction and a fixed flow of income for the rest of your life. Payments depend on age at the time of the donation.

### Beneficiary Designations

A beneficiary designation allows you to make a substantial gift, often larger than what you could afford during your lifetime. Designate YIVO as the primary or contingent beneficiary for your:

- ▶ IRA Account\*
- ▶ Life Insurance
- ▶ 401K
- ▶ Payable on death (POD) account

\*Since YIVO is a tax-exempt organization, there's an added benefit of saving valuable tax dollars.

## SUPPORTING YIVO TODAY

### IRA Charitable Rollover

If you meet the age for a required minimum distribution, you can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to YIVO without paying income taxes on the money.

### Cash

By making a cash gift, you'll see your generous gift in action, and when you itemize, you'll receive a federal income tax charitable deduction. Cash gifts can also be given in tribute of a loved one.

### Stock Gifts

Stock gifts provide a tax-advantaged way to support YIVO. Contact your financial advisor to kick-start your legacy.

### Donor-Advised Funds

You can recommend how much and how often funds are granted to YIVO.

We are here to assist you and your advisors. Please contact Melissa Cohen at **212.294.6156** or **mcohen@yivo.org**.

## AMPLIFY YOUR IMPACT

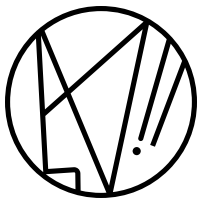
The High Holidays are just a month away. We are delighted to share that Board Member Lisa New and her husband Larry Summers are generously providing a matching gift opportunity.

**Donations received online  
(or postmarked) on or before September 7  
will be matched 3:1 up to \$50,000!**

## CALLING ALL SUMMER PROGRAM ALUMNI!

We invite alumni of the *Zumer-program* to unite and join the newly formed YIVO Alumni Association today! To learn more and sign up, please visit **summerprogram.yivo.org/Alumni**.





YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH  
 15 West 16th Street  
 New York, NY 10011-6301  
 LOCATED IN THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

# NEWSLETTER

FALL 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

212.246.6080 | [yivo.org](http://yivo.org)

### General Inquiries

[INFO@YIVO.ORG](mailto:INFO@YIVO.ORG)

### Archival Inquiries

[REFERENCE@YIVO.ORG](mailto:REFERENCE@YIVO.ORG)

Photo/Film Archives | [PHOTOFILM@YIVO.ORG](mailto:PHOTOFILM@YIVO.ORG)

Sound Archives | [SOUNDARCHIVES@YIVO.ORG](mailto:SOUNDARCHIVES@YIVO.ORG)

### Library Inquiries

[REFERENCE@YIVO.ORG](mailto:REFERENCE@YIVO.ORG)

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination (*at least 14 days after your final vaccine dose*) with matching ID is required for all visitors 5 and older. For the most up-to-date vaccination and masking requirements, go to [yivo.org/Visit](http://yivo.org/Visit).

## HOURS [closed on major federal and Jewish holidays]

### Gallery Hours

Sun 11:00am-5:00pm  
 Mon–Wed 10:00am-4:00pm  
 Thu 10:00am-8:00pm  
 Fri 10:00am-3:00pm  
 Sat CLOSED

### Administrative Hours

Mon–Thu 9:00am-5:00pm  
 Fri 9:00am-4:00pm

### Reading Room Hours

Mon–Thu 10:00am-4:00pm

## 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**

