

THE JEWISH LABOR AND POLITICAL ARCHIVES



A Tsukunft group from Warsaw poses on the sand during an outing to Brok, Poland, 1930. The Tsukunft (the Future) was the main Bundist youth organization in interwar Poland. YIVO Archives.



FEATURED ARTIFACT

The Collection of Israel Zajd

In the early 1970s, Israel Zajd sought to write a book on Morgnshtern, the sports organization of the Jewish Labor Bund established in 1926. Zajd served as the secretary of the Executive Committee of Morgnshtern in Poland, a position he held until the outbreak of WWII. Morgnshtern attempted to attract young Jewish workers by putting key Bundist principles into practice through sport—socialism, working-class consciousness, internationalism, and the promotion of Yiddish culture. Morgnshtern encouraged group activities such as gymnastics, hiking, cycling, swimming, and eurhythymics. Zajd compiled dozens of scrapbooks containing original and typed materials documenting the history and activities of Morgnshtern during the 1920s and 1930s: leadership and conference proceedings; competitions and meets; sports clubs; and participation in the Workers' Olympiads. Included in the collection are striking collages such as the above left image of two gymnasts enthusiastically demonstrating their skills against an industrial backdrop of factories and smokestacks. Though Zajd's monograph was never finished, his collection is a rich resource for those hoping to better understand the organization.



"Yiddish Pills" and Summer Thrills: Reconstituting Yiddishism at Camp Hemshek

Sandra Fox explored how postwar Jewish leaders, especially Yiddishists, turned to summer camps as vital spaces for cultural renewal. Focusing on Camp Hemshek, Fox illuminated how Yiddishists—often over-

looked in accounts of Jewish education and identity-building—used the camp to reimagine Yiddish culture for a new generation. Drawing from her book *The Jews of Summer: Summer Camp and Jewish Culture in Postwar America*, Fox examined how Camp Hemshek's founders envisioned sleepaway camp as a remedy for cultural decline, shaping a new postwar Yiddishism rooted in community and education. This program was the second in YIVO's ongoing series held in conjunction with the Jewish Labor and Political Archives (JLPA) digitization project.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

YIVO's Archival team continues to pour its efforts into the Jewish Labor and Political Archives Project (JLPA)—now more than halfway through the project. Consisting of nearly 200 collections totaling 3.5 million pages of archival documents, the JLPA is the world's most comprehensive body of material on Jewish social and political activism in Europe and the United States. Spanning the years 1870 to 1992, the JLPA tells the story of Jews' involvement in the European political and revolutionary movements of the 20th century and resistance to the Holocaust, as well as their impact on the American labor movement and the fight for fair wages and workers' rights.

As of December 31, 2025, the JLPA project has raised over \$6.3 million toward its \$8.5 million goal. **We are grateful to the many contributors who have come forward to support the project in an effort to replace those funds lost from the termination of Federal funding. There is still time for you to support the digitization of the JLPA! Please consider directing a contribution to the JLPA to ensure this historic archival resource is available to a global audience.** Your commitment will be matched by a challenge grant from an anonymous foundation, amplifying your support!

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

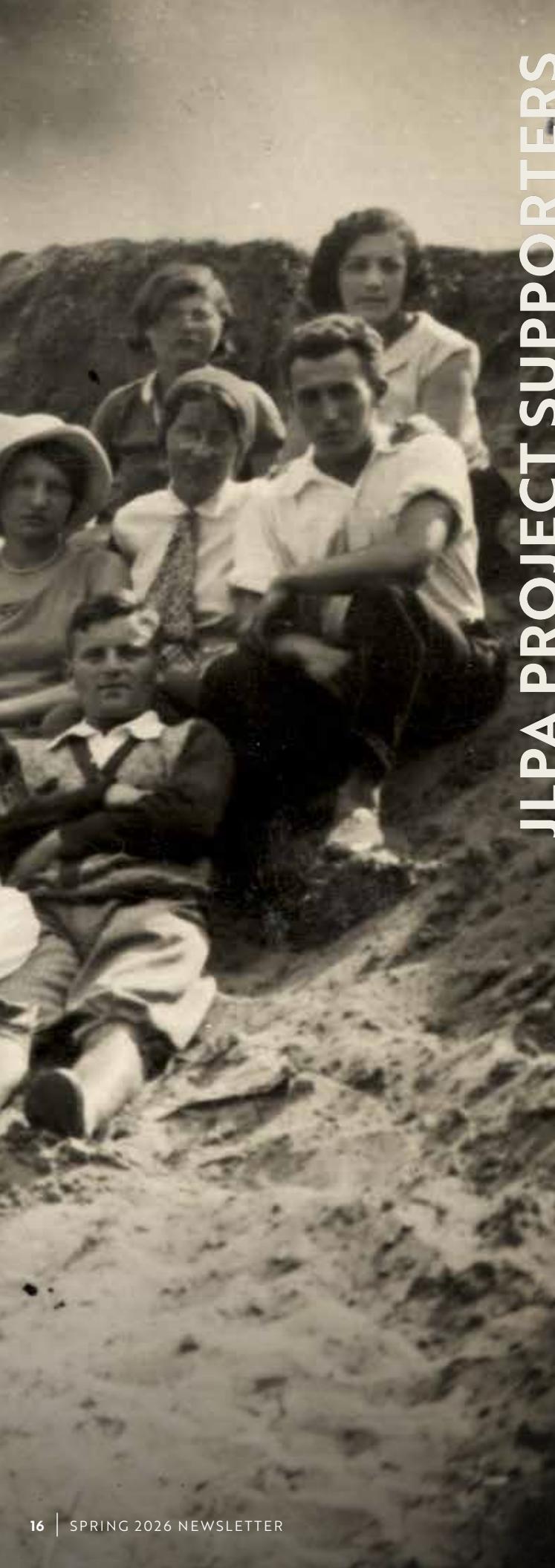
For more information and naming opportunities, please contact Melissa S. Cohen at **212.294.6156** or via email at **mcohen@yivo.org**.

JLPA BY THE NUMBERS: TO DATE



Approximately
3.5 million
pages in the collection

80%	conserved
54%	processed
27%	digitized and available online



JIAP PROJECT SUPPORTERS

\$1,000,000+ Builder

Anonymous
Ruth and David Levine
Irene Pletka

\$500,000+ Partner

\$100,000+ Benefactor

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany,
The German Federal Ministry of Finance, and the Foundation
Remembrance, Responsibility and Future
Institute of Museum and Library Services: Save America's Treasures (IMLS)
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

\$50,000+ Patron

Anonymous
The Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc.

\$25,000+ Sponsor

Harri Hoffmann Family Foundation

\$10,000+ Supporter

Atran Foundation
The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation
The Hittman Family Foundation
Deborah K. Holmes Family Foundation
Janet Pavloff and Lisa Kartzman
The Alice Lawrence Foundation, Inc.
Myra and Harry Wagner & The Wagner Family Foundation

\$5,000+ Contributor

Julius C. Spiegel

\$1,000+ Friend

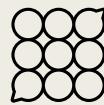
Ellen Odoner and Edward Kerson

As of DECEMBER 31, 2025

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please report any corrections to mcohen@yivo.org.



Funded by:



on the basis of a decision
of the Bundestag

*With Assistance from the Conference on
Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Supported by the German Federal Ministry of
Finance and the Foundation Remembrance,
Responsibility and Future*



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

*The National Endowment for the
Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.*