

Association of Holocaust Organizations Conference
June 8 – 11, 2024
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
and
Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011-6301

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

36 Battery Place
New York, NY 10280

Hotel: **Millennium Downtown New York**

55 Church Street
New York, NY 10007

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Millennium Downtown New York

(Optional) **The Nova Music Festival** exhibition is in NYC. Michelle Edgar is leading a group of AHO members to see it on Saturday before the start of the conference. The tickets are \$10 per person. Getting tickets in advance for the 4:20 time slot is strongly advised. There are tickets availability for Saturday, June 8th. Those who want to see the exhibit, meet in the lobby of the hotel at 3:45 pm (then we can introduce ourselves and chat a bit), and we can walk over to the exhibit together at 4 pm. We can get tickets to enter at 4:20 pm and expect to leave by 5:20 pm. Anyone is welcome to join her.

<https://www.novaexhibition.com/>

Michelle Edgar, (She/her/hers)

Office: 908.526.1200 x8735

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Shmooze Session – Drinks and light hors d'oeuvre

Sunday June 9, 2024

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Breakfast on your own

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Registration

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust (MJH)

- 10:00 – 11:00 AM** **First time Attendee Orientation**, Classroom A/B (1st floor)
Chair: Susan Myers, President AHO
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** **Focus Groups: Participants choose one session.**
- Session A:** Meeting of Museum and Center Directors, Classroom A/B (1st floor)
 Chair: Dee Simon
- Session B:** State Commissions and Councils, Classroom C/D (1st floor)
 Chair: Dr. Lilly S. Filler
- Session C:** University/College Centers, The Studio (2nd floor)
 Chair: Ron Weisberger
- Session D:** Education/Program Directors, Events Hall north table (2nd floor)
 Chair: Tom White
- Session E:** Individual Members, Events Hall south table (2nd floor)
 Chair: Lauren Bainsfather
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM** **Lunch**, Events Hall (2nd floor)
 Welcome by: Eric Adams, Mayor of New York City
 Chair: Jack Kliger, President & CEO Museum of Jewish Heritage
- Session 1*
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM** **Jewish Genealogy**, Edmond J. Safra Hall (1st floor)
 Presenters: **Avraham Groll**, Vice President, JewishGen
 Karen Franklin, Consulting Director of the Peter and Mary
 Kalikow Center
 Chair: Mary Johnson
- Session 2*
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM** **Responses to Antisemitism**, Edmond J. Safra Hall (1st floor)
 Panelists: **Dr. Mehnaz Afridi**, Director, Holocaust, Genocide, and
 Interfaith Education Center, Manhattan College
 Beth Kean, CEO, Holocaust Museum LA
 Jack Kliger, President and CEO, MJH
 Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, The Zekelman Holocaust Center
 Moderator: NBC News and former moderator of Meet the Press:
 Chuck Todd
 Chair: Kori Street
- Session 3*
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM** **Walk-Through of MJH Exhibitions, *The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do***
 or *Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark*
- Session 4*
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM** **Our World**
 Presenter: Michael Berenbaum (via Zoom)
 Chair: Talli Dippold

Transportation included: Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Tectonic Theater Project: **HERE THERE ARE BLUEBERRIES 7:00 PM with Talkback**

An album of never-before-seen World War II-era photographs arrives at the desk of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum archivist Rebecca Erbelding. As Rebecca and her team of historians begin to unravel the shocking story behind the images, the album soon makes headlines around the world. In Germany, a businessman sees the album online and recognizes his own grandfather in the photos. He begins a journey of discovery that will take him into the lives of other Nazi Descendants-in a reckoning of his family's past and his country's history.

Talkback: Moderated by Arnold Mittleman,
Rebecca Erbelding-USHMM Archivist/Curator

Edmond J. Safra Hall

Optional: MJH will host a private screening at 7:00 PM

AHO members are invited to a special screening of *Treasure* a new film starring Lena Dunham and Stephen Fry. The film is premiering the night before at the Tribeca Film Festival and this will be the second time it is shown to the public. The film is based on the book *Too Many Men* by Lily Brett. We are also working to provide all attendees with a copy of the book and the author can sign them after the event.

A father-daughter road trip set in 1990s Poland, *Treasure* follows Ruth (Lena Dunham), an American music journalist, and her father, Edek (Stephen Fry), a charmingly stubborn Holocaust survivor, on a journey to his homeland. While Ruth is eager to make sense of her family's past, Edek embarks on the trip with his own agenda. This emotional, funny culture clash of two New Yorkers exploring post-socialist Poland is a powerful example of how reconnecting with family and the past can be an unexpected treasure.

Following the film there will be a short Q&A with the film's director **Julia von Heinz** and **Lily Brett**, author of *Too Many Men*, from which the film was adapted.

<https://mjhnyc.org/events/treasure/>

The screening is at 7:00 PM. Please let me know if you plan to attend.
smbmyers@gmail.com

6:00 – 9:00 PM AHO (**Pre-Registered Guests**), Advanced Training for Rising Holocaust Organizational Professionals, at the Conference Hotel

Monday, June 10, 2024

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Session 5

9:00 – 9:40 AM

**Introduction to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
YIVO's history and current activities**

Presenter: **Jonathan Brent**, CEO of YIVO

*Chair: Marc-Oliver Cloutier Manager of Educational Initiative
Azrieli Foundation*

Session 6

9:45 – 10:45 AM

YIVO Archives

Exhibition of materials in the YIVO archive and explanation on how to use the archives both electronic and in person

Presenter: **Dr Stefanie Halpern**, Director of the YIVO Archives

10:45 – 11:00 AM

Coffee Break

Session 7

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Yitskhok Rudashevski: A 13-year-old's Account of Life and Death in the Vilna Ghetto. The newly launched second exhibition of the YIVO Online museum.

Presenters: **Alexandra Zapruder**, Scholar and Editor, Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the-Holocaust

Karolin Ziulkoski, Chief Curator of the YIVO Online Museum

Chair: Dan Puckett

12:00 – 1:15 PM

Lunch, Annual AHO Meeting

Session 8

1:15 – 2:00 PM

Yahad - In Unum Investigation into The Ponary Massacre

The Ponary Massacre is one of the most emblematic sites of the so-called Holocaust by bullets, mass shootings of the Jewish populations perpetrated by the Germans and their collaborators during World War II.

Presenter: **Ewa Schaller** Senior Program Officer, Yahad - In Unum

Chair: Ann Weiss

2:00 – 2:15 PM

Coffee Break

Session 9

2:15 – 2:45 PM

The YIVO Media and Learning Center

Presenter: **Alex Weiser** Director of Public Programs and Director of the YIVO Media and Learning Center and Susannah Trubman Educator of the YIVO Learning and Media Center

Chair: Laura Cohen

2:45 – 3:00 PM

Coffee Break

Session 10

3:00 – 4:15 PM

A Second Era of Underestimation: On Hamas, Islamist Antisemitism, and the Aftereffects of Nazism and the Holocaust

Presenter: **Jeffrey Herf**, Distinguished University Professor, Emeritus Department of History University of Maryland

Chair: Danny Spungen

Session 11

4:15-4:45 PM

National Jewish Theater Foundation (NJTF) Holocaust Theater International Initiative Update. Remembrance Play Readings, Joint venture: AHO, Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and National Jewish Theater Foundation (NJTF)

Presenter: **Arnold Mittelman** NJTF President

Chair: Trinity Johnson

4:45 – 5:00 PM

Wrap up: practical resources and take-aways from YIVO and final Q&A
Presenter: **Shelly Freeman**, Chief of Staff of YIVO

6:00 – 9:00 PM

AHO (**Pre-Registered Guests**), Advanced Training for Rising Holocaust Organizational Professionals, at the Conference Hotel

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Session 12

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Claims Conference Speakers Bureau Initiative

Edmond J. Safra Hall (1st floor)

Presenters: Gregory Schneider, Exec VP Claims Conference

Jamie Schaefer-Wilson Chief Communications Officer,
Claims Conference

Chair: Karen Small

Session 13

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Revisiting October 1943: The Escape of Danish Jews

Edmond J. Safra Hall (1st floor)

Presenter: Thorsten Wagner, Executive Director for Strategy and
Academics, FASPE – Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study
of Professional Ethics

Chair: Sara Softness