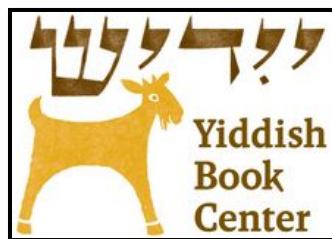


Pre-Application Webinar for **Between Two Worlds: Exploring Jewish Culture and Religion Through Yiddish Literature**

May 21, 2025, 12 p.m. CT



PROGRAMMING
Librarian
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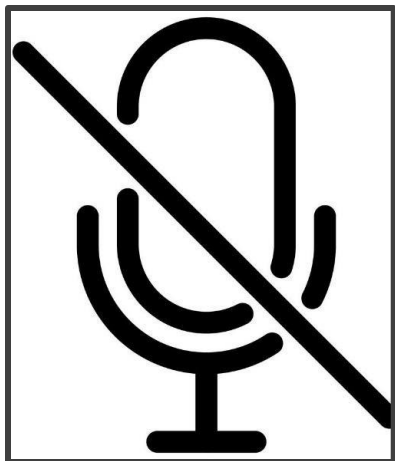
Sarah Ostman

(she/her)

Deputy Director

ALA Public Programs Office

PROGRAMMING
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Only the presenters have **microphone** access. Enable captions by clicking on “Show captions”.



Use the **Q&A** to ask questions of the presenters or ALA staff. (This includes technical questions.)



Use the **CHAT** to talk with your peers.

Agenda

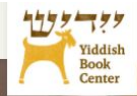
- About the Yiddish Book Center
- History of the Public Libraries Program
- Overview of 2025-2026 Program, “Between Two Worlds”
- Librarian Testimonials
- Q&A

About the Yiddish Book Center



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Yiddish Book Center

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Public Libraries Program

A reading and discussion program to engage readers with translated work of Yiddish literature.

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Overview of the Public Libraries Program



Visit the Yiddish Book Center for an in-person workshop



Get free copies of books for your reading groups plus up to \$2,000 for programming



After returning home, you have one year to host your reading groups

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Jennifer Young

(she/her)

Education Program Manager

Yiddish Book Center

History of the Public Libraries Program

2020: "Coming to America": 21 Libraries

2023: "Stories of Exile": 29 Libraries

Participating libraries came from across the United States, in both urban and rural areas, and in regions with both large and small Jewish communities, or sometimes no Jewish community at all.

Many libraries used the opportunity to pursue additional funding and organize additional programs around their reading groups.

At an in-person gathering and in subsequent online programs, the Yiddish Book Center provided librarians and their communities with training and support on the subject matter as well as best practices for reading group engagement. The program also enabled librarians to network with each other through a dedicated online forum.

- Thanks to the generous support of the Lilly Endowment, we are able to expand the program during the next three years to reach up to 40 libraries per year.

In-Person Training

Three days at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA, all travel and lodging expenses covered.

Deep dives into each of the Yiddish titles in translation with interactive presentations with scholars and translators.

An introduction to Yiddish culture writ large and the chance to explore the Center's exhibits and collections.

An introduction to the kinds of programs and speakers that you might be interested in bringing to your communities with the funding provided.

Workshops in reading group facilitation and other practical aspects of the program.

A sneak peek at the travelling exhibit

- A chance to network and connect with colleagues across the country facing similar challenges and opportunities.





PROGRAMMING Librarian

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YBC Public Libraries Program

Benefits:

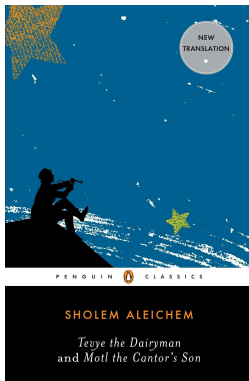
- Expenses paid for in-person training at the Yiddish Book Center (November 2-4, 2025)
- Copies (17) of each of the Yiddish titles, plus one additional title selected by the library, for use in reading groups
- Up to \$2,000 for programming (e.g., scholar/performer honoraria, purchase of educational materials)
- Virtual resources
- Opportunity to host a related traveling exhibit

Requirements:

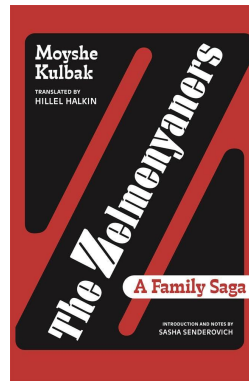
- Attend in-person training at the Center (November 2-4, 2025, travel expenses paid)
- Organize reading group(s) to read the four titles

2025-2026 Theme

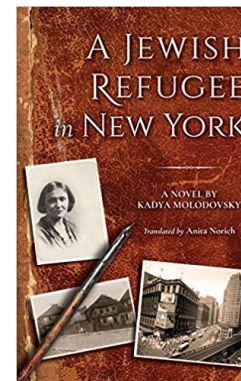
- Between Two Worlds: Exploring Jewish Culture and Religion through Yiddish Literature



Tevye the Dairyman by
Sholem Aleichem
(translated by Aliza
Shevrin)



*The Zelmeyaners: A
Family Saga* by
Moyshe Kulbak
(translated by Hillel
Halkin)



*A Jewish Refugee in
New York* by Kadya
Molodowsky
(translated by Anita
Norich)

Libraries will also select a **fourth book** that speaks to their communities.

How to Apply

- Learn more: ala.org/ylbc
- Application deadline: **July 14, 2025**

All public libraries in the U.S. and U.S. territories are eligible.

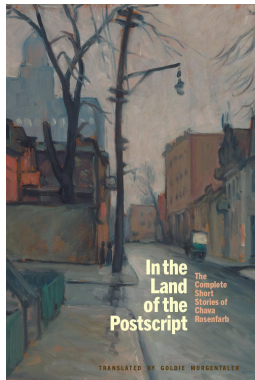
Librarian Testimonials



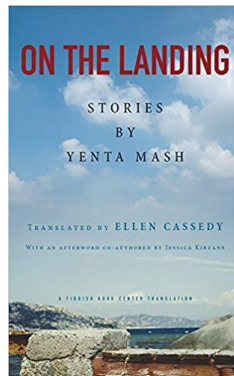
Rachel Garcia (she/her)
Assistant Manager of Adult Services
Wilmette Public Library
rgarcia@wilmettelibrary.info

2023 Theme

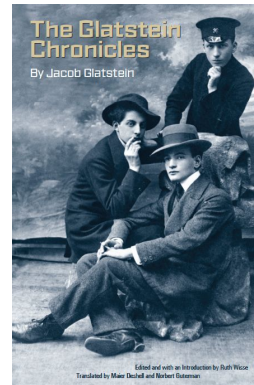
- Stories of Exile



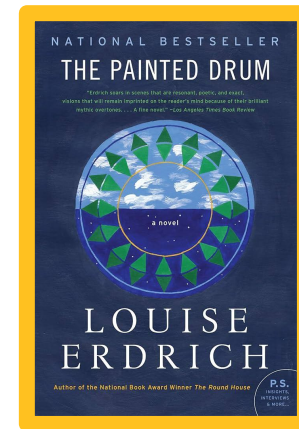
In the Land of the Postscript: Short Stories by Chava Rosenfarb (translated by Goldie Morgentaler)



On the Landing by Yenta Mash (translated by Ellen Cassedy)



The Glatstein Chronicles by Jacob Glatstein (translated by Maier Deshell and Norbert Guterman)

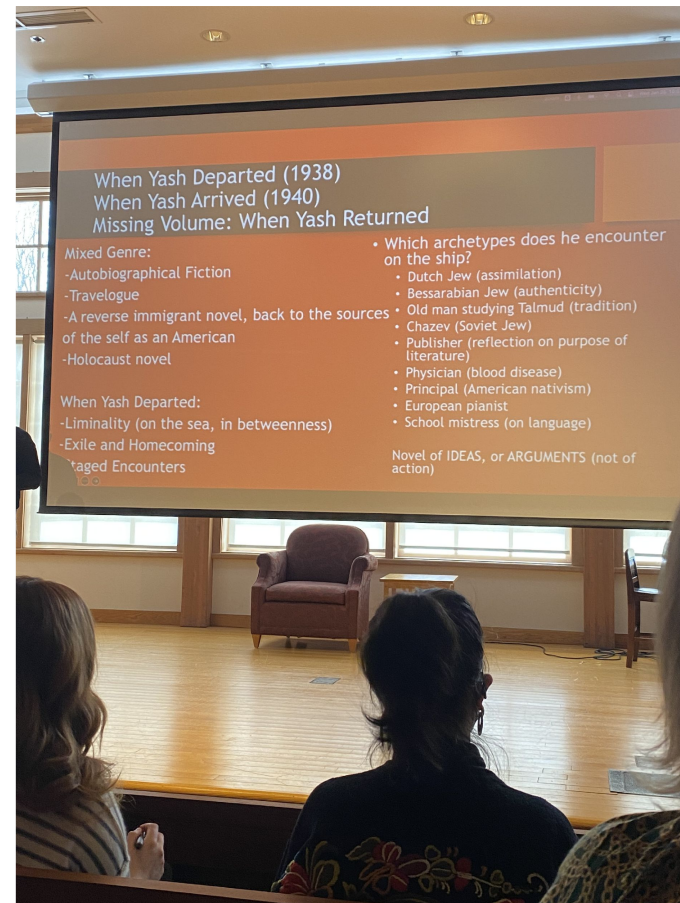


The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich

Why We Applied

- The themes of exile, displacement, and forced migration are a universal experience. There was an opportunity to create an impactful dialogue between cultures and across history.
- We were able to customize the series to our community. We chose to connect the theme to Wilmette's history of displaced Indigenous tribes.
- Wilmette and our surrounding area has a vibrant Jewish population but we aimed to reach beyond that to life-long learners that enjoy programming series. This series presented a chance to explore new corners of literature, which would appeal to our intellectually curious community.

Visit to the Yiddish Book Center



Planning & Events

Book Discussions:

- *On the Landing: Stories* by Yenta Mash (led by Prof. Jessica Kirzane-Univ. of Chicago)
- *In the Land of the Postscript* by Chava Rosenfarb (Virtual, led by Prof. Matthew Johnson-The Ohio State Univ.)
- *The Painted Drum* by Louise Erdrich
- *The Glatstein Chronicles* by Jacob Glatstein (led by Prof. Anna Elena Torres – The Univ. of Chicago)

Supporting Programs:

- Jewish Migration in the 18th & 19th Centuries (presented by genealogist Suzanne Hoffman)
- Virtual Tour of the Yiddish Book Center (presented by Jennifer Young)
- Indigenous Peoples' History of Chicagoland (presented by Josee Starr, Director of Operations at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, Evanston)

Takeaways

- Leaned into the idea of "visiting scholars", which has been a successful programming model for us since this series.
- Partnering with colleagues and working with programs/series that are already popular to build an audience. Involve stakeholders early.
- Share ideas with other librarians in the program and don't be afraid to reach out to the Yiddish Book Center.

Promotion

Events for Adults

All virtual programs require registration. On-site programs only require registration when noted.

Stories of Exile

Join us this fall for this grant-funded series from the Yiddish Book Center. Wilmette and 27 other libraries across the country will be exploring Yiddish literature as a lens to reflect upon the experience of exile, displacement, and migration shared across cultures and throughout history.

Indigenous Peoples History of Chicagoland

Wednesday, November 29, 2-3pm, Auditorium
Indigenous people have lived in this area since time immemorial and were vital to the formation of Chicagoland as we know it now. Join Jasee Starr (Anishinaabe, Odawa) to learn about the Indigenous tribes, leaders, and cultures that influenced not only Chicago's founding, but also make up the thriving Native American community today.

Book Discussions

In the Land of the Postscript by Chava Rosenfarb
Thursday, November 2, 6:30-8pm, Virtual R
Led by Dr. Matthew Johnson.

The Glatstein Chronicles by Jacob Glatstein
Wednesday, December 6, 2-3:30pm, Auditorium R
Led by Professor Anna Elena Torres.

The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich
Tuesday, November 14, 10:30-11:30am, Auditorium
This is the November selection for our Classics & Contemporary book discussion. Led by librarian Rachel Garcia.



The Power of Native Women
Monday, November 6, 7-8pm, Virtual R
Celebrate Native American History Month learning about Native women who helped shape history with activist and decolonial education consultant Heather Bruegl.

Inflation and Small Business
Tuesday, November 7, 7-8pm, Virtual R
Understand ways businesses can contend with an inflationary environment with certified financial advisor Jeff Dobin.

Documentary Screening & Director Q&A
Inquiring Nuns
Thursday, November 16, 7-9pm, Auditorium

Join us for the 55th anniversary of this seminal documentary. *Inquiring Nuns* takes you on a journey back in time to 1960s Chicago as two nuns greet strangers on the street and ask the pivotal and nuanced question, "are you happy?" The screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A between director Gordon Quinn and filmmaker Michael Glover Smith.



The Heart of Hospice
Tuesday, November 28, 7-8pm, Auditorium
Learn about hospice care and have your questions answered in a compassionate and understanding environment with Aidan McCormack, volunteer coordinator with Moments Hospice.



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STORIES OF EXILE

The "Stories of Exile" program series is the result of a grant awarded to Wilmette Public Library and twenty-seven other public libraries around the country by the Yiddish Book Center. With this series, the Center hopes to use Yiddish literature as a lens to reflect upon the experience of exile, displacement, and migration shared across cultures and throughout history. The library will be hosting book discussions of seven translated Yiddish novels, framed by videos of Yiddish literature. Additionally, we will bridge these conversations by discussing a fourth title from another displaced community.

ABOUT THE YIDDISH BOOK CENTER

The Yiddish Book Center receives, preserves, teaches, and promotes Yiddish literature and culture to advance a deeper understanding of Jewish history and identity. The Center engages diverse, worldwide audiences, providing enrichment, knowledge, and connection to the history and future of Yiddish and Jewish culture. They further these goals through a range of innovative educational and cultural programs, digital initiatives, and strategic partnerships such as the "Stories of Exile" initiative for public libraries. Learn the fascinating story of how the Yiddish Book Center was founded here.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Yenta Mash's On the Landing: Stories

Reading Resources
Watch the recorded presentation: *Women in Exile: What Yenta Mash Can Tell Us*, with Ellen Cassidy

Chava Rosenfarb's In the Land of the Postscript

Reading Resources
Watch the recorded presentation: *Wandering through the Land of the Postscript: A Discussion of Chava Rosenfarb's Short Stories*, with Gaila Margenthaler

Jacob Glatstein's The Glatstein Chronicles

Reading Resources
Watch the recorded presentation: *There and Back Again: Jacob Glatstein's Voyage Home*

BOOK DISCUSSIONS & EVENTS

Jewish Migration in the 18th and 19th Centuries
Thursday, September 14, 2-4pm, Adults, Auditorium

A Tour of the Yiddish Book Center
Thursday, September 21, 7-8pm, Adults, Virtual
[View a recording of this event](#)

Stories of Exile Book Discussion: On the Landing: Stories by Yenta Mash
Tuesday, October 17, 2-3:30pm, Adults, Auditorium

Stories of Exile Book Discussion: In the Land of the Postscript by Chava Rosenfarb
Thursday, November 2, 6:30-8pm, Adults, Virtual

Stories of Exile Book Discussion: The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich
Tuesday, November 14, 10:30-11:30am, Adults, Auditorium

Indigenous Peoples History of Chicagoland
Wednesday, November 29, 2-3pm, Adults, Auditorium

Stories of Exile Book Discussion: The Glatstein Chronicles by Jacob Glatstein
Wednesday, December 6, 2-3:30pm, Adults, Auditorium

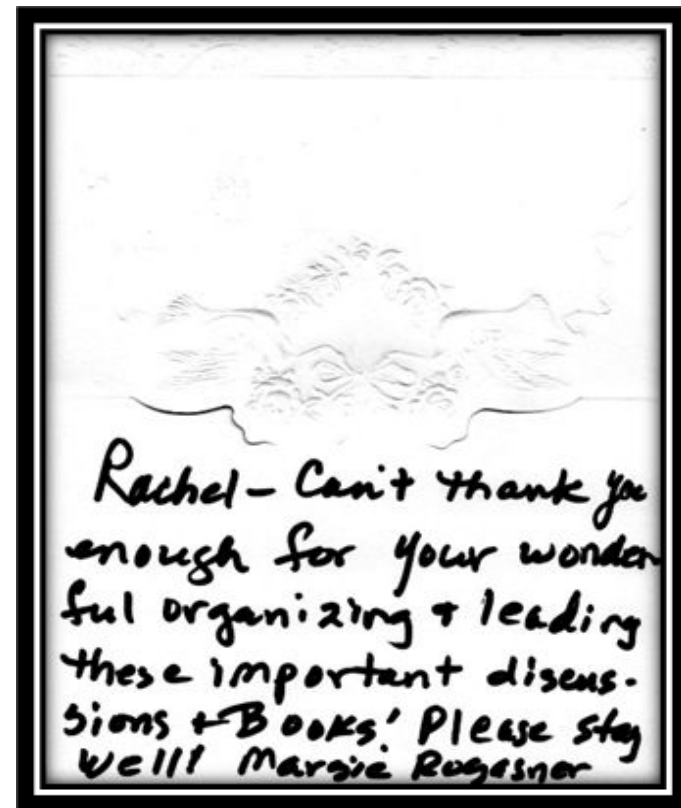
Sign Up To Receive Emails From The Library

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Community Impact

"Congratulations on strong afternoon attendance at the Nov 29 program, "Indigenous Peoples History of Chicago." I am glad I attended. I thought Josie Starr's strengths were speaking clearly, an engaging presence, and interacting warmly with the audience...Please pat yourself on the back for this wonderful Stories of Exile series. Four wonderful books I only found because you have brought us this series."

"Hi, Rachel, the Glatstein book is quite something, a fascinating and authentic voice. I congratulate you on the entire series, you know how much I admired Painted Drum and the book by the Bessarabian author, but this one seems to be to most uniquely wonderful to me."



PROGRAMMING
Librarian

ALA American Library Association



Amy Waldman (she/her)

Librarian

Good Hope Library

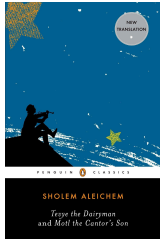
ATWaldm@milwaukee.gov

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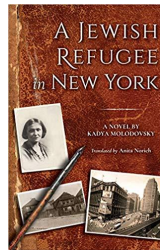
2020 Theme

2023 Theme

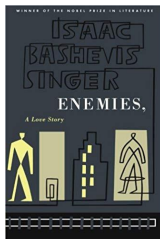
- Coming to America



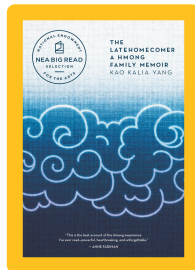
Motel the Cantor's Son
by Sholem Aleichem
(translated by Aliza Shevrin)



A Jewish Refugee in New York
by Kadya Molodowsky (translated by Anita Norich)

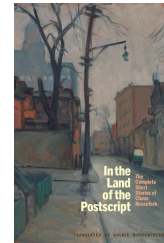


Enemies, A Love Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer (translated by Aliza Shevrin & Elizabeth Shub)



The Latehomecomer
by Kao Kalia Yang

- Stories of Exile



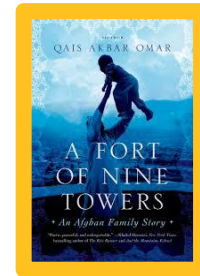
In the Land of the Postscript: Short Stories
by Chava Rosenfarb
(translated by Goldie Morgentaler)



On the Landing
by Yenta Mash
(translated by Ellen Cassedy)



The Glatstein Chronicles by Jacob Glatstein (translated by Maier Deshell and Norbert Guterman)



A Fort of Nine Towers
by Qais Akbar Omar

The Yiddish Book Center & MPL

THE YIDDISH BOOK CENTER & MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
PRESENT

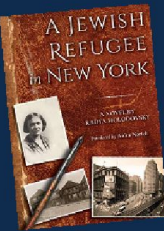

**"Coming to America"
Virtual Reading Group**

Join our monthly virtual reading group featuring Yiddish in Translation literature and a Hmong Family memoir. We will explore immigrant experiences of coming to America. Register to attend and receive a free copy of the book (while supplies last)! Request ADA accommodations for the program [here](#)

Visit www.mpl.org/comingtoamerica or call 414-286-3011 for more information

August 12: Motl the Cantor's Son
September 16: A Jewish Refugee in New York
October 21: The Latehomecomer
November 18: Enemies: A Love Story

Wednesdays
at 5:30 p.m.

2020

**STORIES
of EXILE**

READING GROUPS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES
A Program of the Yiddish Book Center 2023

*A reading and discussion program
for public libraries*

Sundays, 12:30-2 pm
Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, 2023
Jan. 21, Feb. 18, 2024



Jewish Museum Milwaukee | 1360 N. Prospect Ave.

The Yiddish Book Center, Milwaukee Public Library, Jewish Museum Milwaukee and the Coalition for Jewish Learning present the "Stories of Exile" Reading Group featuring three works of Yiddish literature in translation and an Afghan family memoir. Explore and discuss narratives which grapple with questions of homelands, journeys, identity, and belonging and compare those written in Yiddish in the early and mid-20th century to what is going on in the world today.

Docent-led tours of museum exhibits follow the November and February sessions. Refreshments will be served. Register to attend at mpl.org/calendar and receive a free copy of the books (while supplies last).

- October 22: *The Glatstein Chronicles* by Jacob Glatstein, Part 1
- November 19: Selected short stories from *On the Landing* by Yenta Mash and *In the Land of the Postscript* by Chava Rosenfarb
- December 17: *A Fort of Nine Towers* by Qais Akbar Omar
- January 21: Selected short stories from *On the Landing* by Yenta Mash and *In the Land of the Postscript* by Chava Rosenfarb
- February 18: *The Glatstein Chronicles* by Jacob Glatstein, Part 2

The Yiddish Book Center's "Stories of Exile" Reading Groups for Public Libraries is a reading and discussion program to engage teens and adults in thinking about experiences of displacement, migration, and diaspora. In this program, librarians organize reading groups to discuss three books of Yiddish literature in translation, and one book related to the experience of a community served by their library.

2023

PROGRAMMING
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Why I applied (twice!)

- Book Club potential
- Baseline comfort level with the subject material
- Professional Development opportunity
 - Facilitating reading groups
 - Sharing culture in a way that unites multiple cultures
- #trueconfessions: I like writing grants!

Program Highlights & Challenges

- 🦷 Pandemic
- ❤️ Coming to America Book Club
- ❤️ Amherst Experience
 - Seminars
 - Cohort
- 🦷 Finding Partners
- ❤️ / 🦷 / 😊 Publicity
- ❤️ Jewish Museum Milwaukee
- ❤️ Flexibility & Support



Most Enduring Highlight



Register



Coming to America Book Club



Wednesday, May 21
5:30pm - 6:30pm

[Add to Calendar](#)



Virtual
Virtual

Coming to America Book Club

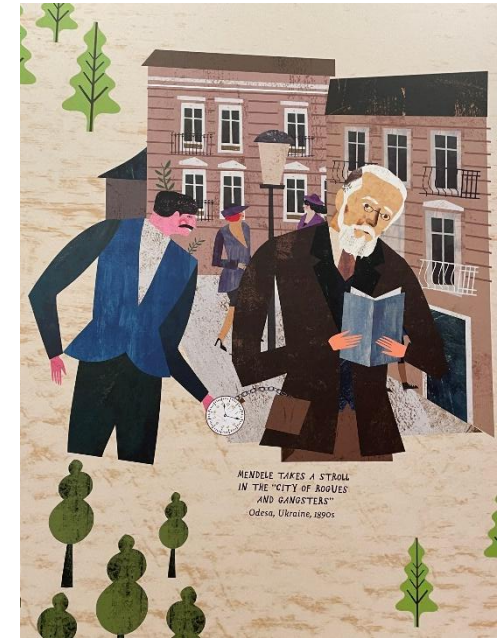
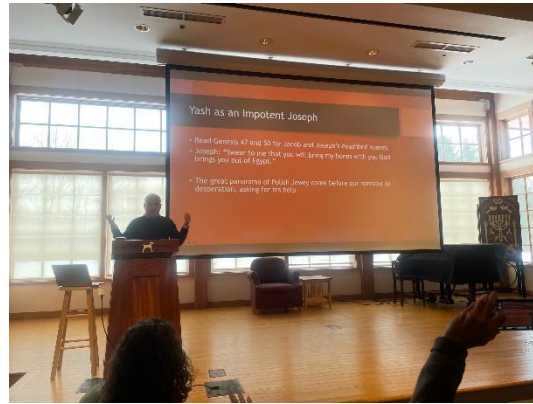
This book club approaches American identity as an evolving and ongoing conversation, using fiction and non-fiction to explore questions of identity, assimilation, language, cuisine, generational change and other aspects of life in the United States.

May's selection is *Songs for the Brokenhearted*: a novel, by Ayelet Tsabari. Request a physical copy [here](#), or request the e-book or e-audio book on the Libby library app. Sign into the app with your library card. Register in advance for this program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

AGE GROUP: | [Older Adults](#) | [Adults](#) |

EVENT TYPE: | [Book Club/Discussion](#) |

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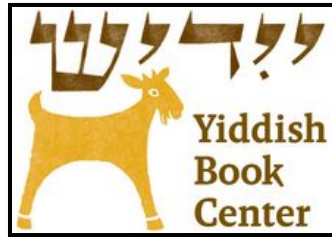


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Questions?



ala.org/ybc



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