

**From:** Jeff Hayes

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**Subject:** "Between Two Worlds" Public Libraries Program

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Good morning!

We're delighted to let you know that you've been accepted to participate in the **Yiddish Book Center's 2026 "Between Two Worlds" Public Libraries Program**. Welcome! We couldn't be more excited about the diverse and committed group of public libraries from across the country that we've selected to be part of the third cohort of this program, newly expanded with the support of a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

The Yiddish Book Center was founded in 1980 to recover and make accessible the vast, rich, and diverse Yiddish literature around the world. Forty-five years later, we have saved more than 1.5 million volumes and we offer a full slate of educational programs, a translation initiative, an oral history project, a robust series of virtual public programs, an English-language magazine, and permanent and visiting museum exhibits. A grant awarded to the Center by the Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative will support the expansion of the Center's Public Libraries Program (launched in 2020), which seeks to deepen understanding of Jewish history, religion, and identity through Yiddish literature. In the expanded program, titled **Between Two Worlds: Exploring Jewish Culture and Religion through Yiddish Literature**, the Yiddish Book Center will partner with public libraries across the United States, equipping librarians with the tools to introduce Yiddish culture to their local communities and foster interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

To kick off this exciting new program, we will hold a mandatory workshop here at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA, on November 2-4, 2025. You (or one of your staff members) will travel to Amherst (with all travel, lodging, and meal costs paid by the Center) and gather together with a cohort of other librarians from across the country. Together, you will plan for your discussion groups and build your familiarity with Yiddish literature, with the resources that the Center will provide to support your reading groups and related programming, and with the literature that explores the intersections of religion, culture, and identity. The workshop will include sessions with leading scholars and critics, discussions, and explorations of the Yiddish

Book Center's collections. *This workshop is an integral part of the "Between Two Worlds" program, so if you are unable to attend, please inform us no later than **Monday, September 15.***

More detailed information about your participation is included in the attached documents. *To accept your library's place in the program, please read the program details carefully and fill out our online registration form as soon as possible and no later than **Monday, September 15.*** **You'll notice the webform also asks for you to: sign and upload the attached terms and conditions; indicate your travel and housing intentions for the workshop; and include a professional bio and a photo of yourself – just a heads up!**

<https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/between-two-worlds-public-libraries-program-2026-registration-form>

If your plans have changed and you can't take part in this program—we hope not!—please email me and let me know by **Monday, September 15** so that we may plan accordingly. And don't hesitate to be in touch at any point in the coming weeks if you have any questions: (413) 256-4900, ext. 151 or [jhayes@yiddishbookcenter.org](mailto:jhayes@yiddishbookcenter.org).

We look forward to working with you in 2026,



Jeff Hayes

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