

20 diverse learning sessions from / about all Baltisher countries!
online Tu BiShevat Seder // Russian-language track translated into English
Our unique online Baltisher Bar // European Jews & allies from all over

lovingly crafted by



PERFORMANCE

Limmud *Europe* Team
Welcoming participants

Daniel Kahn *Germany*
Vi Azoy? Un Ver?
Avrom Sutzkever's poetry

Daniel Kahn is a Berlin-based Detroit-born poet / translator / singer / songwriter / multi-instrumentalist (accordion, piano, guitars). Described as "an absolute must for lovers of unusual, intelligent, challenging, exciting folk music and a blast at every instant".



Jan Schwarz *Denmark*
Avrom Sutzkever: Yiddish Poet and Partisan in the Vilna Ghetto

Avrom Sutzkever (1913-2010), a Vilna poet, is one of the greatest Jewish poets of the twentieth century. He started to write his nature and modernist Yiddish poetry in the 1930s and continued prolifically creating poetry in the Vilna ghetto, 1941-1943. I will give examples of Sutzkever's poetry some of which was set to music and performed in the Vilna ghetto. The presentation will also give a brief introduction to Vilna Jewish culture prior to and during the war.

Avital Shein *Sweden*
Gishur
Connecting Communities

How do European Jewish attitudes towards refugees and Otherness differ from the American experience? How do we connect Jewish memory of displacement with current, non-Jewish refugee experiences in Europe? Come to this session to learn how these and other questions inspired a creation of three holiday resources developed as part of Gishur, a collaboration of HIAS, Paideia and CEJI.

Tomas Woodsky *Sweden*
Yiddish television in Sweden

For a few decades now, Yiddish has been a recognized minority language in Sweden. As a result there are many interesting and unique projects. In this session I will show and talk about the making of the world's only TV shows in yiddish, a product by national educational tv (UR) and national public service television (SVT) of Sweden.

Sandra Lustig *Germany*
Of All Places!
Reflections of Jews who returned to Germany after the Shoah

Who are, who were these people? Why in the world would Jews who had been fortunate enough to escape Germany alive decide to go back there, of all places? And what was life like once they arrived there?

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Relax & Connect at the Bar



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EN/RU
Nelly Shulman *Germany*
The Fragrant Scroll
an investigation into a medieval murder
Благоуханный свиток расследование средневекового убийства

The mysterious murder of the pious Dulce, wife of the famous Rabbi Eliezer of Worms, at the end of the 12th century shocked the European Jewish communities and remained unsolved. In her new detective story, The Fragrant Scroll, Nelli Shulman, author of a detective series featuring detective Saburov, takes readers to medieval Germany, where Rabbi Alexander, Dulce's relative, attempts to solve the mystery.

Robert Yerachmiel Sniderman, Katarzyna Sala *Germany | Poland | USA*
Planting Esther's Willow

Artists tell the story of conceptualizing, and realizing the ongoing social project of planting Esther's Willow—a white willow sapling—in the former Esther's Square, the location of the Great Synagogue of Chrzanów demolished in the 1970s. The artists' years-long process of research, collaboration, and making brought regional and local institutions, contemporary inhabitants, descendants, survivors, and their dead together to mark, contemplate, mourn, enliven, and honor the square and the generations that surround/ed and fill/edit it.

Simo Muir *Finland*
The Many Faces of Helsinki Yiddish Cabaret

One hundred years ago, Helsinki-born Jac Weinstein (1883-1976) founded a Yiddish-language theatre society. The texts of Weinstein's songs describe the life of Jews in Helsinki, both in good and bad times, with self-irony and Jewish humour. It was predominantly 'Litvak' and spoke a variety of 'Lithuanian Yiddish'. The talk presents a collection of Weinstein's songs and sheds light on the fascinating history of the theatre society.

EN/RU
Misha Beshkin *Estonia*
Is there a European Jewish identity? (Or not?)
Существует ли еврейская идентичность?

Common European Jewish identity does not exist at this moment. Some historical national Jewish identities exist, such as French, Dutch, Italian, and British. Yet, most Jewish communities do not identify with their countries of residence. The common question for all European Jewish communities is whether we are European (French, Estonian, Polish) Jews or Jewish Europeans (French, Estonians, Poles).

Ulrike Offenberg Martin Heimbucher *Germany*
Rabbi Regina Jonas in Theresienstadt

The first woman rabbi, Regina Jonas (1902-1944), was deported from Berlin to Theresienstadt. For two years she continued her rabbinic work there. But what kind of comfort, encouragement, or hope could she provide at this grim place? New research brought up more details about Jonas' dedication to her people in distress.

Marlene Edelstein *Denmark*
Deborah and the dancing demons

Deborah is probably the best known work by Esther Kreitman, the elder sister of the more famous Isaac Bashevis Singer. But the Yiddish original of which Deborah is a translation actually has a far more startling and thought-provoking title: *Der Sheydim tants - dance of the spirits, or the demons*. It almost seems as if the different titles introduce two different novels. But does the matter-of-fact English veneer conceal traces of a demonic narrative? Should we read Deborah with double vision?

EN/RU
Hanna Sedletsky *Israel*
Biblical Environmentalism
How did God command us to Treat the Earth?
Библейский Экологизм: как Бог заповедовал нам относиться к Земле?

Chapters 1 and 2 of Bereshit describe not only two different creation stories but also two seemingly conflicting commandments about humanity's relationship with the earth. In chapter 1, God commands humans to fill the earth and dominate it, while in the second chapter, God tells humans to work and tend to the land. Which of the two commandments we ended up following? During this session, participants will study the textual difficulty and have a discussion about the potential biblical origins of environmentalism.

Nathan Alfred *Israel*
Radical Vilna

19th century Vilna was a hotbed of Jewish radicalism. This session will look at four people – three men and one woman – and their innovative contributions to religious, political and economic questions.

Aleksandra Janus *Poland*
Green Commemorations

The rise of awareness of human impact on the environment and the emergence of a new paradigm in the humanities, which can be described as ecological humanities, drew attention to nature as an actor, witness, evidence and archive, which can be an important source of knowledge for those studying the past – including genocidal violence. If local ecosystems are the source of knowledge, evidence and data about past violence against people and nature, how can we make them visible? How can we work with unmarked places associated with unmarked Jewish burial sites or destroyed Jewish cemeteries in ways that are sustainable and dignified?

SHORT BREAK / TIME TO SET UP FOR THE SEDER

Rebecca Lilian *Denmark*
The evolution of Tu B'Shevat in a nutshell

The 15th day of the month of Shevat (in Hebrew, Tu B'Shevat) has been associated with trees since ancient times. The Bible declares it the new year for trees in terms of tax and tithing. In the 16th century, the Kabbalists created a mystical seder for Tu B'Shvat. With the resettlement of the Land, planting trees in Israel became a Jewish communal project. In the late 20th century, many Jewish communities began to highlight the Jewish obligation to care for the natural environment, and Tu B'Shevat has also become an international Jewish Earth Day.

Online Tu B'Shevat Seder
with musical contributions from
Liz Bolton *Canada*
Dorothy Goldberg *Denmark*
Duo Ma-s-ka *Estonia*

Baltisher Limmud falls on the eve of Tu B'Shvat, so our concluding session will be a cross-communal Tu B'Shvat seder featuring learning, music, art, poetry, and conversation from across our region. Join us as we celebrate the "Jewish Earth Day" with learning, songs, and the fruit of the tree and the vine. To prepare the traditional fruit, nuts, and beverages, see this list here: → <https://www.limmud.eu/event/baltisher-limmud/>

To enjoy the custom of planting parsley or other herbs on Tu B'Shvat that are ready to be karpas on your Pesach seder plate in April, have a small cup of earth and some seeds ready to plant.

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