

The Holocaust & the Exile of Yiddish: A History of the *Algemeyne Entsiklopedye*

"A fresh contribution to Jewish studies as a whole and Yiddish studies in particular, this work is especially notable for bridging the prewar, World War II, and postwar periods."

Cecile E. Kuznitz, author of *YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture: Scholarship for the Yiddish Nation*

Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies Lecture The Holocaust & the Exile of Yiddish

Barry Trachtenberg



Image from Rutgers University Press

For more information:

www.jewishstudies.utoronto.ca/events

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. We request that all in-person attendees **wear masks** to protect our vulnerable community members.

Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 at 4 PM

Location: in-person at JHB100 (170 St. George Street) or Online via [Zoom](#)



Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

מרכז למדעי היהדות

With a welcome from

Doris Bergen

Doris Bergen is the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies in the Department of History and the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto.

*Featuring Yiddish poetry
selected and read by*

Elly Gotz

Elly Gotz is a Holocaust survivor, retired engineer, businessman, pilot, and author of *Flights of Spirit* (2018). He shares his story, which focuses on teaching tolerance and an understanding of the conditions that bring about genocide, with around 15,000 students every year. Born in Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania in 1928, he has had a lifelong passion for Yiddish poetry.



Barry Trachtenberg

Barry Trachtenberg is the Rubin Presidential Chair of Jewish History at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. In addition to *The Holocaust & the Exile of Yiddish* (2022), he is the author of *The United States and the Nazi Holocaust: Race, Refuge, and Remembrance* (2018) and *The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish, 1903-1917* (2008).

He serves on the Board of Scholars of Facing History and Ourselves and is a member of the Academic Advisory Board of Jewish Voice for Peace.



About the Book

"In the early 1930s in Berlin, a group of leading Eastern European Jewish intellectuals embarked upon a project to transform the lives of millions of Yiddish-speaking Jews by publishing a popular and comprehensive Yiddish language encyclopedia. However, soon after the *Algemeyne entsiklopedye* (General Encyclopedia) was announced, Hitler's rise to power forced its editors to flee to Paris. The scope and mission of the project repeatedly changed before its final volumes were published in New York City in 1966.

The Holocaust & the Exile of Yiddish untangles the complicated saga of the *Algemeyne entsiklopedye* and its editors. This is not only a story about destruction and trauma, but also one of tenacity and continuity, as the encyclopedia's compilers strove to preserve the heritage of Yiddish culture, to document its near-total extermination in the Holocaust, and to chart its path into the future." - *Rutgers University Press*

