

## ROBERTA NEWMAN

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### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

**Independent scholar**, author of *Dear Mendl, Dear Reyzl: Yiddish Letter-Writing Manuals from Russia and America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014. (Co-author: Alice Nakhimovsky)

*Currently at work on a biography of the Yiddish poet Leyzer Wolf.*

**Yiddish-English translator** specializing in the translation of manuscripts, including letters, diaries, Holocaust testimonies, Yiddish newspaper research. **Instructor, Yiddish Handwriting Reading Workshop**, Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture (YIVO/NYU, 2006-2010).

**Director of Digital Initiatives, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research**, New York, NY (2013-2019), with responsibility for archival and library digitization projects, organizational web sites, and selected grant proposals.

**Illustrations Editor, Director of Archival Research and writer for *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*** (YIVO/Yale University Press, 2008 and online edition, [www.yivoencyclopedia.org](http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org), 2010).

**Image Researcher/ Rights Clearance Consultant** for documentary films, exhibitions, and publications, including permanent exhibition developed by Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Inc. for the Museum of Jewish History and Tolerance Center (Moscow, 2012) and *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization* (Yale University Press, Volume 10, 2012).

**Senior Producer of Heritage Interactive DVD-Rom** (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/heritage/>), an educational multimedia project based on the 9-part documentary, *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews* (Thirteen/WNET, 2002).

**Writer of scripts for audio-tours** for museum exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, the Jewish Museum and other museums for Acoustiguide, Inc. (2008-2012).

**Curator of Iconographic Materials of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research**, New York, NY (1988-1992), with responsibility for the foremost archival collection of over 150,000 photographs and 300 rare films related to the history of East European Jews.

**Writer of short fiction.** Winner of 3rd prize, MOMENT Magazine-Karma Foundation Fiction Contest (2012).

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EMPLOYMENT

#### **2013--2019**

Director of Digital Initiatives, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, N.Y.

#### **2012-2013**

Artifact/Image Researcher for *Passages through the Fire: Jews and the Civil War* (exhibition, American Jewish Historical Society/Yeshiva University Museum, 2013)

Image Researcher for *Shtetl: A Vernacular Intellectual History* (by Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University Press, 2014), *Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof* (by Alisa Solomon, Henry Holt, 2013), and *Russian Full Circle* (Yale University Press, 2013)

#### **2012**

Producer, *The Monuments Men*, short film for *Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award Dinner* (American Jewish Historical Society)

Archival Researcher for *Colliding Ideas* (Documentary film, Oren Rudavsky Productions and Riverside Films, 2015)

#### **2010-2012**

Image Researcher/ Rights Clearance Consultant for Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Inc., for permanent exhibition of the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, Moscow, (November 2012)

Consultant to *Digital Archives on Jewish Life in Poland* and *Online Guide to the YIVO Archives* (Web sites, YIVO, 2013)

#### **2008-2012**

Writer of scripts for audio-tours for museum exhibitions for Acoustiguide, Inc., including:

- *Chagall and the Artists of the Russian Jewish Theater* (Jewish Museum, November 2008)
- Special selections for permanent exhibition, Museum of Modern Art (October 2009; 2013)
- *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust* (Jewish Museum, May 2009). Winner AAM MUSE Bronze Award, (2010)
- *Contemporary Art from the Collection* (Museum of Modern Art, June 2010)
- *Edouard Vuillard: A Painter and His Muses, 1890-1940* (Jewish Museum, May 2012)

#### **2008-2012**

Yiddish-English Translator specializing in handwritten materials, for private clients and (partial list)

- YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
- The Emma Goldman Papers Project, Berkeley, CA

- The Yiddish Radio Project, New York, NY, for an NPR documentary series
- Edward T. O'Donnell, Hunter College of the City University of New York
- Kenneth Helphand, Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon for the book, *Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime* (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 2006)

## 2011

Illustrations Researcher for *Emerging Metropolis* (Annie Polland and Daniel Soyer, Volume II of *City of Promises: The History of the Jews in New York*, New York University Press, 2012)

## 2010-2011

Content Producer for *Zero to 10: First Decades/New Centuries* (Web site exhibition, Yeshiva University Museum and the Center for Jewish History, January 2011)

## 2010

Archival Researcher for *Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness* (Documentary film, Riverside Films, 2011)

Curatorial Consultant for temporary exhibitions on Yiddish at National Yiddish Book Center

## 2009-2010

Rights Clearance Consultant for illustrations for *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization* a ten-volume anthology (Yale University Press, Vol. 10, 2012)

## 2005-2010

Illustrations Editor, Director of Archival Research, developer of RFP for web site project, member of design review team, and writer for *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe* (YIVO/Yale University Press, 2008 and online edition, [www.yivoencyclopedia.org](http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org), 2010)

## 2009

Producer of video of interviews with executive directors of the Educational Alliance, 92nd St Y, and other agencies for the web site of the *Milstein Family Jewish Communal Archive Project* (YIVO, November 2009)

Content Producer for *Letters of Conscience: Raphael Lemkin and the Quest to End Genocide* (Web site exhibition, Yeshiva University Museum and the Center for Jewish History, November 2009)

## 2008-2009

Illustrations Researcher for *Southeast Asia in World History, South Africa in World History, Technology in World History, Revolutionary Russia: A Documentary History* and other titles (Oxford University Press)

## 2006-2009

Instructor, Yiddish Handwriting Reading Workshop, Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture (YIVO/NYU)

**2008**

Archival Researcher for *Journey to Freedom* (Documentary film, Deborah Schaffer, 2010)

Writer and Illustrations Researcher, *HIAS - My Story*, <http://mystory.hias.org/>  
(Web site, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society – HIAS, 2008)

**2005**

Archival Researcher for *The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women & Their Salons*  
(Exhibition videos, Jewish Museum, 2005)

Scriptwriter, *Operation Promise* (Fundraising video for \$160 million campaign, United Jewish Communities, 2005)

Content Producer for *Jews in America: Our Story* ([www.jewsinamerica.org](http://www.jewsinamerica.org))  
(Web site, Center for Jewish History, 2005)

Content Producer for *Letters from the Front: Jewish War Heroes* ([www.lettersfront.org](http://www.lettersfront.org))  
(Web site, Center for Jewish History, 2005)

**2003-2005**

Web Site Content Developer and Editor, Jewish Communal Service Association

**2004**

Illustrations Researcher for *A Coat of Many Colors: Immigration, Globalization, and Reform in New York City's Garment Industry* (Daniel Soyer, editor; Fordham University Press, 2005)

**2003**

Archival Researcher for *The World Was Ours: The Jewish Legacy of Vilna* (Documentary film, The Vilna Project, 2006)

**2000-2003**

Director of New Media and Special Assistant to the Executive Director (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research)

- Produced institutional web site (<http://www.yivo.org>, original edition only, 2000-2004)
- Oversaw production of *People of a Thousand Towns*, an Internet catalog of 17,000 photographs (<http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org>)
- Wrote and conceptualized grant proposals, brochures, exhibition catalogs, promotional literature, strategic plans, and other publications

**1997-2002**

Senior Producer of *Heritage Interactive DVD-Rom*  
(Thirteen/WNET)

**2001**

Illustrations Researcher for *The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania* (Yale University Press, 2002)

**1999**

Archival Consultant for permanent exhibition of National Yiddish Book Center

**1998**

Archival Researcher for *They Were Not Silent: Jewish Labor and the Holocaust* (Documentary film, Wagner Labor Archives, 1998)

**1994-1997**

Associate Curator and Video Producer for *Remembering Luboml: Images of a Jewish Community* (Traveling exhibition, Luboml Exhibition Project)

**1996**

Archival Researcher for *Turning Points* (Videos for permanent exhibition, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, 1996)

Archival Researcher for *America and the Refugees* (Exhibition video, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1996)

Developed concept and design and conducted all research for 24-page organizational history: *The Atran Foundation: Celebrating Fifty Years Of Philanthropy* (Atran Foundation)

Arranged photo collection and wrote inventory for "The Records of the Jewish Labor Committee" (Wagner Labor Archives)

**1994-1996**

Archival Researcher for *A Life Apart* (Documentary on Hasidic Jews in America, Oren Rudavsky Productions, 1997)

Grant Proposal Writer for *The Yiddish Radio Project*, Peabody Award-winning radio documentary that aired on NPR stations nationwide (2002)

**1992-1996**

Grant Proposal Writer (NEH, local humanities councils, ITVS) for independent documentary filmmakers, including Academy Award-winning director Ira Wohl (*Best Boy*) and Beverly Peterson (*The Andre Show*)

**1995**

Archival Researcher for *In the Fiddler's House* (Emmy award-winning *Great Performances* program, Thirteen/WNET, 1995)

**1994**

Archival Researcher for *Becoming American Women* (Exhibition, Chicago Historical Society, 1994)

Grant Proposal Writer for Living Traditions, Inc., non-profit organization that sponsors intergenerational Jewish folk arts programs, including the annual event, KlezKamp

**1993**

Illustrations Researcher for *To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.* (Deborah Dash Moore, The Free Press, 1994)

Associate Producer of *Endings and Beginnings: A Midrash on the Jewish New Year* (Capital Cities/ABC, 1993)

**1988-1992**

Curator of Iconographic Materials (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research):

- Served as Curator of Iconographic Materials with responsibility for foremost archival collection of over 150,000 photographs and rare films related to the history of East European Jews
- Wrote grant proposal for and directed NEH-funded cataloging project of over 10,000 Yiddish theater photographs
- Cataloged over 10,000 Holocaust photographs in joint project with U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

**1991**

Archival Consultant for *To Give Them Light: The Legacy of Roman Vishniac* (Summit Books, 1992)

**1989-1990**

Archival Consultant for *Bridge of Light: Yiddish Film Between Two Worlds* (J. Hoberman, Schocken Books and the Museum of Modern Art, 1991)

**1989**

Associate Curator and Video Producer, *Going Home: How American Jews Invent the Old Country* (Traveling exhibition, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1989)

**1987**

Researched bibliography of writings by Mordecai Kaplan for *The American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan* (Emanuel S. Goldsmith, Mel Scult, and Robert M. Seltzer, editors, New York University Press, 1990)

PUBLICATIONS (PRINT)

*Dear Mendl, Dear Reyzl: Yiddish Letter-Writing Manuals from Russia and America.*  
Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014. (Co-author: Alice Nakhimovsky)

*Jews in the East European Borderlines* (Academic Studies Press, 2012)

"A Paper Life: model letters and real letters as a key to Russian-Jewish aspirations at the turn of the twentieth century." (Co-author: Alice Nakhimovsky)

*Yiddish In Weimar Berlin: At The Crossroads Of Diaspora Politics And Culture. Studies In Yiddish 8, (2010)*

(Translator) Verena Dohrn, "A Warm Morning Gown And A Shawl From Berlin: Liebe Zaltzman's Yiddish Letters To Helene Koigen,"

*The American Jewish Archives Journal* (2009)

"'Free America': Glimpses of Jewish Immigrant in Life in the Pages of American *Brivnshtelers*." (Co-author: Alice Nakhimovsky)

*The Encyclopedia of New York State* (Syracuse University Press, 2005)

Essay on September 11, 2001; additional entries.

*Jews of Brooklyn* (Brandeis University Press, 2002)

“Putting on Your Best Face: Brooklyn Jewish Studio Photography in the Mass Immigration Era.”

*Heritage: Civilization and the Jews DVD-Rom Resource Guide* (Thirteen-WNET, 2001)

*Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Review*

"DP Docudrama: Institutional Propaganda and Post-World War II Jewish Refugees." (1994)

"Home Movies and the Alte Heym (Old Home): American Jewish Travel Films in Eastern Europe in the 1920s-30s." (1993)

*YIVO Annual*

"Pictures of a Trip to the Old Country." (1993)

"Change and Continuity: Photographs of Jewish Children in Interwar Eastern Europe." (1991)

*Judaica Librarianship*

"Jewish Film and Jewish Studies." (Review, 1991)

*Yugntruf*

"Paradise." (Yiddish poem, 1988)

"The Museum of Children's Dreams." (Yiddish poem, 1988. Reprinted in Soviet publication, *Sovetish Heymland*)

## PUBLICATIONS (ONLINE)

*Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collections* (2015-2019)

Features on artifacts digitized for the project. (<https://vilnacollections.yivo.org/Featured-Artifacts>)

*Global Literature in Libraries Initiative* (2017)

"Buried Yiddish Treasures in Lithuania." (<https://glli-us.org/2017/09/20/buried-yiddish-treasures-in-lithuania/>)

*Forward* (2016)

"Was the Holocaust Made Possible by Demise of European States?" Interview with Timothy Snyder. (<https://forward.com/culture/books/329624/was-the-holocaust-made-possible-by-demise-of-european-states/>)

*JewishFiction.net* (April 2012)

"Moyshe from Modvelt." (Fiction)

(<https://www.jewishfiction.net/index.php/publisher/articleview/frmArticleID/167>)

*Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal* (Vol. 7, No.2, 2010)

"Gone." (Fiction) (<http://wjudaism.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/wjudaism>)

*YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe* (3 June 2010. 30)  
"Brivnshtelers." (Co-author: AliceNakhimovsky)  
(<http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Brivnshtelers>)

## EDUCATION

M.A., Individualized Studies, New York University (1996)  
Thesis: *Delayed Pilgrims: The Radio Programs of the United Service for New Americans, 1947-1948*

B.A., History and Jewish Social Studies, Hunter College of the City University of New York (1987),  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Special Assistant to Professor Robert M. Seltzer, Chair, Jewish Studies Program

Member, *Phi Beta Kappa*

Certificate, Albert Pels School of Commercial Art, New York (1980)