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Spokane Library Awarded National Grant to Explore Yiddish Culture

Spokane Public Library has been selected as one of 40 libraries nationwide to participate in the [Yiddish Book Center](#)'s Public Libraries Program on the theme "Between Two Worlds: Exploring Jewish Culture and Religion through Yiddish Literature"!

A once-prominent language throughout Eastern Europe, Yiddish is now only spoken by an estimated 500,000 to 1 million people. After the devastation of the Holocaust, the world lost around half of its Yiddish-speaking population. As such, the Yiddish Book Center's mission is to revitalise the Yiddish language and share the rich Jewish life, religion, and culture surrounding it – alive and thriving today. This helps to foster vibrant cross-cultural dialogue and discussion in our communities.

With this opportunity, Spokane Public Library received a grant to send a staff member to a three-day workshop onsite at the Yiddish Book Center campus in Amherst, Massachusetts, in November 2025.

"The training was an incredible experience. I met librarians from all around the country and learned about the Yiddish language and the vibrant culture it originates from," said Becky Mace, the library representative who attended the training.

\$2,000 of these grant funds will also be used to fund a portion of the events listed below and to provide over 50 Yiddish-translated materials to the library collection.

- [Wednesday, March 25 at 12pm](#) | Virtual Book Club: *A Jewish Refugee in New York* by Kadya Molodovsky (translated by Anita Norich)
- [Wednesday, April 22 at 12pm](#) | Virtual Book Club: *Salt Houses* by Hala Alyan
 - *Salt Houses* was chosen for its exploration of the refugee experience, reflecting themes of cultural understanding and resettlement recommended by the Yiddish Book Center
- [Sunday, April 26 at 1pm at Central Library](#) | Yiddish Music with Meshugga Daddies
- [Sunday, April 26 at 2pm at Central Library](#) | Film Screening of *Welcome to Yiddishland*
- [Sunday, May 17 at 1pm at Shadle Park Library](#) | Film Screening of *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*
- [Sunday, May 17 at 2:45pm at Shadle Park Library](#) | Book Discussion: *Tevye the Dairyman* by Sholem Aleichem (translated by Aliza Shevrin)
- [Sunday, May 31 at 2pm at South Hill Library](#) | Looking Back, Looking Forward: Finding Personal Meaning in the Jewish Immigration Story



- [Wednesday, September 30 at 12pm](#) | Virtual Book Club: *Zelmenyaners: A Family Saga* by Moyshe Kulbak (translated by Hillel Halkin)

As a Community of Learning, Spokane Public Library strives to inspire a thriving city through cultural and educational opportunities. We hope you'll join us in elevating these pieces of Yiddish-translated literature and be a part of our vision for a more vibrant and multicultural community.

[About Spokane Public Library](#)

Spokane Public Library aims to inspire a thriving city through cultural and educational opportunities. An award-winning library that spans seven locations and houses nearly half-a million items, Spokane Public Library circulates nearly two million items and welcomes one million visitors annually. Customers can enjoy traditional library media and can also access digital downloads, databases, historical collections, art exhibits and interesting free programming. For general information about the library, please visit spokanelibrary.org or call 509.444.5300. [Access our media kit here!](#)