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15 West 16th Street  
New York, New York 10011  
Phone: 212-294-8301  
Fax: 212-294-8302  
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Dear Friend of the Center for Jewish History,

Once upon a time, a flowering of Yiddish children's books — written with simplicity and heart — and often brilliantly illustrated — told happy, sad, funny, fascinating stories of Jewish life and values.

Then the world changed and a unique chapter in Jewish literature (along with the lives of a million and a half young readers) came to a sudden end.

Over the years, more than 1,500 of these precious books have been rescued and painstakingly conserved. Too fragile to be handled, they remained inaccessible to most of us.

**Now, today, with your help, the pages of these Jewish literary treasures will open again for children and adults alike!**

*As I write this letter, the Center for Jewish History is transforming hundreds of rare and important books — fairy and folk tales, original children's stories, textbooks by leading Yiddish writers and educators, Hasidic lore and children's classics — into "virtual books" that will be available on-line, free of charge.*

The digitized books, in Yiddish and other languages, will be added to the Center's growing on-line collection, publicly available at: [www.digital.cjh.org](http://www.digital.cjh.org).

With the support of cherished donors like you, translations and audio recordings also will be available, providing a complete multi-media experience.

Even now, you can enjoy a wonderful treat by viewing the modest collection already available on the Center's website. *The Breakfast of the Birds, and Other Stories*, for example, published in 1917, is a Hebrew-to-English translation of a tale in which birds encourage Jewish slave children to become free:

*"The grateful songsters regaled them with tales of the Land of the Palm beyond the mountains. In their notes was the lapping of the waters of Jordan..."*

With this book and others to come, a new blossoming of learning and celebration of Jewish culture will unfold for children, parents, teachers, scholars and researchers — anyone who wants to will be able to glimpse through this magic window to the past.

(over, please)

All we need now are the funds to complete the costly and complex process of bringing these historic books to a new generation of readers. **All we need now is you.**

It costs close to \$1,000 to digitize a single 50-page book (a typical length) and make it available on line. In recognition of gifts of \$1,000 or more, the **Center for Jewish History** will name you, or someone you wish to memorialize or honor, on its website.

Whatever amount you are able to send today, please do it knowing that the **Center for Jewish History** will put your generous gift to immediate good use. For example:

- ✓ **\$50** will ensure that an important relic of the Jewish past is appropriately cataloged, so that Internet users and researchers can search for it with ease.
- ✓ **\$100** can provide digital storage for a historic book, so it can live on for future generations to read and enjoy.
- ✓ **\$500** enables the Center for Jewish History to place one digitized book on a comprehensive website accessible by anyone anywhere in the world.

Your contribution to the **Center for Jewish History** connects you to one of the world's great public Jewish historical and cultural institutions, and the largest document repository of the modern Jewish experience outside of Israel.

**The collections at the Center are the embers plucked from the fires. With your gift, they will live on in modern Jewish culture.**

Today, you have a wonderful way to honor the memory of a loved one who perhaps knew and prized one of these books as a child!

Your contribution brings you a unique opportunity to help today's young people understand the lives of Jewish children from another time, another place... to enrich the learning of thousands of students and scholars... and to contribute to Jewish culture!

Please give generously today. Thank you.



*This 1917 treasure is now available to all at [www.digital.cjh.org](http://www.digital.cjh.org).*

B'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Slovin".

Bruce Slovin  
Chairman

P.S. Yiddish children's literature flourished in all its beauty and diversity only from the turn of the 20th century until the Holocaust. Your gift will help this golden age thrive again for children, scholars and all who believe that these precious books are an essential part of Jewish culture.