



July 2008

Dear friend:

Who would have believed that 55 years after the founding of our Nusakh Vilne group, and 65 years after the liquidation of the Vilna ghetto, that we would be fortunate enough to gather as survivors – not in big numbers after all these years – but still here and committed to our historic community. Never before has it been so urgent for our generation – children of Holocaust survivors – to take up the torch from our parents and grandparents. Together we must renew our commitment to honoring and remembering, both the lost individuals and the lost Jewish community of Vilna, and its neighbouring towns, those who are here and those who are no longer here.

We will gather at 1:00 PM on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at YIVO, 15 West 16th Street, New York City, for the Nusakh Vilne Yizker and Memorial Lecture. Refreshments will be served.

We hope you will attend the Nusakh Vilne Yizker and Memorial Lecture, together with your children, grandchildren, other family and friends as we gather to remember what was lost, to pay tribute to the entire Vilna Jewish community, as well as our Nusakh Vilne family. This annual event also serves to remind us, and our offspring, of the obligation we each have to remember, to preserve, and to teach and learn about those days and people. At the same time it is important to reaffirm our commitment to the present generations, and will celebrate the strength and continuity of our heritage and culture. Young and older, everyone is invited.

Our event will open with remarks by Dr. Carl Rheins, YIVO Executive Director. This year's guest speaker will be Michael Bart, author of *Until Our Last Breath: A Holocaust Story of Love and Partisan Resistance* (St. Martin's Press, 2008), which describes his parents' years as partisans in Rudnicki Forest. Mr. Bart will be coming in from San Diego for this event. Moish Palevsky will read material from Holocaust literature, and Cantor Victor Wortman of the Bay Terrace Jewish Center in Bayside, Queens will perform the *hazkore* and a musical program.



Please be here with us. Bring your family and friends. Admission is free. RSVP to Naomi Gates-Monasch (212.294.6140) or email : nmonasch@yivo.cjh.org.

As the New Year approaches it is our Jewish tradition to think of loved ones and of our long history as a people. Your support is important to us, and we hope you will send in your most generous donation to YIVO. We look forward to seeing you here at YIVO on September 21, 2008.

With best wishes,

Ella Levine
Director of Development

