

Forward



**20
22**

**A N N U A L
R E P O R T**

**PAST
PRESENT
FORWARD**

Dear Friends,

In 2022, the *Forward* celebrated an exciting milestone: our 125th anniversary. The *Forverts* began as a Yiddish language newspaper for immigrants on New York City's Lower East Side. Now, 125 years later, the *Forward* is an award-winning online media organization, serving the global Jewish community and reaching more than 1.3 million readers every month.

Whether you've been with us for decades or just recently subscribed, all of us at the *Forward* are so grateful to readers like you for helping us reach this landmark moment.

In 2022, we built on the *Forward's* legacy of fearless Jewish journalism. We provided on-the-ground coverage of antisemitic incidents and violent attacks on Jewish communities across the United States, bringing you deeper and more nuanced reporting through a Jewish lens.

When Russian troops invaded Ukraine, *Forward* journalists responded with a panoply of stories, even traveling to the region to witness the refugee crisis firsthand.

When political candidates trafficked in conspiracy theories — or in the case of Rep. George Santos, outright lies — the *Forward* was there to tell the truth and hold candidates accountable to the communities they serve.

All this and more resulted in many prestigious honors for our work, including a record-breaking 43 Rockower Awards from the American Jewish Press Association.

With the financial support of our readers across generations, and through economic depressions, wars and pandemics, the *Forward* has adapted and innovated to remain America's leading independent Jewish news organization since 1897.

Today, there are new threats we must confront: increasing antisemitism and disinformation, attacks on press freedom and a crisis of local news deserts. **As we tackle these challenges together, the *Forward* will be with you as a constant reminder of the joys of being Jewish, connecting you to your community, heritage and *Yiddishkeit*.**

Thank you for being a part of our story: past, present and *Forward*.



Rachel Fishman Feddersen

Rachel Fishman Feddersen
CEO & Publisher



Alan Silberstein

Alan Silberstein
Board Chair

125 *Forward* YEARS

The Forward was founded in 1897 as a Yiddish-language daily newspaper. For more than 125 years, we have helped generations of immigrants enter American life, broken some of the most significant news stories of the century, and stood among the nation's most eloquent defenders of democracy and Jewish rights. We continue to honor and build on this legacy as the leading Jewish voice in American journalism today.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values are informed by our history and our relationships with our loyal readers and stakeholders. They articulate the change we want to see in the world and how our approach to journalism can help make it happen.

MISSION

The *Forward* is the most significant Jewish voice in American journalism. Our outstanding reporting on cultural, social and political issues inspires readers of all ages and animates conversation across generations and different segments of our community. Our English and Yiddish platforms build on a century-old legacy maintained in our archives and lead to a deeper understanding of what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century.

VISION

The *Forward* envisions a vibrant, connected global Jewish community informed by our shared history and committed to justice, compassion, truth and our collective responsibility to bridge our divides.

VALUES

INTEGRITY | We provide fair and full reporting in the highest tradition of public-service journalism, a cornerstone of resilient democracy. Through our work, we help build the foundation for a just, open, pluralistic society.

COURAGE | We pursue the truth wherever it takes us, delivering the news, investigations, narrative storytelling and commentary that our community needs and deserves.

INDEPENDENCE | As a nonprofit supported by our readers and a broad array of philanthropies, we are not beholden to any individual, institution or ideology. We are always relevant but also irreverent, challenging conventional wisdom in respectful ways as we showcase the full spectrum of voices shaping our experience.

ACCOUNTABILITY | Through rigorous, even-handed journalism, we hold leaders accountable to the people and communities they serve. At the same time, we believe we must continuously earn the public's trust by delivering on promises, operating with empathy and upholding our core values.

YIDDISHKEIT | We revel in the richness of our culture and history, providing a smorgasbord of art and politics, argument and understanding. We also share our rich Yiddish heritage, promoting it as a living treasure for future generations. Sharing stories, in English and Yiddish, of the diverse ways Jews of all backgrounds — and our neighbors — live and think and celebrate and mourn enhances our human connections. Ours is a particularly Jewish-American way of looking at the world: contrarian, cosmopolitan, fiercely intelligent and wickedly funny.

Awards and Recognition

We won 43 Simon Rockower Awards for Excellence in Jewish Journalism (the “Jewish Pulitzers”), a new record for the *Forward*. Our work was honored with additional awards from the Religion News Association, the Deadline Club, the Los Angeles Press Club and the Society for Features Journalism. And we were one of 13 newsrooms chosen for the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) 2022 Total Newsroom Training Program, which provided our news team with two days of intensive training in watchdog journalism.



*Investigative
Reporters
& Editors*

BY THE NUMBERS



1,300,000+

monthly readers, 1/3 under 35



103,000+

Facebook fans in 45 countries

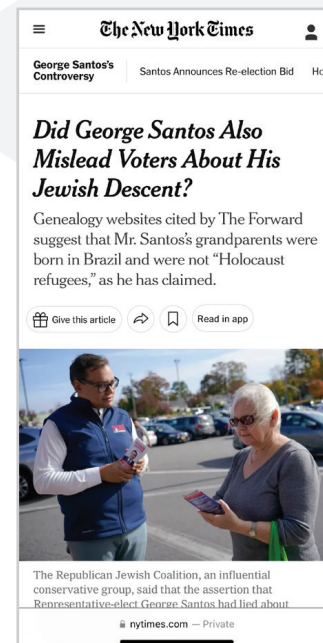
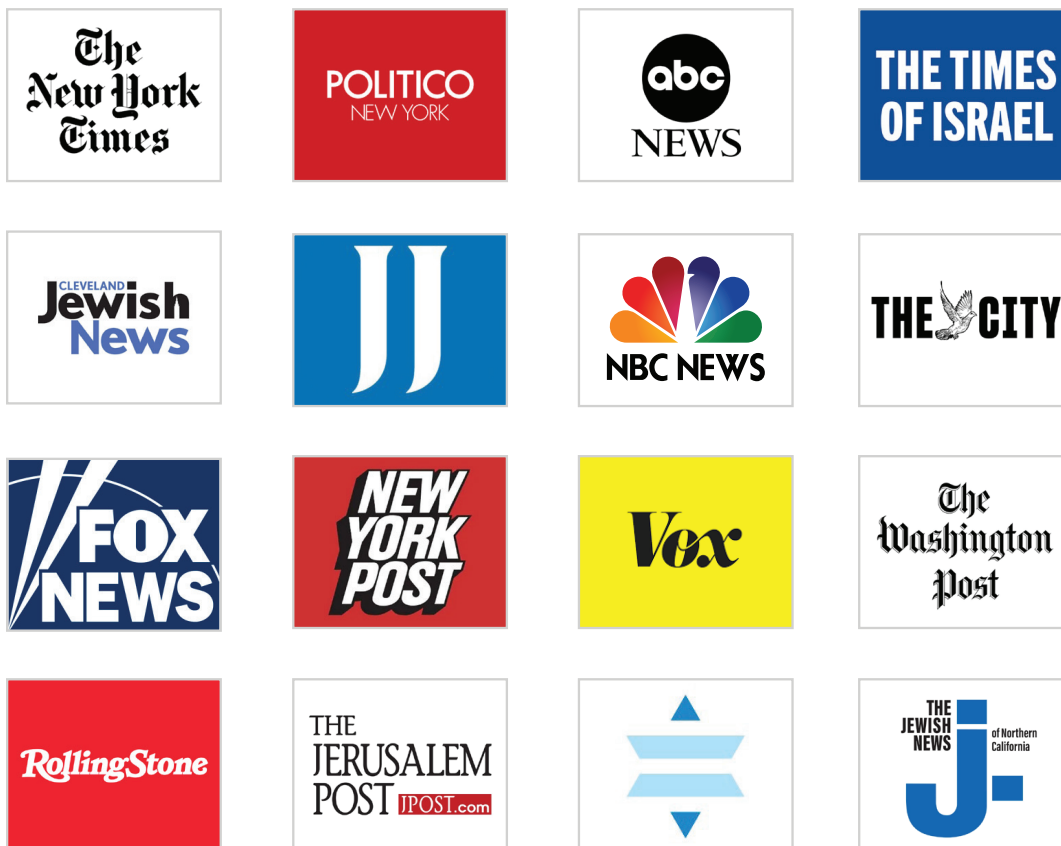


110,000+

newsletter subscribers

IN THE NEWS

Global media outlets and Jewish newspapers across the United States referred to the *Forward's* coverage throughout the year.



Celebrating 125 Years OF THE FORWARD



In 2022, we celebrated 125 years of the *Forward*. We marked the anniversary by looking back at the *Forward's* singular contributions to the American Jewish community, from 1897 to the present day.

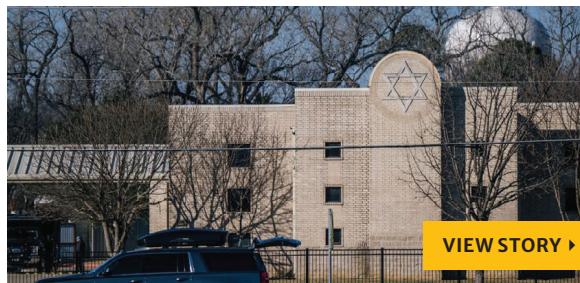
The four living editors-in-chief of the *Forward* got together for the first time on Zoom to talk about the history, present and future of our storied publication.

We combed through our archives to select “[The Forward 125](#),” a list of the most influential Jews from each year the *Forward* has been published. We aimed to represent a wide range of endeavors: movies and music, religion and politics, philanthropy and finance, science and tech, and comedy — lots of comedy. We also highlighted women overlooked by history, people of color whose Jewish heritage may not be widely known and warriors for justice whose legacies were far-reaching even if their names are forgotten.

Covering Antisemitism in America

Our journalists traveled to the scenes of antisemitic violence and helped our readers navigate the complex reality of rising antisemitism in America.

FROM COLLEYVILLE, TEXAS ...


[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

Texas rabbi details standoff: Gunman 'literally thought that Jews control the world'

By Arno Rosenfeld (January 17, 2022)


[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

'We needed all the prayers': Hero rabbi leads first service after escaping hostage crisis

By Arno Rosenfeld (January 18, 2022)

... TO HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS


[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

Security director: Suspect in July 4 Highland Park shooting was 'sizing up' synagogue

By Louis Keene (July 5, 2022)


[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

'A much more dangerous world': A gathering of Highland Park Jews contemplates the July 4 massacre

By Robin Washington (July 6, 2022)


[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

I was named after my uncle who was shot and killed. His Hebrew name is a privilege I don't bear lightly

By Mark Zimmernan (July 7, 2022)

ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES ...



VIEW STORY ▶

Temple U. rower says she will quit team and transfer because of antisemitic harassment

By Lauren Markoe (January 14, 2022)



VIEW STORY ▶

What it's really like to be Jewish on a campus 'hotspot' of antisemitism

By Arno Rosenfeld (October 21, 2022)

... AND IN SPORTS AND CULTURE



VIEW STORY ▶

Why are we afraid to call Kanye West's posts antisemitic?

By Mira Fox (October 10, 2022)



VIEW STORY ▶

Who is Kanye West and Donald Trump's antisemitic new friend, Nick Fuentes?

By Mira Fox (November 25, 2022)



VIEW STORY ▶

Kyrie Irving's 'Jewish conspiracy': What you need to know

By Louis Keene (July 5, 2022)

Bringing a Jewish Perspective to the News

We brought a distinctly Jewish perspective to the events that shaped 2022, investigating the stories that others overlooked.

THE “JEW-ISH” LIES OF REP. GEORGE SANTOS



Congressman-elect George Santos lied about grandparents fleeing anti-Jewish persecution during WWII

By Andrew Silverstein
(December 21, 2022)

[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

THE 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS



Pennsylvania GOP gubernatorial nominee Doug Mastriano once likened gun control to Nazi policies before the Holocaust

By Jacob Kornbluh (May 31, 2022)



DeSantis campaign ad features Christian nationalist pastor with antisemitic views

By Jacob Kornbluh (September 18, 2022)

THE BATTLE OVER REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

How the Jewish community woke up to abortion rights

By Arno Rosenfeld (July 25, 2022)



[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

What does Jewish law say about abortion?

By Louis Keene (May 1, 2022)

THE WAR IN UKRAINE



[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

An umbrella with holes, Israeli clowns, and other tales from my trip to Ukraine's border with Poland

By Jodi Rudoren (March 25, 2022)



[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

Law professors are panicking about how to teach Dobbs. I use the Talmud

By Roberta Rosenthal Kwall (December 8, 2022)



[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

Abortion becoming new factor in Jewish students' college choices

By Jordan Greene (September 20, 2022)



[VIEW STORY ▶](#)

'Our city is totally destroyed': One refugee's story as she crosses the border from Ukraine

By Larry Cohler-Esses (March 10, 2022)



Introducing You to Fresh Voices and Ideas

The *Forward's* opinion pages shared a vast range of viewpoints and lived experiences, giving our readers opportunities to fully engage with the great diversity of Jewish life.

With grant funding from UJA-Federation of New York, we launched New York Voices, an innovative opinion journalism project and live community forum that showcased the diverse perspectives and identities of Jewish New Yorkers.

2022 Opinion Pieces

47%

BY WOMEN

18%

BY PERSONS
OF COLOR

10%

BY LGBTQ
INDIVIDUALS

Connecting You with the Best in Jewish Arts and Culture

We published award-winning coverage of Jewish arts and culture that you can't find anywhere else. *Forward* critics shared sharp Jewish takes on the movies, music, and TV shows that defined 2022.

Our culture team compiled unique lists of the 150 greatest Jewish pop songs and the 125 greatest Jewish movie scenes of all time, sparking lively discussion and debate across the internet.

"The Forward has compiled a bizarre, admirable, and frankly insane list of the 150 greatest Jewish pop songs of all time."

—
gothamist





“The show maps so neatly onto the LDS church that one member of the theater faculty told me the department’s professors often ask each other: ‘When will someone write our Fiddler?’”

—
Mira Fox

Forward Culture writer Mira Fox made two trips to Provo, Utah, to report her masterful longform piece on a production of “Fiddler on the Roof” at Brigham Young University with an all-Mormon cast.

“The short answer: Pastrami is as New York as traffic on Delancey Street. And is it Jewish? It’s as Jewish as kvetching about the traffic on Delancey Street.”

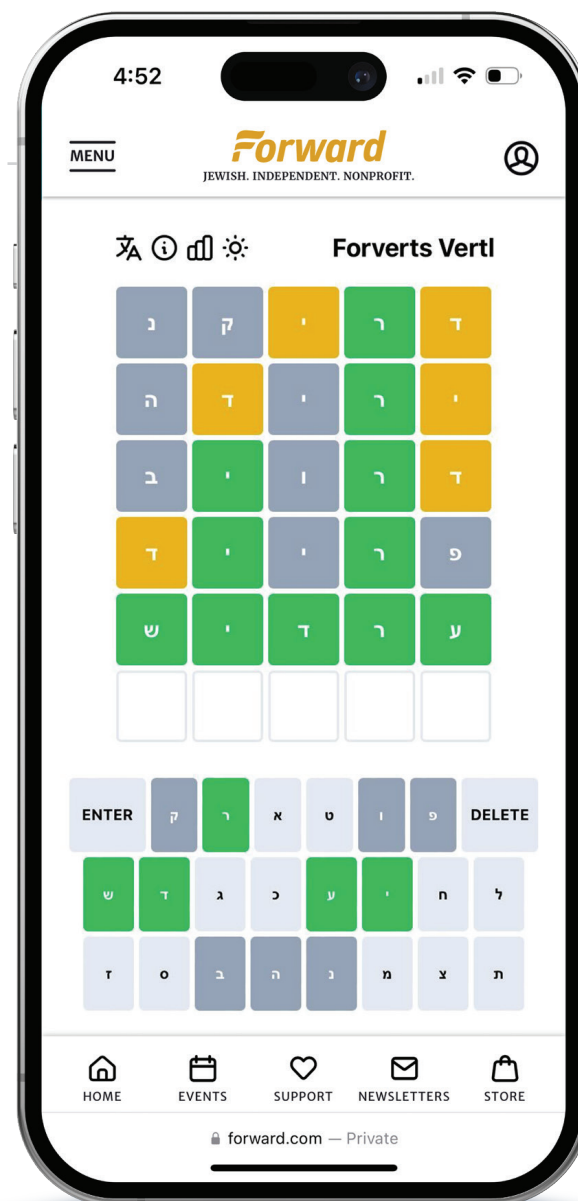
—
Andrew Silverstein

Forward contributor Andrew Silverstein, who also runs a New York sightseeing company, explored the city’s past – uncovering the untold stories behind the beloved ads for Levy’s Jewish Rye, the origins of pastrami, and much more.



Making Yiddish Accessible to Everyone

The *Forverts*, our legacy Yiddish publication, remains dedicated to celebrating and preserving Yiddish language and culture, while making it relevant for today's world. In 2022, we expanded the *Forverts*' audience with "Yiddish Brief," our new bilingual newsletter, and with "Vertl" – a Yiddish version of the wildly popular online game, Wordle – which is played by hundreds of people daily.



לְאַמִּיר מֵאֲכֵן יִיִדִישׁ צוֹטֵרִיטֵלֶעךְ צוֹ אַלֶּעמֶען

30% growth in our Yiddish newsletter audience in 2022

120,496 visits to Vertl (Yiddish Wordle) page in 2022

140 videos in our "Yiddish Word of the Day" collection, with **1.4 million views** across YouTube and Facebook.

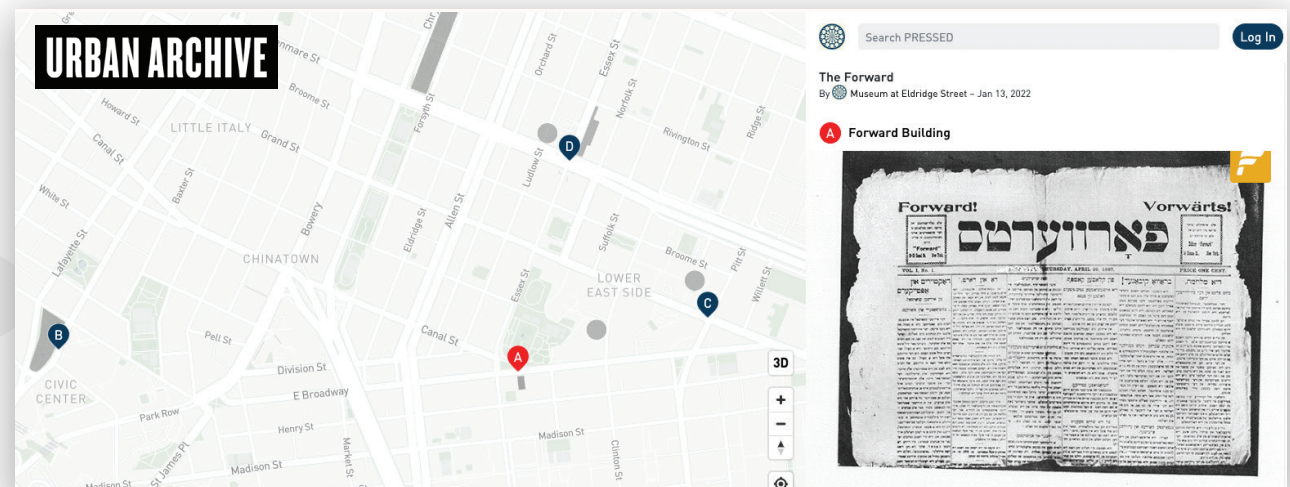
10,600 members in The *Forward*'s "Yiddish Word of the Day" Facebook Group

Sharing History and Wisdom from Our Archive

We shared fascinating stories and insights from the 125 years of history in the *Forward* archive, and helped readers discover their own family histories with in-depth research.



“A Bintel Brief,” our Jewish advice podcast based on our historic Yiddish newspaper column, tackled more of our reader’s dilemmas in its second season, with help from the *Forward*’s archivist. The podcast has been downloaded more than 100,000 times since launching in 2021.



We created a virtual version of our archival exhibition, “**PRESSED: Images from the Jewish Daily Forward**,” on Urban Archive. The exhibit will be available in more venues in 2023, starting with the Hillman Library at the University of Pittsburgh.

RELAUNCHING OUR WEBSITE

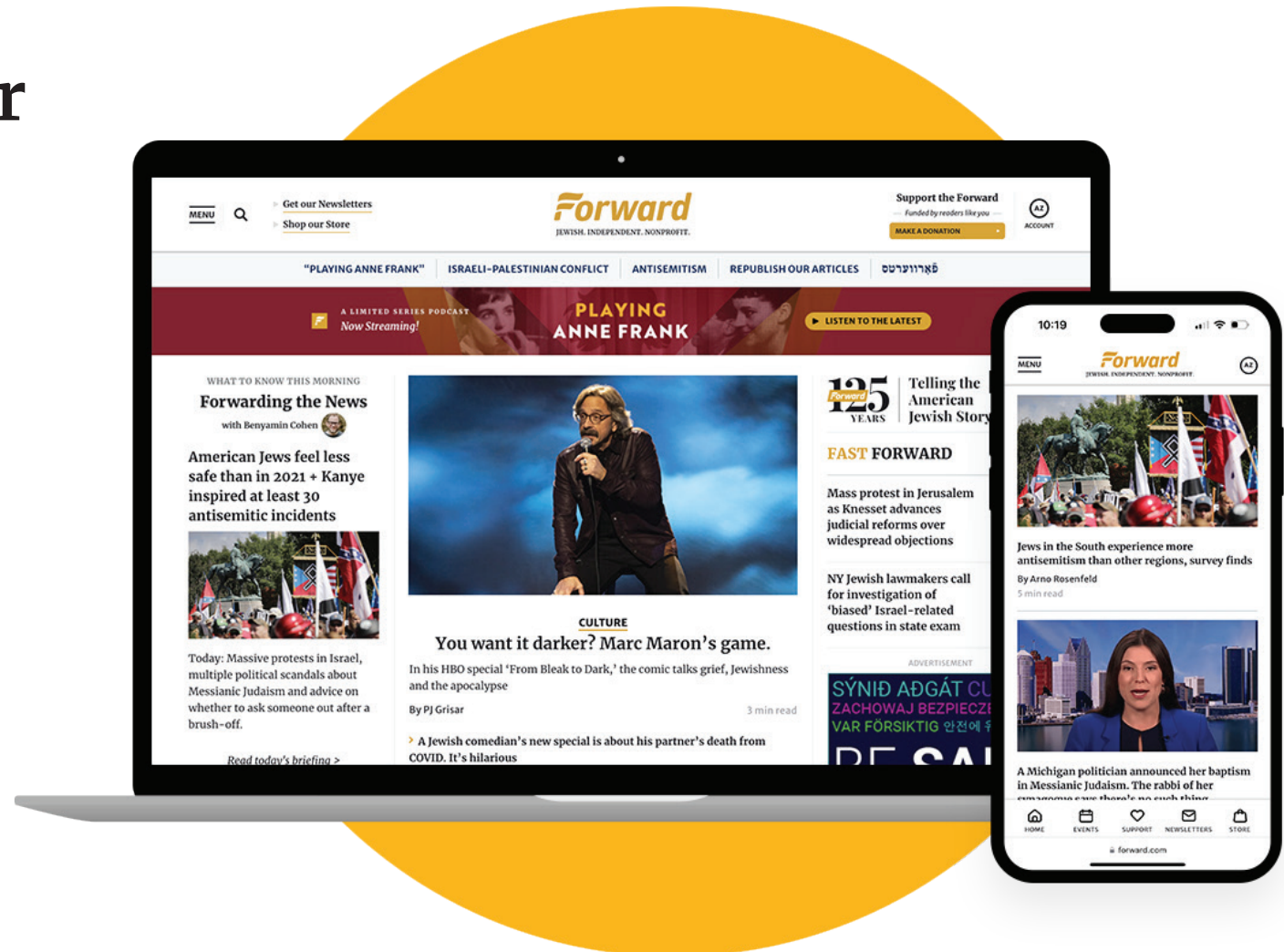
Building Better Platforms and Products

We improved our website's design and added new features, including:

- A cleaner, more dynamic homepage that highlights the day's top stories

- Smart curation of related articles, so you can dive into topics you're passionate about

- A revamped *Forverts* with a more elegant Yiddish typeface, and seamless integration of video and audio content



SERVING OUR WEST COAST READERS



Louis Keene, our LA-based reporter, brought his unique voice and deep knowledge to our new “[California Briefing](#)” newsletter, with weekly riffs on politics, celebrities, sports and life in the Golden State.

TESTING YOUR NEWS KNOWLEDGE



We introduced a challenging [Jewish news quiz](#) that reviews the week’s most interesting stories, and lets you see how your knowledge stacks up against your fellow *Forward* readers.

SHOP THE FORWARD STORE



We created a [Forward Store](#) with high-quality merch, so you can celebrate the *Forward*’s 125th anniversary in style. 100% of the profits support our fearless Jewish journalism.

Fascinating Conversations, Brought to you by the *Forward*

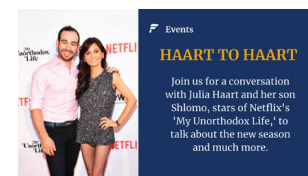
More than 14,000 people registered for our in-person and virtual events, which convened diverse audiences for candid conversations with politicians, entertainers and Jewish community leaders.



◀ More than 1,000 people registered for our two Yiddish-language Zoom events with renowned Yiddish comedian Rabbi Barry Schechter.



▲ We partnered with New York Jewish Agenda to moderate candidate forums for two hotly contested congressional races in New York City. More than 3,000 people registered to watch online or in-person.



After two years of COVID restrictions, travel and events were in full swing in 2022. The *Forward's* leadership enjoyed sharing our work with loyal donors and new audiences across the country.



Jodi Rudoren interviewed Deborah Lipstadt, the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, at the Texas Tribune Festival in Austin.

Opinion editor Laura E. Adkins spoke about the Israel-Diaspora relationship and the 2022 Israeli elections at the Z3 Conference in Palo Alto, Calif.



We also engaged with members of the *Forward* community in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Baltimore, Washington and Great Barrington, Mass.

Fantastic Forward Fundraisers

We were thrilled to welcome Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist Maggie Haberman and star comedian Alex Edelman at our 2022 fundraising events, raising critical dollars for our public service journalism.



In a virtual fundraiser, *Forward* Editor-in-Chief **Jodi Rudoren** spoke with *New York Times* journalist **Maggie Haberman** about her reporting on Donald Trump, the rise of antisemitism in America and how Judaism and motherhood impact Haberman's work.

Forward board members, donors, and staff gathered at the home of Board Member **Cheryl Fishbein** and her husband **Phil Schatten** for a special evening with comedian **Alex Edelman**.



Photo: Alex Edelman seen here with Rachel Fishman Feddersen and Jodi Rudoren.

Abraham Cahan Legacy Society

Abraham (“Ab”) Cahan was a visionary. When he founded the *Forward* in 1897, he changed American journalism forever and earned a place in the pantheon of America’s greatest editors. His legacy of activism and hope for the Jewish future continues to inspire us today. In his honor, we have created the Abraham Cahan Legacy Society.

L’dor V’dor. For the *Forward* that means passing along our love of the truth and social justice, while strengthening Jewish identity for a whole new generation of young people. Making a legacy gift is a meaningful way to show your support of the *Forward*’s mission while also accommodating your own personal, financial, estate-planning and philanthropic goals. We thank those who joined the Abraham Cahan Legacy Society by making a legacy gift to the *Forward*.

Dr. John R. Dreyer

Michael Eliastam

James A. Feldman and Natalie Wexler

Doris Fine

Robert L. Fine and Ingrid Yarnell

Lynne Galler and Hezzy Dattner

Zeena Hine

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Estate of Thomas Zand



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“Clearly, there are stories that are interesting to me that can be found here and, to my knowledge, nowhere else.”

– Gary Haber

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“The Forward actually makes me feel sometimes life is worth living. Like there really is goodness in the world after so much we read about. So thanks for that too. Optimism, in essence, rocks.”

– Rena Blatt

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“Yiddish Word of the Day is fantastic – thank you! Like many under-50 Jews who grew up hearing snippets of Yiddish, I’m grateful for your Yiddish Word of the Day videos. Thank you, thank you. A bruche auf dein kop.”

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– Diane Katz

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Financial Summary

Unaudited

EXPENSES	2022
Management	\$985,000
Fundraising	\$824,000
Digital Media English	\$3,993,000
Digital Media Yiddish	\$360,000
TOTAL	\$6,162,000
REVENUE	2022
Advertising	\$344,000
Subscriptions	\$941,000
Fundraising	\$2,664,000
Other	\$3,000
Funds drawn from investment accounts	\$2,535,000
Change in net assets	(\$325,000)
TOTAL	\$6,162,000

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