Yiddish Children’s Literature and the Jewish Twentieth Century: A Conversation
Thursday, November 5th, at 7:00 pm
Register Here

While there has been a recent boom in Jewish literacy and learning within the US, few resources exist to enable American Jews to experience the rich primary sources of Yiddish culture. Stepping into this void, Miriam Udel, associate professor of Yiddish language, literature, and culture at Emory University, has crafted an exquisite collection: *Honey on the Page* offers a feast of beguiling original translations of stories and poems for children. Arranged thematically—from school days to the holidays—the book takes readers from Jewish holidays and history to folktales and fables, from stories of humanistic ethics to multi-generational family sagas. Featuring many works that are appearing in English for the first time, and written by both prominent and lesser-known authors, this anthology spans the Yiddish-speaking globe—drawing from materials published in Eastern Europe, New York, and Latin America from the 1910s, during the interwar period, and up through the 1970s. With its vast scope, *Honey on the Page* offers a cornucopia of delights to families, individuals, and educators seeking literature that speaks to Jewish children about their religious, cultural, and ethical heritage. Complemented by 81 whimsical, humorous illustrations—some from the original works, and most by Paula Cohen, an acclaimed children’s illustrator—Udel’s evocative translations of Yiddish stories and poetry will delight young and older readers alike.

Miriam Udel is associate professor of German Studies and Jewish Studies at Emory University, where her teaching focuses on Yiddish language, literature, and culture. She holds an AB in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University, as well as a PhD in Comparative Literature from the same institution. She was ordained in 2019 as part of the first cohort of the Executive Ordination Track at Yeshivat Maharat, a program designed to bring qualified mid-career women into the Orthodox rabbinate. Udel’s academic research interests include 20th-century Yiddish literature and culture, Jewish children’s literature, and American-Jewish literature. She is the author of *Never Better!: The Modern Jewish Picaresque* (University of Michigan Press), winner of the 2017 National Jewish Book Award in Modern Jewish Thought and Experience. *Honey on the Page: A Treasury of Yiddish Children’s Literature* will appear from New York University Press in October, 2020.

Edited and Translated by Miriam Udel

Co-sponsors: College of Arts and Letters, James Madison College, RCAH, Department of History, Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives.

Foreword by Jack Zipes

Complimentary book copies are available to the first 20 to request at jewishst@msu.edu; please include your name and mailing address by October 12.