



No One Remembers Alone: A Love Story in Postcards

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In a sneak preview of a traveling exhibition opening at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale in October, author Patricia Klindienst will show how a bundle of penny postcards opened a door into history. Two hundred volunteer translators from 16 countries helped her piece together the larger story of two of the two and a half million Eastern European Jews who arrived during the epic period of open immigration to the United States.

When these postcards, most with the stamps still on them, came to light in 2008, the granddaughters of Russian Jews who fled the failed revolution of 1905 could understand only two things about them: that their grandparents had written them and that each saved the cards the other sent. A hundred years after Abram Spiwak and Sophie Schochetman, young lovers of a radicalized generation, were reunited in America, they renewed their courtship via the most popular, democratic, and affordable technology of the time: the penny postcard—the email or twitter of the early 20th century. In moments stolen from jobs, in privacy snatched from a crowded tenement or rooming house, they arranged trysts in tightly packed Russian and Yiddish, languages lost in the process of assimilation.

Patricia Klindienst is a Guilford resident and author of *The Earth Knows My Name*, for which she won an American Book Award in 2007.