



Annual Report of Activities Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Message from the Director

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 academic year, we are proud to share another year of growth and achievement at the Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center (WJSC). Guided by our mission to advance the study of Jewish history, culture, and contemporary issues, the Center continued to foster meaningful learning experiences through public programming, academic initiatives, student engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Throughout the year, the WJSC welcomed distinguished scholars, Nobel laureates, Holocaust survivors, scientists, authors, filmmakers, legal scholars, translators, and community leaders whose work encouraged thoughtful dialogue on some of the most pressing questions facing Jewish communities today. From conversations on Israel and contemporary antisemitism to lectures on Jewish history, constitutional law, literature, science, and innovation, our programming reflected the richness and diversity of Jewish Studies while providing opportunities for students and the broader public to engage with ideas across disciplines.

Holocaust remembrance remained a defining pillar of our work. Through our Holocaust Speaker Series and annual Yom HaShoah Student Poetry Reading, students encountered history not as a distant subject but as a living responsibility. Programs featuring Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann, Holocaust survivor Elizabeth Bellak, and renowned physicist Joel Lebowitz, together with poetry readings, created opportunities to explore memory, resilience, and the enduring importance of dialogue and civic responsibility.

Beyond the lecture hall, the Center continued to prioritize experiential learning. Students engaged directly with New York City's rich Jewish cultural landscape through guided visits to museums and participated in conversations that connected classroom learning with contemporary public life. These experiences remain central to our educational mission, reinforcing the value of encountering history, culture, and ideas firsthand.

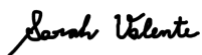
This year also marked an important milestone for the Center through the inaugural activities of the Antisemitism Studies Lab. Established in 2025 to advance interdisciplinary research, support student scholarship, and strengthen public engagement, the Lab has already begun to expand Baruch College's role as a leader in the academic study of contemporary antisemitism. Starting on page 31 is the full report of activities for its first year. The Center's and Lab's initiatives reflect our commitment to building lasting academic infrastructure that will serve students, faculty, and the wider scholarly community for years to come.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our Advisory Board, the collaboration of our faculty and campus partners, and the enthusiasm of our students. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and shared commitment to the Center's mission.

Lastly, the 2025–2026 academic year also marked an important milestone in the Center's leadership. Following a national search, I was honored to join the Baruch faculty as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature and to be appointed the William Newman Director of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center. As I begin this new chapter, I do so with deep gratitude to my predecessor, Founding Director Professor Jessica Lang, whose visionary leadership established the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center as a vibrant intellectual home at Baruch College in 2010. It was a privilege to serve alongside Jessica as Co-Director from 2022 to 2025, and subsequently as Interim Director during the past academic year. I look forward to building upon the strong foundation she created and leading the Center into its next phase of growth and impact through scholarship, teaching, and public engagement.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening Jewish Studies at Baruch College through innovative teaching, impactful research, and public programs that foster intellectual curiosity, historical understanding, and meaningful dialogue. We are excited to build on this year's momentum and continue expanding the Center's role as a vibrant hub for scholarship and engagement in New York City and beyond.

Warmly,



Sarah R. Valente, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Weissman School of Arts & Sciences
William Newman Director, Wasserman Jewish Studies Center
Founding Director, Antisemitism Studies Lab

ABOUT THE CENTER

Established in 2010 as an outgrowth of Baruch College's Jewish Resource Center, the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center (WJSC) advances Baruch's mission of educational access and inclusion. Rooted in the College's historic commitment to New York's immigrant communities, the WJSC celebrates diversity as a foundation for intellectual and cultural exchange. Over the past fifteen years, the Center has offered dozens of courses, hosted hundreds of public programs, and supported faculty and student research that deepens understanding of Jewish history, thought, and experience. Today, Jewish Studies at Baruch attracts a remarkably diverse student body, many of whom are not Jewish but seek to explore themes of migration, identity, resilience, and cultural exchange that resonate with their own family histories. The WJSC's growth and success have been made possible by extraordinary philanthropy. Founding support from Sandra Kahn Wasserman endowed the Center, and William Newman named the directorship. Ruth Prinz O'Hare's visionary gifts—including an endowed chair in Jewish Studies—along with contributions from Mildred Weissman, Andrew and Dori Katz, Dov Schlein, Charlie Dreifus, and the Safra Foundation, have sustained our mission for more than a decade. The Laterman Family Foundation, the Herbert Simon Family Foundation, and Erick Kirsch provided seed funding for the newly established *Antisemitism Studies Lab*, expanding the Center's reach into vital contemporary scholarship. Thanks to this enduring generosity and sound financial stewardship, the WJSC stands on firm and independent footing, serving as an intellectual hub in the heart of New York City. We remain committed to advancing Baruch's mission through teaching, research, and programming that ensure Jewish Studies continues to illuminate the human experience for all students.

MISSION & VISION

The Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center (WJSC) in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College reflects the legacy and heritage of Baruch College: its tradition of educating New York City immigrants, its diverse population, and its special relationship to and place within Manhattan. The WJSC is dedicated to teaching and informing the Baruch community and public about the history and experiences of global Jewry, with a focus on Jews in America, specifically in New York City. Public programs, courses, events, and campus activities focus on the Jewish experience, from a range of disciplines and lenses, and address some of the biggest issues and challenges facing today's American and world Jewish community — Jewish history, Jewish philanthropy, Jewish business ethics, Jewish politics, Jewish identity and continuity, and the changing face of American Jewry.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center serves as Baruch College's and as CUNY's home for the celebration and study of Jewish life, with a focus on Jewish life in America. It is CUNY's only Center that is dedicated to Jewish Studies. The WJSC advances its mission through four pillars, which serve as its strategic priorities: 1) an academic minor that supports student research, a minor in the field of Jewish Studies, and the development of innovative courses including micro-study abroad; 2) community engagement through relevant and engaging public programming relating to Jewish Studies; 3) the arts and Jewish Studies, through a strong relationship with the Baruch Performing Arts Center; 4) faculty research in the field of Jewish Studies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

From infrastructure to resources to public impact, this past year marked remarkable accomplishments for the Center, further strengthening its role as a vibrant hub for Jewish Studies, interdisciplinary research, and public engagement at Baruch College. Together, these achievements lay the foundation for a new phase of growth, innovation, and institutional impact.

A Physical Home for the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center

One of the year's most significant accomplishments was securing a permanent home for the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center and the Antisemitism Studies Lab. This milestone was made possible through the steadfast support and advocacy of Interim Dean Jennifer Mangels, whose partnership was instrumental in advancing the project, together with the support of Provost Linda Essig. Expected to open during the 2026–2027 academic year, the new suite will feature a research hub, seminar room, and collaborative workspaces designed to support students, faculty, visiting scholars, and public programs. The new facility marks an important step in the Center's continued growth and establishes a dedicated home for Jewish Studies scholarship and engagement at Baruch College.

Philanthropic Support

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center celebrated another significant milestone with a new philanthropic gift from AddressHate in support of the Antisemitism Studies Lab, building on the Laterman Family Foundation's founding investment. This generous support reflects growing confidence in the Center's vision and will help expand interdisciplinary research, student engagement, and public programming in the years ahead. Read the [press release](#).

Jewish Studies Academic Program

We supported faculty research in the field of Jewish Studies and also celebrated accomplishments of faculty in the area. Faculty who have taught in Jewish Studies or have featured in events: Ruth Adler, Tim Aubry, Roz Bernstein, Ralph Blumenthal, Debra Caplan, Jerome Chanes, Mitchell Cohen, Erika Dreifus, Linda Weiser Friedman, Stephanie Golob, David Gruber, Thomas Heinrich, Jamel Hudson, Polina Kroik, Doug Lackey, Jessica Lang, Meir Lubetski, Eric Mandelbaum, Hannah Rothstein, Grace Schulman, Brigit Sion, Andrew Sloin, Michael Staub, Sarah Valente, and Elizabeth Wollman.

Jewish Studies Courses taught in 2025-2026 included:

JWS 4900: Mapping the Jewish Experience (Andrew Sloin)

JWS 3950: Traditions in Judaism (Jerome Chanes)

JWS 3950: Science, Technology, Innovation and Ecology of Israel (David Gruber)

JWS 3950: Jewish Short Stories (Erika Dreifus)

JWS 3950: Latin American Jewish Literature (Sarah Valente)

These courses were cross-listed with disciplines including Comparative Literature, English, Environmental Studies, Biology, and Latin American Studies. Beyond the classroom, students participated in guided visits to the Museum at Eldridge Street, the Jewish Museum, Congregation Shearith Israel (the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue), and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), extending course themes through experiential learning.

Programming

In a typical year, the WJSC runs a dozen events that are open to the Baruch community and the broader community. This past year, we presented fifteen public programs, engaging hundreds of students, faculty, alumni, and members of the broader community as audience members.

We annually host distinguished scholars, authors, scientists, filmmakers, Holocaust survivors, and public intellectuals whose work advances the study of Jewish history, culture, and contemporary issues. Our distinguished guests this year included Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann, former Knesset Member Einat Wilf, Holocaust survivors Joel Lebowitz and Elizabeth Bellak, inventor Solomon Rosenblatt, translator Danielle James, historian Isaac Amon, novelist Roslyn Bernstein, chef and restaurateur Beejhy Barhany, and computational social scientist Daniel Miehling.

We regularly run a film series that focuses on a specific theme. In 2025–2026, the theme was Contemporary Jewish Experiences. We provided free screenings of the documentaries *Torn* and *Colleyville*, giving students and community members the opportunity to engage with timely and thought-provoking stories addressing contemporary challenges facing Jewish communities. Following each screening, participants joined live conversations with acclaimed filmmakers and featured guests, including director Nim Shapira and Rabbi Yehuda Sarna for *Torn*, and director Dani Menkin and Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker for *Colleyville*. These discussions enriched the viewing experience by connecting documentary storytelling with broader conversations about Jewish identity, resilience, memory, and contemporary public life.

In partnership with Baruch College's Performing Arts Center, the Center hosted the Antisemitism Studies Lab's inaugural Scholarship Spring Series, a first-of-its-kind research showcase featuring faculty and student fellows presenting innovative, interdisciplinary research on contemporary antisemitism. The event highlighted projects spanning historical analysis, Jewish humor, digital hate, artificial intelligence, behavioral science, and cognitive psychology, reflecting the breadth of emerging scholarship supported by the Lab. The evening concluded with a keynote address, *Mapping and Intervening on the Development of Bias*, featuring Baruch Professor Eric Mandelbaum and NYU Professor Marjorie Rhodes, underscoring the Lab's commitment to fostering collaborative, research-driven approaches to understanding and addressing contemporary antisemitism.

Center Programming in Chronological Order of Occurrence Fall 2025

Date: September 15, 2025

Event Type: Public Lecture (*Co-sponsored with Hillel at Baruch*)

About the Event

We welcomed internationally recognized author, public intellectual, and former member of the Israeli Knesset Dr. **Einat Wilf** for a timely discussion on Israel, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and prospects for peace in the aftermath of October 7. Drawing upon her scholarship and public service, Dr. Wilf's talk "Israel at a Crossroads: War, Peace, and the Future of the Region," examined the ideological dimensions of the conflict, the challenges facing Israeli society, and competing visions for a sustainable future in the region. The program encouraged students and members of the broader community to engage thoughtfully with one of the most significant geopolitical issues of our time through informed dialogue and historical context.

Speaker Biography

Einat Wilf is an Israeli author, former member of the Knesset, and one of today's leading public intellectuals on Zionism, Israeli politics, education, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She has held senior positions in Israeli government and policy institutions and is the author of several influential books, including *The War of Return*. Dr. Wilf lectures internationally on questions of Jewish self-determination, democracy, and peace in the Middle East.



Date: October 16, 2025

Event Type: Author Talk & Book Discussion (*Co-sponsored with Harman Writer-in-Residence Program*)

About the Event

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center partnered with Baruch College's Harman Writer-in-Residence Program to welcome acclaimed journalist, author, and Professor Emerita **Roslyn Bernstein** for a discussion of her novel, *The Girl Who Counted Numbers*. The 2022 novel, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, follows Susan Reich, a 17-year-old American girl who travels to Israel to solve the disappearance of her uncle. Inspired by Bernstein's own time in Jerusalem as a student in 1961, the novel draws on what she saw in the streets and cities, and the manifold stories she heard from immigrants, Israeli officials, and survivors. Bernstein read from her book and was interviewed by Wayne Hoffman, the author of the award-winning novel *Sweet Like Sugar*. The conversation explored themes of memory, family history, identity, and resilience while celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Harman Writer-in-Residence Program. Students and community members engaged with Professor Bernstein in a lively discussion about fiction as a vehicle for preserving history and exploring the complexities of the Jewish experience.

Speaker Biography

Roslyn Bernstein is Professor Emerita at Baruch College and an award-winning journalist, author, and educator. Founding director of Baruch College's Harman Writer-in-Residence Program, she has written extensively on media, race, ethics, and American culture.



Prof. Roz Bernstein in conversation with Wayne Hoffman



Sol Rosenblatt, Dov Schlein, and Prof. Roz Bernstein

Date: October 27, 2025

Event Type: Holocaust Speaker Series *(Co-sponsored by the Committee of Concerned Scientists, Baruch's Department of Natural Sciences, and the Rabin Chair Forum at George Washington University)*

About the Event

To commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps and the end of World War II, the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center inaugurated its Holocaust Speaker Series with Nobel Laureate Professor **Roald Hoffmann**. A Holocaust survivor, distinguished chemist, poet, and public intellectual, in his moving talk, "Returning, Remembering, Forgiving," Professor Hoffmann reflected on his childhood in Złoczów, during the Holocaust, his remarkable scientific career, and the enduring relationship between science, ethics, and memory. Co-sponsored by the Committee of Concerned Scientists, the Department of Natural Sciences, and the Rabin Chair Forum at George Washington University, the event brought together students, faculty, scientists, and members of the public for an inspiring conversation on resilience, discovery, and the responsibility of remembrance.

Speaker Biography

Roald Hoffmann is a Nobel Prize-winning chemist, Holocaust survivor, poet, playwright, and educator. Awarded the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his pioneering work on chemical reactions, Professor Hoffmann has also become an internationally respected voice on ethics in science, the humanities, and Holocaust remembrance. He has published six books of non-fiction, three plays, and seven volumes of poetry. His interdisciplinary career bridges chemistry, literature, philosophy, and public engagement.

This event was featured in Baruch's [News Center](#)

Watch [Dr. Hoffman's Presentation](#)



Dr. Hoffman meets with Prof. Edyta Greer's students from the Department of Natural Sciences



Interim Dean Jennifer Mangels and Provost Linda Essig speak with Prof. Hoffman prior to his talk



Prof. Hoffman shows letter written by his grandmother



Prof. Valente provides opening remarks



WJSC Advisory Member Dov Schlein, Prof. Hoffman, Provost Essig, and Prof. Valente after the talk



Date: October 28, 2025

Event Type: Public Lecture

About the Event

In partnership with Baruch College's Department of History, the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center welcomed legal historian Professor **Isaac Amon** for a lecture examining the role of Jewish history in shaping the American constitutional tradition. Focusing on the experiences of Jews fleeing religious persecution and their influence on concepts of religious liberty, in his talk, "From the Inquisition to the Constitution: The Story of Jews in Early America," Professor Amon explored the historical foundations of the First Amendment and the broader development of religious freedom in the United States. Presented in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the lecture highlighted the enduring connections between Jewish history and American democracy.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Isaac Amon is a Lecturer in Law at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, and Director of Academic Research at Jewish Heritage Alliance, an educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of Sepharad, or Iberian Jewry. His previous experience includes serving as a Legal Fellow at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Legislative Director at the Missouri Department of Corrections, and an investigator of ISIS war crimes. He has also held scholarly appointments with the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy and the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism. A frequent speaker on legal history, international criminal justice, Jewish memory, antisemitism, the Inquisition, and the Holocaust, Dr. Amon brings expertise in law, history, and Jewish studies.



Date: November 4, 2025

Event Type: Film Screening & Talkback on Contemporary Jewish Experiences

About the Film

As part of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center's annual film series, students and community members were invited to stream the award-winning documentary *Torn*, followed by a live virtual conversation with the film's director, **Nim Shapira**, and **Rabbi Yehuda Sarna**. Set in New York City following the October 7 Hamas attacks, *Torn* examines the controversy surrounding the "Kidnapped" hostage posters that appeared throughout the city to raise awareness about the 240 hostages taken by Hamas and the competing narratives that emerged as the posters became flashpoints for public debate. Through documentary storytelling and post-film discussion, participants explored questions of memory, public space, activism, and the challenges of navigating polarized conversations surrounding Israel and antisemitism.

Speaker Biographies

Nim Shapira is an award-winning filmmaker, creative director, and multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn. His work has been featured at the Tribeca Film Festival, TED, Cannes, and Slamdance. A former research fellow at MIT's Open Documentary Lab, he has directed award-winning campaigns for international brands and made his feature documentary debut with *Torn*.

Rabbi Yehuda Sarna serves as Executive Director of the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at New York University and Hannah and Ed Low Professor at NYU's Center for the Study of Antisemitism. He also serves as Senior Religious Advisor to the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue at the Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi and is internationally recognized for his leadership in Jewish communal life and interfaith engagement.



Date: November 17, 2025

Event Type: Holocaust Speaker Series

About the Event

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center welcomed renowned mathematical physicist and Holocaust survivor Professor **Joel Lebowitz** for an inspiring conversation on resilience, scientific discovery, and the enduring importance of Holocaust remembrance. Born in Taceva, then Czechoslovakia, in 1930, he was deported with his family to Auschwitz, where his father, mother, and younger sister were killed in 1944. Reflecting on his survival during the Holocaust for the first time to a live audience, Professor Lebowitz demonstrated how personal perseverance and intellectual curiosity can coexist in the face of profound historical tragedy. His powerful remarks offered students and faculty a rare opportunity to engage with one of the world's leading scientists while learning firsthand about the lifelong impact of the Holocaust.

Speaker Biography

Joel Lebowitz is George William Hill Professor of Mathematics and Physics Emeritus at Rutgers University and one of the world's foremost mathematical physicists. A Holocaust survivor born in Taceva, Czechoslovakia, he has received numerous international honors for his pioneering contributions to statistical mechanics and theoretical physics, including the Boltzmann Medal, the Max Planck Medal, and the Henri Poincaré Prize. Throughout his career, Professor Lebowitz has remained deeply committed to Holocaust education and public remembrance.



Date: November 18, 2025

Event Type: Translator Talk & Book Discussion

About the Event

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center welcomed translator, writer, and Baruch alumna **Dani James** for a conversation on her acclaimed English translation of Holocaust survivor Tobias Schiff's memoir-in-verse, *Return to the Place I Never Left* (Wayne State University Press, 2025). In this harrowing firsthand account of the Holocaust, survivor Tobias Schiff displays the depths of human suffering, the capacity for hope and renewal, and the impact of starvation on the human mind. Schiff was a teenager when Nazis deported his family to Auschwitz from Antwerp, Belgium, and he spent the next thirty-three agonizing months in numerous concentration camps. The discussion explored the unique challenges of literary translation, the preservation of Holocaust testimony across languages, and the role translators play in ensuring that survivor voices remain accessible to future generations. Students engaged with themes of memory, language, and cultural transmission while gaining insight into the creative and ethical responsibilities of translation. Shortly after her presentation at Baruch, Dani's publication was awarded two prestigious literary honors: the National Jewish Book Award and the Independent Publisher Book Awards Bronze Medal.

Speaker Biography

Dani James is a writer and translator. Born in New York City to a Jewish Belgian mother and a Jamaican father, she grew up in Belgium before making her way back home. She holds an AA from Medgar Evers College, a BA in English from Baruch College, and an MFA in Creative Writing from St. Joseph's University. She was a 2024 CUNY Alumni 50 Under 50.



Prof. Elena Martinez, Dani James, and Prof. Valente



Date: November 25, 2025

Event Type: Experiential Learning Program

About the Event

Students enrolled in the Jewish Studies Program participated in a guided visit to **The Jewish Museum** in New York City as part of the Center's commitment to experiential learning.

Throughout the semester, students explored twentieth-century Jewish literature from across Latin America, examining questions of migration, identity, memory, antisemitism, and cultural life through the works of Jewish writers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and Uruguay. The museum visit extended these conversations beyond the classroom by introducing students to Jewish artistic, historical, and material culture through the Museum's newly reimagined permanent collection. Exploring ritual objects, fine art, historical artifacts, and contemporary exhibitions, students reflected on the many ways Jewish communities have preserved identity and expressed cultural creativity across different historical periods and geographic regions. The visit complemented the course's interdisciplinary approach by connecting literature with visual culture and encouraging students to consider how museums, like literature, serve as spaces for preserving memory, interpreting history, and fostering dialogue across cultures.

About the Museum

Founded in 1904, The Jewish Museum is one of the world's leading institutions dedicated to Jewish art and culture. Located on New York City's Museum Mile, the Museum presents internationally acclaimed exhibitions and houses an extraordinary collection of more than 30,000 works spanning art, archaeology, ceremonial objects, and historical artifacts that illuminate the richness of Jewish history and culture.



Center Programming in Chronological Order of Occurrence Spring 2026

Date: January 13, 2026

Event Type: Experiential Learning Program

About Event:

Students enrolled in Professor David F. Gruber, Distinguished Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, interdisciplinary course, "Science, Technology, Innovation, and Ecology of Israel" visited the **American Museum of Natural History**, where Dr. Pedro Bragança, Collection Manager of Ichthyology, led an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's internationally renowned ichthyology collections. The course explored why Israel is widely recognized as the "Start-Up Nation" by examining scientific innovation, environmental sustainability, and cutting-edge technological solutions to ecological challenges. Through collaborations with leading researchers in Israel and experiential learning opportunities, students engage directly with scientists whose work is advancing marine biology, conservation, and environmental research. Although the College's planned Winter Session study abroad course in Israel was postponed, the longstanding academic collaboration between Professor David F. Gruber (Baruch College) and Professor Dan Tchernov (University of Haifa and Scientific Director of the M. Kahn Marine Research Station) continued throughout the academic year. Through virtual instruction, students were able to learn directly from Israeli marine scientists and explore current research taking place in Israel despite the inability to travel abroad. The course also featured guest lectures by Professor Roei Diamant (University of Haifa), who discussed bioacoustics and the effects of ship noise on marine ecosystems, and Yaly Mevorach (University of Haifa), whose research focuses on cetacean biology. Together, these experiences provided students with direct exposure to contemporary marine science while illustrating the global impact of Israeli innovation, environmental research, and international scientific collaboration.



Date: February 24, 2026

Event Type: Holocaust Speaker Series

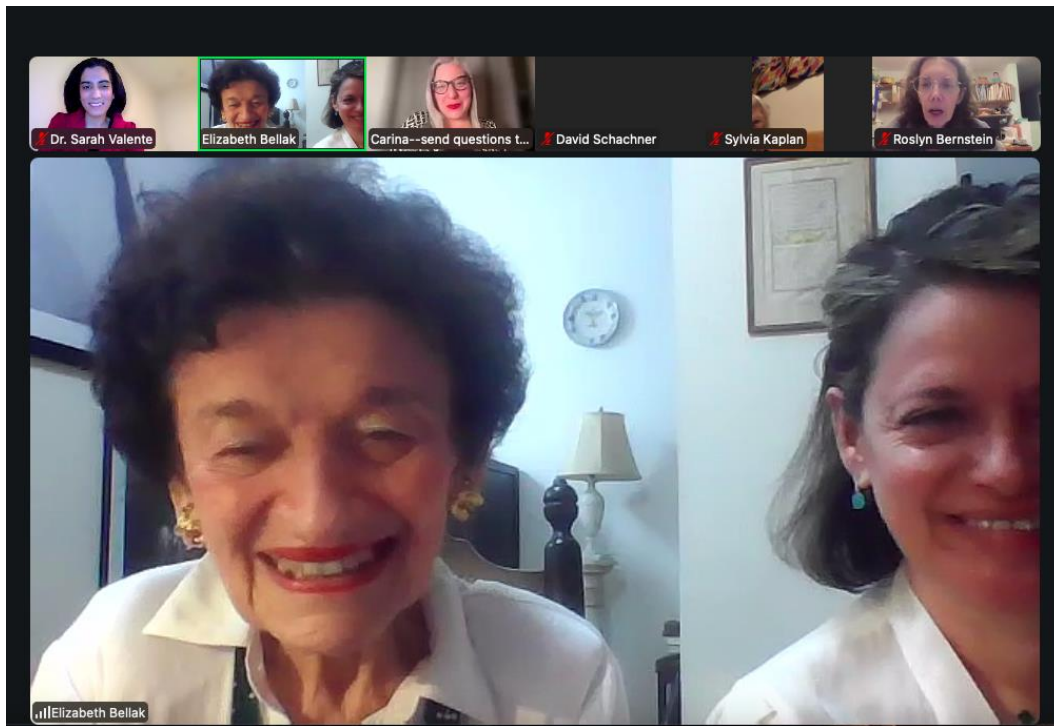
About the Event

As part of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center's Holocaust Speaker Series, students and members of the broader community welcomed Holocaust survivor **Elizabeth Bellak** and her daughter, **Alexandra Bellak**, for a moving conversation, “Bearing Witness: Renia Spiegel’s Diary and Family Reflections,” centered on international bestseller *Renia’s Diary: A Holocaust Journal* (St. Martin’s Press, 2019). Elizabeth shared about the extraordinary discovery and publication of her sister Renia’s wartime diary (Renia was killed in Przemysl in 1942). Through personal testimony and family reflection, the program explored the preservation of Holocaust memory across generations and the enduring importance of survivor testimony in confronting hatred, prejudice, and historical denial. The discussion offered students a deeply personal perspective on the Holocaust while highlighting the responsibility of future generations to preserve these stories.

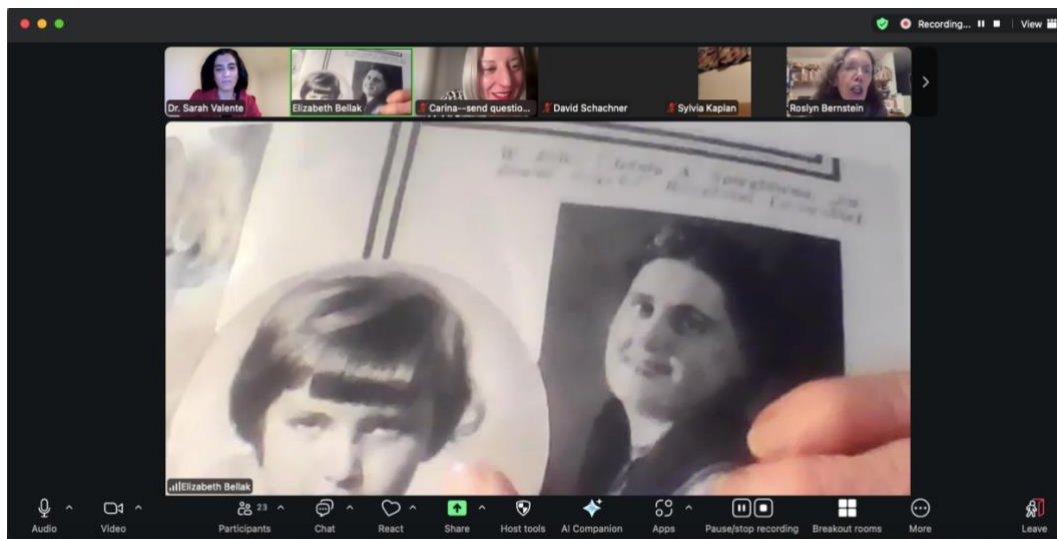
Speaker Biographies

Elizabeth Bellak is a Holocaust survivor, actor, and teacher, whose life story has been shared through educational programs across the United States. Known as “the Shirley Temple of Poland” she was a prominent child actor before World War II, who went to live in Warsaw to pursue a career in film. Dedicated to Holocaust remembrance and education, she has spent decades speaking with students and community groups about her experiences during World War II and the importance of preserving survivor testimony.

Alexandra Bellak has worked alongside her mother to preserve and share her family's history. Through public lectures and educational outreach, she helps ensure that Holocaust testimony continues to reach new generations while emphasizing the importance of remembrance, historical accuracy, and combating antisemitism. She writes, “*My name is Alexandra Renata. I was named after my aunt Renia. She was a beautiful and talented person I never was able to meet because she was shot by the Nazis when she was only 18 and 3 days old. Renia lived under both Soviet and German occupation. In addition to her diary, she wrote 60 poems. She is often referred to as the Polish Anne Frank. Dr. Anna Frajlich-Zajac, Professor Emerita in Slavic Language at Columbia University, wrote of the diary: “This powerful diary is not only a primary historical source of the Holocaust, but also a true and outstanding work of literature.” It is a coming-of-age story, heart wrenching story and with the rise of antisemitism, a relevant and necessary story. While her literary ambitions were cruelly cut short, her legacy lives on.*”



Elizabeth and Alexandra Bellak



Elizabeth shows photos of her sister Renia, of blessed memory, to the virtual audience

Date: February 25, 2026

Event Type: Experiential Learning Program

About the Event

Students enrolled in the interdisciplinary Sidney Harman Feit Seminar, *Crossroads of Exile: Jewish Stories Across Time and Place*, visited the **Museum of Modern Art** to experience *A Living Poem*, an AI-driven installation by poet and artist Sasha Stiles. Throughout the semester, students examined Jewish literature produced under conditions of exile, censorship, persecution, and displacement, exploring how writers across centuries employed language, multilingualism, and creative expression to preserve memory and resist oppression. The visit invited students to consider how these questions continue to evolve in the age of artificial intelligence. Inspired by MoMA's text-based art collection and Stiles' own poetry, the installation generated an ever-evolving poem that rewrote and performed itself anew every sixty minutes through a combination of language, image, voice, and sound. Co-curator Juyeon Song met with the students and offered an introduction to the work, prompting discussion about authorship, creativity, interpretation, and the role of artificial intelligence in contemporary artistic practice. The visit extended the seminar's interdisciplinary exploration of literature and technology by inviting students to experience poetry not simply as written text, but as an immersive and continually changing environment. One student captured the experience by observing, "It doesn't feel like reading a book—it feels like standing inside language."

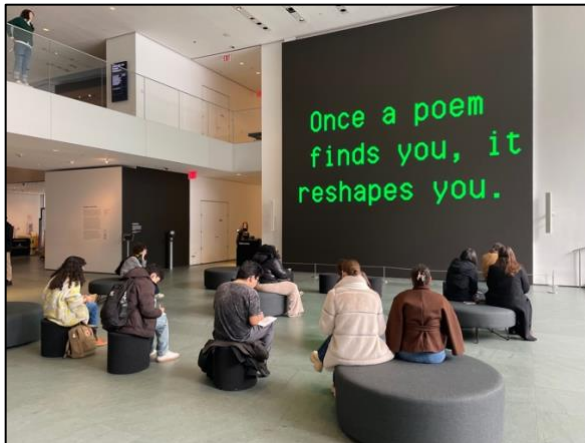
About the Artist

Sasha Stiles is a poet, artist, and scholar whose work explores the intersections of language, technology, artificial intelligence, and human creativity. Through poetry, digital art, performance, and generative systems, she examines how emerging technologies are reshaping literary expression and the relationship between human and machine authorship.

Experience [A Living Poem Online](#)



Students with Profs. Dina Odnopozova, Sarah Valente, and co-curator Juyeon Song



Date: March 11, 2026

Event Type: Experiential Learning Program

About the Event

As part of the Sidney Harman Feit Seminar, *Crossroads of Exile: Jewish Stories Across Time and Place*, students visited **Congregation Shearith Israel**, the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States, founded in 1654. Through a guided tour of the historic synagogue, students explored the history of Sephardic Jews in colonial America and the enduring contributions of New York's oldest Jewish community to American Jewish life. The visit concluded with an intimate literary discussion led by poet and writer Janet R. Kirchheimer, who introduced students to Emma Lazarus's poem "1492." Reading and discussing the poem within the historic sanctuary, students reflected on themes that had shaped the seminar throughout the semester—including exile, migration, religious persecution, memory, and cultural resilience. The conversation connected Lazarus's poetic meditation on the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and Portugal with the broader history of Sephardic displacement and survival, demonstrating how literature, history, and place can illuminate one another. By pairing the synagogue's living history with one of the foundational voices of American Jewish literature, the visit offered students a powerful example of experiential learning beyond the classroom.

About the Site

Congregation Shearith Israel, often referred to as the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, is the oldest Jewish congregation in North America. Founded by Sephardic Jews who settled in New Amsterdam in the seventeenth century, the congregation has played a central role in the religious, cultural, and civic life of American Jewry for more than 370 years and remains one of New York City's most important historic institutions.



Date: March 12, 2026

Event Type: Author Talk & Book Launch Discussion

About the Event

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center welcomed inventor and entrepreneur **Solomon Rosenblatt** for an inspiring conversation, "From Missiles to Microbes," moderated by Emmy Award-winning storyteller Amanda Pisetznier. Reflecting on a remarkable career spanning more than six decades, Rosenblatt shared his experiences contributing to the Polaris nuclear submarine program and the Apollo Moon Mission before turning his attention to innovations in medical technology. The discussion highlighted the intersections of scientific discovery, entrepreneurship, resilience, and lifelong curiosity while celebrating the extraordinary contributions of Jewish innovators to science and society.

Speaker Biographies

Solomon Rosenblatt, who will be awarded The City College of New York's President's Medal later this year, is a polymer chemist, innovator, and entrepreneur whose seven-decade career has spanned aerospace engineering, national defense, space exploration, and medical technology. Born to Ukrainian Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn in 1929, just months before the stock market crash, Solomon grew up in the shadow of the Great Depression, facing poverty and the weight of antisemitic barriers. Yet from an early age, he was a relentless problem solver—curious, inventive, and determined to understand how things worked. His work has resulted in numerous patents and innovations that have improved healthcare and scientific research.

Amanda Pisetznier is an Emmy Award-winning storyteller, producer, and communications strategist whose work explores innovation, entrepreneurship, and human resilience. She has worked on series and specials for Showtime, HBO, Tubi, NBC, The Discovery Channel, and others, both domestically and abroad. She has interviewed leading scientists, business leaders, and innovators throughout her career and served as moderator for the evening's conversation.

[Watch the Conversation](#)





Students, faculty, alumni, and members of the broader community filled the room to listen to the inspiring conversation



City College President Vincent Boudreau



Mrs. Frances Laterman



Prof. Sarah Valente

After his book launch presentation at Baruch College, Sol was interviewed by Linda Simidian for **CUNY TV**. On May 7, 2026, at 8pm the story of Solomon Rosenblatt aired on "Urban U".

[Watch the Show](#)



Date: March 26, 2026

Event Type: Film Screening & Talkback on Contemporary Jewish Experiences

About the Film

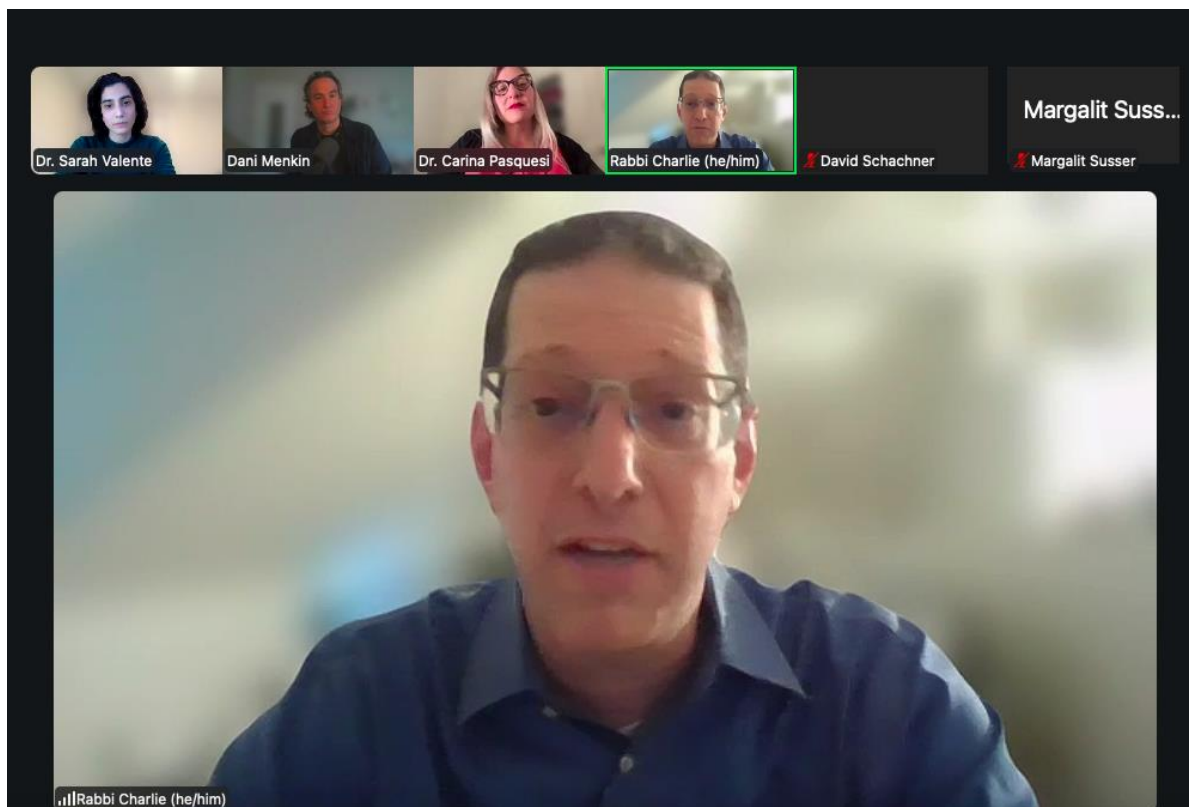
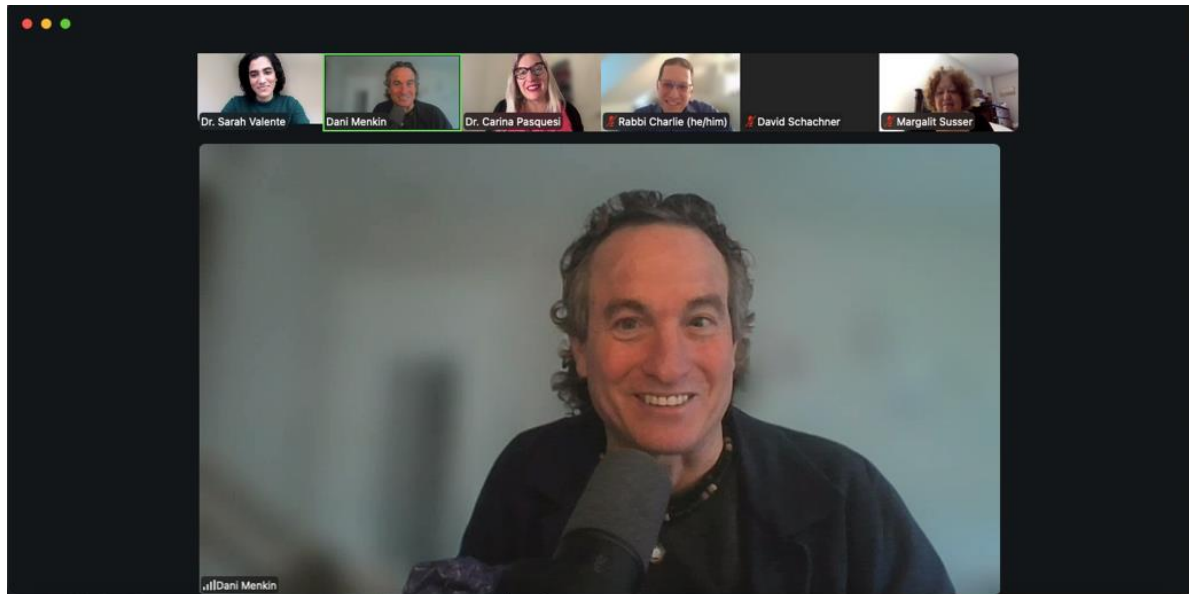
As part of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center's annual film series, the Center hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary *Colleyville*, followed by a live conversation with director **Dani Menkin** and **Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker**, whose leadership during the 2022 synagogue hostage crisis is the focus of the film. The documentary chronicles the events surrounding the hostage situation on Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, on January 15, 2022, while highlighting the resilience of the Jewish community, the importance of interfaith relationships, and the courage demonstrated in the face of antisemitic violence. The documentary masterfully demonstrates how the gripping real-life drama unfolds over an eleven-hour standoff, testing the hostages resilience and courage in unimaginable ways. After an eleven-hour standoff, all the hostages were able to escape when Rabbi Charlie threw a chair at the gunman, distracting him long enough for everyone to get out of the building. Since then, he has spoken out on the importance of security training for religious communities, and especially small congregations, as well as the need to build stronger bridges between faith communities, especially on a local level. The discussion provided students and community members with an opportunity to reflect on contemporary antisemitism, community resilience, and the role of faith and leadership during moments of crisis.

Speaker Biographies

Currently living in Los Angeles, California, Dani Menkin is the twice Israeli-Academy-Award-Winning filmmaker of *39 Pounds of Love* and *Is That You? 39 Pounds of Love* was sold to HBO Documentary Films and shortlisted for the American Oscar Awards. Menkin's award-winning film *Dolphin Boy* (co-directed with Yonatan Nir) was sold to over twenty countries around the globe and was bought by Walt Disney Pictures for adaptation. His documentary *On the Map* is being distributed by Lionsgate in North America. Menkin is a speaker and film juror at International Festivals around the world, as well as a film professor in universities in the U.S.

Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker was the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas until 2022 and now serves at the Rabbi at Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem, NC.

Internationally recognized for his extraordinary leadership during the January 2022 synagogue hostage crisis, Rabbi Cytron-Walker has become an advocate for synagogue security, interfaith cooperation, and community resilience while continuing to promote dialogue and understanding across religious communities. He loves finding a connection with people of every age and strives to welcome all who enter the congregation, from interfaith families to LGBTQ+ individuals and families to those seeking to find a spiritual home in Judaism, along with all others. He is a past President of the Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis and served on the steering committee of Peace Together. He has spoken at the White House, testified before U.S. Senate and House Committees, has been published in news sources including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, and has been interviewed and/or profiled for outlets from CNN to CBS.



Date: April 15, 2026

Event Type: Yom HaShoah Commemoration

About the Event

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center commemorated Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) through its annual Poetry Reading, bringing together students, faculty, and members of the broader community to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. Inspired by the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the program emphasized poetry as both an act of remembrance and a form of resistance, highlighting works written by Holocaust survivors as well as poets who perished during the Holocaust.

This year's program featured student translations of Primo Levi's *Shema* into Albanian, English, German, Moroccan Darija, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Uzbek, reflecting both the multilingual character of the Holocaust and the remarkable diversity of Baruch College's student body. Following the student presentations, audience members were invited to participate by reading poems from a specially prepared multilingual anthology of Holocaust poetry, transforming the commemoration into a shared act of remembrance and reflection.

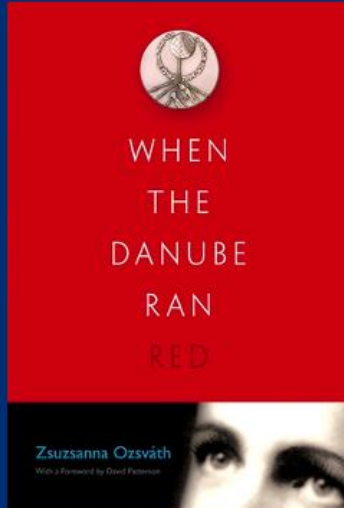
The program was also dedicated to the memory of Professor Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (1930–2026), Holocaust survivor, founder of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas, and longtime mentor to Dr. Sarah Valente. Through reflections on Professor Ozsváth's extraordinary life and her lifelong commitment to Holocaust education, the event honored the enduring responsibility of preserving memory and ensuring that survivor voices continue to inspire future generations.

Opening Remarks

Dedicated to Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (1931-2026) of blessed memory



Margit Abonyi's star



When the Danube Ran Red

Zsuzsanna Ozsváth

With a Foreword by David Patterson



Zsuzsi and Sarah (2015)

Date: April 21, 2026

Event Type: Antisemitism from Ancient Times to AI Lecture Series – Antisemitism Studies Lab*
Inaugural Distinguished Lecture

About the Event

The Antisemitism Studies Lab at the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center launched its new annual lecture series, *Antisemitism: From Ancient Times to AI*, with an inaugural lecture by computational social scientist Dr. Daniel Miehl. Designed to bring together emerging and established scholars from across disciplines, the series explores both the historical development and contemporary manifestations of antisemitism while highlighting innovative research methodologies. In his lecture, “Beyond the Written Word: Toward New Frameworks for Studying Online Antisemitism in an Age of Political Polarization and Polycrises,” Dr. Miehl examined how antisemitic content circulates across digital platforms through text, images, audio, and video. Drawing on advances in computational social science, natural language processing, and multimodal analysis, the lecture demonstrated new approaches for studying online antisemitism and understanding its evolving forms in an increasingly complex digital landscape.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Daniel Miehl is a computational social scientist and Visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University Bloomington, where he is affiliated with the Borns Jewish Studies Program and the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (ISCA). His research examines the intersections of online antisemitism, anti-Zionism, political communication, and social media using computational methods, including Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Computational Social Science (CSS). He is the author of *Online-Antisemitismus verstehen: Hassrede im Web 2.0 (Understanding Online Antisemitism: Hate Speech in Web 2.0, Nomos, 2024)*, and his work focuses on developing new methodologies for detecting and analyzing contemporary antisemitism in digital environments while exploring the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in social science research.



*** Note:** The Antisemitism Studies Lab is an initiative of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center. This lecture inaugurated the Lab's annual lecture series. A complete account of the Lab's activities, research, and programming during AY 2025–2026 is provided in the Antisemitism Studies Lab Annual Report, beginning on **page 31**.

Date: April 28, 2026

Event Type: Author Talk & Cultural Conversation (*co-sponsored with Hillel at Baruch*)

About the Event

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center welcomed acclaimed chef, restaurateur, and author **Beejhy Barhany** for a conversation celebrating the rich history and traditions of Ethiopian Jewish life. Centered on her award-winning cookbook *Gursba: Timeless Recipes for Modern Kitchens*, the discussion explored the intersections of food, memory, migration, and cultural identity while highlighting the remarkable story of the Beta Israel community. Through personal reflections, culinary traditions, and storytelling, Barhany invited students and community members to consider the diversity of Jewish experiences across the global diaspora and the role that food plays in preserving cultural heritage and building community. She also opened up about the challenges she's faced, including her restaurant being vandalized with antisemitic graffiti following October 7th, yet continuing to rebuild and lead with strength and purpose.

Speaker Biography

Beejhy Barhany fled Ethiopia at the age of four, first making her way to Israel with her Beta Israel (Ethiopian Jewish) family, and then to the United States. After finding that the modern-day fabric of American Judaism did not reflect the stories and experiences of Ethiopian Jewish people, she founded the Beta Israel of North America Cultural Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to elevating and including Jewish Ethiopian voices and showcasing the cultural history of her people. In Harlem in 2014, she opened Tsion Café, which brings together flavors from Ethiopia, Israel, and New York. It has been recognized by major publications and outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and the *Today* show. Barhany and her family live in Harlem.



CENTER LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Leadership

During the 2025–2026 academic year, **Dr. Sarah R. Valente** served as Interim Director of the Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center, providing academic and strategic leadership for the Center. Her responsibilities included stewardship of the WJSC Advisory Board, fundraising and external partnerships, oversight of academic programming, faculty recruitment and course development, cross-listing of Jewish Studies courses across multiple disciplines, student advising, and the continued expansion of experiential learning opportunities.

Dr. Carina Pasquesi, Managing Director, oversaw the Center's daily operations, including marketing and communications, financial and administrative processes, technology support, event logistics, and guest services. Together, Drs. Valente and Pasquesi worked closely to advance the Center's academic mission while expanding its public programming and student engagement.

Following a national search, Dr. Valente was appointed **William Newman Director** of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center and joined the Baruch faculty as a tenure-track Assistant Professor, ensuring continuity in the Center's leadership as it enters its next phase of growth.

Faculty Recruitment

The 2025–2026 academic year also marked continued investment in Jewish Studies at Baruch College through a successful international faculty search conducted by the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences. The search resulted in the appointment of a new tenure-track faculty member in Jewish Studies, who will join the Department of Philosophy beginning in Fall 2027, further strengthening the College's commitment to Jewish Studies teaching and scholarship.

Advisory Board

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center Advisory Board is composed of distinguished alumni, scholars, philanthropists, and community leaders whose guidance and generosity have been instrumental in advancing the Center's mission. Chaired by Charlie Dreifus, the Advisory Board meets each semester to provide strategic guidance and support for the Center's academic, fundraising, and public engagement initiatives. **2025–2026 Advisory Board Members** included: Charles R. Dreifus '66, MBA '73 (Chair), Abby Anderton, Esme Berg, Roslyn Bernstein, Ilya Bratman, Debra Caplan, Jeffrey Goodman, Idelle Goodman, Mindy Jerome, Patti Askwith Kenner, Joshua P. Laterman, Rebecca Neuwirth, Dov Schlein '70, MBA '75, Alissa Shams, David Sitt, Andrew Sloin, and Debra Wasserman.

Acknowledgments

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center gratefully acknowledges the outstanding support and commitment of President S. David Wu, Provost Linda Essig, Interim Dean Jennifer Mangels to advancing Jewish Studies at Baruch. We are also grateful to Daniel Jacobson, Boo Choi, Amanda Becker, Cheryl Smith, Stephanie Govan, Katherine Lypides, and many others whose collaboration and assistance have been invaluable to the Center's continued success throughout the academic year. The Center also extends its heartfelt appreciation to the members of the WJSC Advisory Board, our faculty colleagues, students, alumni, donors, and community partners. Their generosity, collaboration, and shared commitment to the Center's mission continue to enrich Jewish Studies at Baruch College and make possible the many initiatives highlighted throughout this report.

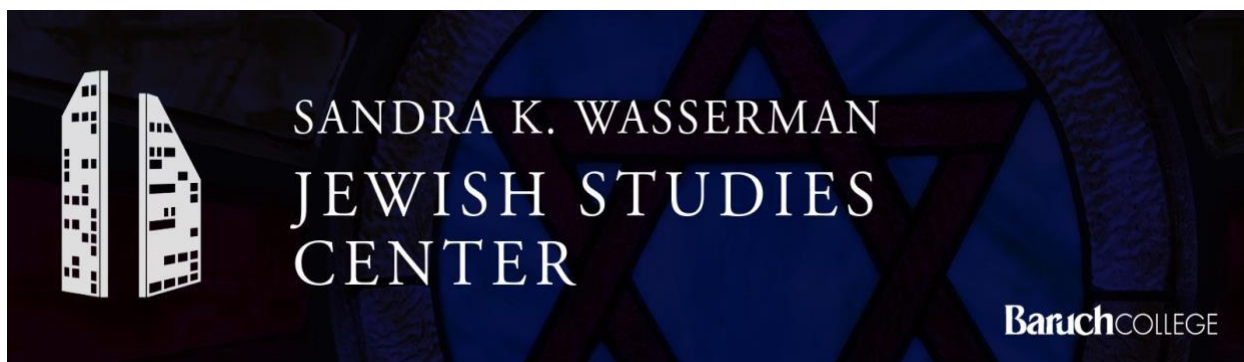
Strategic Collaborations and Financial Support

Funding for the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center is provided through endowment income, philanthropic gifts, and grants. As an endowed center, the WJSC is able to support academic programming, public events, student engagement, and special initiatives through its endowment and the generosity of donors and friends of the Center. We continue to seek and receive private support to expand programming, experiential learning opportunities, faculty initiatives, and interdisciplinary research. While tax-levy funds cover the salaries of full-time faculty, those faculty members are hired through their respective academic departments. Faculty whose teaching and research contribute to Jewish Studies have historically joined the WJSC following departmental hiring processes, making collaboration across departments essential to the Center's academic mission.

Financial Report AY 25-26

Baruch College Fund Fund Balance, Revenue and Expense Report - WJSC July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

	Budget	Budget Bal Avail
35840 - Israel Course	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
35850 - Sarah Laterman and Sara Ivri Schlein Jewish Studies Seminar	\$17,890.48	\$17,890.48
35860 - Sandra K Wasserman Jewish Studies donor restricted fund	\$40,000.00	\$16,290.03
35870 - WJSC Israel Micro-Study Course	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
35880 - William M. Newman Director of the Jewish Studies Center	\$75,000.00	\$46,945.06
35890 - Antisemitism Studies Lab	\$50,000.00	\$40,006.05
75150 - Jewish Resources Center	\$5,000.00	\$4,472.21
83250 - Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Cntr endowment fund	\$180,494.20	\$164,677.69
83260 - Ruth Printz O'Hara '52 Endowed Prof in Holocaust Studies	\$49,182.87	\$10,295.41
83280 - Andrew Gold and Dori Katz Endowment	\$2,258.37	\$2,258.37
Total	\$450,825.92	\$333,835.30

**Contact Us**

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Dr. Carina Pasquesi, Managing Director (carina.pasquesi@baruch.cuny.edu)

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Baruch College
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New York, NY 10010-5585

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[Email us](#)



**Annual Report of Activities
Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**Prepared by Dr. Sarah Valente
Assistant Professor, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences
William Newman Director, Wasserman Jewish Studies Center
Founding Director, Antisemitism Studies Lab
June 1, 2026**



ABOUT THE ANTISEMITISM STUDIES LAB

Established in 2025 with initial seed funding from the Laterman Family Foundation through its Address Hate initiative, the Antisemitism Studies Lab (AS Lab) was created to advance rigorous scholarship, meaningful dialogue, and interdisciplinary collaboration on one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Housed within the Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center at Baruch College, the AS Lab serves as the first academic research hub dedicated to the study of antisemitism within the City University of New York (CUNY) system.

The AS Lab began as a simple but ambitious idea: to create a laboratory for research, education, and public engagement that would deepen understanding of antisemitism and equip students, scholars, and community members with the tools needed to navigate an increasingly complex contemporary landscape. The vision emerged in the aftermath of October 7, 2023, when Professor Sarah Valente served as a scholar-in-residence at the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy at Oxford University in the summer of 2024. Inspired by that experience of developing curriculum in critical contemporary antisemitism studies, and recognizing the urgent need for sustained academic inquiry into antisemitism, Prof. Valente proposed the creation of the Antisemitism Studies Lab under the umbrella of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center. In Spring 2025, the proposal was approved by Baruch's President S. David Wu.

The Laterman Family Foundation became the first to invest in Professor Valente's vision of building a new academic hub for research, education, and engagement, providing foundational support that enabled the AS Lab's launch. Following the public announcement of the AS Lab in April 2025, the initiative quickly garnered additional support. Funding from the Herbert Simon Family Foundation matched the initial investment, while Baruch College Trustees Eric Kirsch, Dov Schlein, and Charlie Dreifus also joined in supporting the Lab's growth securing a total of nearly \$500,000. Their generosity, together with the commitment of numerous friends, partners, and supporters, has provided a strong foundation for the development of a vibrant center of scholarship and public engagement.

The strong support received in the AS Lab's inaugural year is both humbling and inspiring. It reflects not only confidence in the importance of this work, but also a profound responsibility to pursue innovative research, foster meaningful dialogue, and create educational opportunities that meet the challenges of the present moment.

MISSION & VISION

In alignment with the mission of the Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center, the Antisemitism Studies Lab is dedicated to advancing education, fostering understanding, supporting research, and addressing the pressing challenges of antisemitism at the local, national, and global levels. As the first academic research hub devoted to antisemitism studies within the CUNY system, the AS Lab serves as a center for innovation, interdisciplinary scholarship, and public engagement, advancing research and pedagogy on contemporary antisemitism while creating meaningful opportunities for dialogue and learning.

The AS Lab was founded on the conviction that education and scholarship are essential tools in confronting antisemitism. At a time of heightened polarization, global upheaval, and rapidly evolving digital information environments, the need for deeper understanding, critical inquiry, and evidence-based research has never been greater. Through research, student engagement, and community partnership, the Lab seeks to advance knowledge, cultivate informed dialogue, and contribute to a more tolerant and democratic society. The Lab pursues this mission through three interconnected areas of impact:

1. Research

The AS Lab supports interdisciplinary scholarship that advances the study of contemporary antisemitism across a range of fields, including social media studies, discourse analysis, data science, communication and journalism, political science, public policy, and related disciplines. Through research seminars, lectures, workshops, collaborative projects, and working-paper presentations, the Lab fosters intellectual exchange and creates opportunities for scholars to develop new knowledge, test emerging ideas, and engage across disciplinary boundaries.

2. Student Engagement:

The AS Lab provides students with opportunities to participate directly in research through internships, independent studies, faculty-mentored projects, and experiential learning initiatives. By connecting classroom learning with active inquiry, the Lab cultivates the next generation of scholars, educators, policymakers, and community leaders. Students from across Baruch College—including the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, the Marx School of Public and International Affairs, and the Zicklin School of Business—are encouraged to engage critically with the historical, social, political, and cultural dimensions of antisemitism and its implications for democratic society.

3. Community Engagement:

Recognizing that education extends beyond the classroom, the AS Lab partners with organizations throughout New York City and beyond to create opportunities for public learning and dialogue. Through lectures, workshops, educational programming, and community partnerships, the Lab seeks to make scholarly knowledge accessible to broader audiences while fostering informed discussion, civil discourse, and greater understanding across communities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Antisemitism Studies Lab's inaugural year was marked by remarkable growth, institutional development, scholarly engagement, and research advancement. In a short period of time, the AS Lab established itself as a dynamic center for interdisciplinary scholarship and public engagement while laying the foundation for long-term impact at Baruch College, throughout CUNY, and beyond.

➤ **Building Institutional Capacity**

The AS Lab exceeded its first-year participation goals, recruiting eleven faculty and student researchers—more than double its original target. This growth reflects both the increasing interest in antisemitism studies and the Lab's success in fostering interdisciplinary engagement across the College. A major milestone was the successful establishment of a dedicated physical home for the AS Lab. Working in partnership with Provost Linda Essig, Interim Dean Jennifer Mangels, and Vice President of Operations and Administration Alaina Gilligo, the Lab secured permanent space at Baruch College that will serve as a hub for research, student engagement, community programming, and scholarly exchange. An official open house is planned for Fall 2026.

➤ **Institutional Leadership and Recognition**

The growing visibility of the AS Lab was reflected in several significant leadership opportunities. Professor Sarah Valente was selected to serve on President S. David Wu's Campus Climate Council, contributing to institutional efforts to address antisemitism and foster a welcoming campus environment.

The Lab's work also received recognition at the university level. Professor Valente was invited by Rachel Stephenson, Chief Transformation Officer of CUNY, to present the AS Lab and Baruch College's newly awarded Claims Conference initiative before the Chancellor's Advisory Board on Jewish Life, introducing the Lab's work to senior university leadership and prominent Jewish communal leaders.



CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez congratulates Professor Valente after their meeting with President Wu and Claims Conference's President Gideon Taylor, May 13, 2026.

The AS Lab's achievements and emerging impact were further highlighted through coverage in the Baruch News Center, the Weissman Faculty Report, and the Weissman Newsletter:



GENERAL FACULTY REPORT – SPRING 2026

INTRODUCTION

Spring 2026 brings fresh energy and a renewed commitment to the liberal arts and sciences at Baruch College. As the intellectual and creative engine of the College, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences (WSAS) champions groundbreaking scholarship, interdisciplinary teaching, and community engagement.

Guiding WSAS through this current transition is Interim Dean and longtime Baruch Professor of Psychology Jennifer Mangels. Her leadership is centered on a clear vision: fostering a thriving, supportive environment for our faculty, students, and staff, built firmly on our core values of exploration, collaboration, inclusion, and care.

SCHOOL-WIDE DEVELOPMENTS

MOMENTUM FOR THE ANTISEMITISM STUDIES LABORATORY The Antisemitism Studies Laboratory (The AS Lab) recently received a generous \$75,000 gift from AddressHate, an interdisciplinary think tank founded by the Laterman Family Foundation. Driven by the critical work of the Dr. Sarah Valente, inaugural director of the lab, philanthropic support has rapidly gained momentum, now totaling nearly \$500,000 since its launch in Spring 2025. This funding is vital to expanding the Lab's interdisciplinary research and educational outreach.

[News Center](#) > [News](#) >

AddressHate's Early Investment Catalyzes Nearly \$500,000 in Funding for Baruch College's Antisemitism Studies Lab

Department Links ☰

AddressHate's Early Investment Catalyzes Nearly \$500,000 in Funding for Baruch College's Antisemitism Studies Lab

January 14, 2026



(Left to Right): Baruch College President S. David Wu, Laterman Family Foundation Trustee Joshua Laterman, Dr. Sarah Valente, Director of Baruch's Wasserman Center for Jewish Studies, and CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.

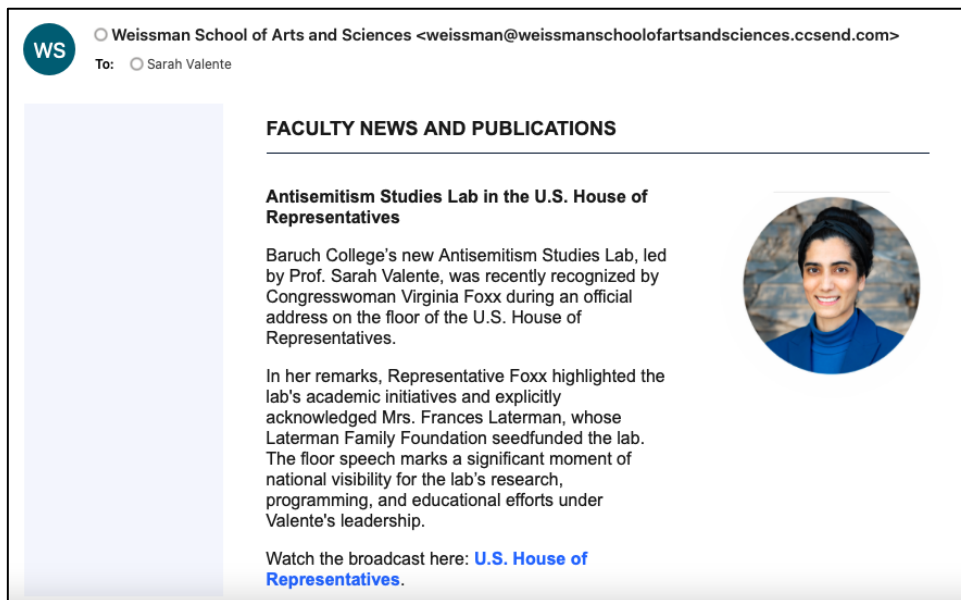
Share



Baruch College today announced a new \$75,000 gift from AddressHate, a vanguard not-for-profit that uses new, technological methodologies to disrupt the spread of online hate, to support The Antisemitism Studies Laboratory housed within Baruch's Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center.

This new commitment will help open Baruch's capacity to study and address antisemitism—particularly as it spreads through social media and other digital

newscenter.baruch.cuny.edu



➤ Scholarly Engagement and National Visibility

As part of its commitment to remaining connected to emerging scholarship and national conversations in the field, the AS Lab actively engaged with major academic and professional gatherings focused on antisemitism studies. Professor Valente attended the Cardozo School of Law's Conference on Law and Antisemitism, which brought together scholars, legal experts, and practitioners examining contemporary challenges related to antisemitism, civil rights, higher education, and public policy. Notably, Baruch College faculty were prominently represented among the conference presenters, showcasing expertise in areas ranging from workplace speech and religious discrimination to artificial intelligence, collective memory, civil rights protections, and emerging technologies.



Professors Nizan Geslevich Packin, Sarah Valente, Donna Gitter, Debbie Kaminer, and William Organek at the Cardozo Law and Antisemitism Conference, March 9, 2026.

The AS Lab also participated in broader scholarly networks dedicated to the study of antisemitism. Professor Valente was invited to NYU's inaugural conference on "Critical Examinations of New Media and Antisemitism" and to a gathering of scholars and directors from leading antisemitism research centers at institutions including the University of Toronto, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Michigan, and New York University. These invitations reflect the growing recognition of the AS Lab within the rapidly expanding field of antisemitism studies.

➤ **Advancing Teaching and Educational Innovation**

The AS Lab contributed directly to student learning through curricular and co-curricular initiatives. During the year, Professor Valente guest lectured on the origins of antisemitism in Professor Eugene Marlow's ENG 2150 course on discrimination and racism, introducing approximately forty students from diverse academic backgrounds to foundational questions in antisemitism studies.

The Lab's educational mission expanded significantly when Professor Valente was selected to lead a newly funded Claims Conference initiative establishing a CUNY-wide Faculty Fellowship on Holocaust Distortion. The consortium brings together faculty across multiple CUNY campuses to develop innovative teaching, research, and professional development opportunities focused on Holocaust education and contemporary forms of Holocaust distortion.

➤ **Supporting Groundbreaking Research**

One of the AS Lab's most significant accomplishments during its inaugural year was the funding of a major three-year collaborative research project between Baruch College and New York University: *Mapping and Intervening on the Development of Antisemitic Bias*. Led by Professor Eric Mandelbaum, a nationally recognized scholar in cognitive science and philosophy whose research has been supported by the ACLS, NEH, and other major foundations, and Professor Marjorie Rhodes, Chair of Psychology at NYU and a leading scholar of childhood social cognition whose work has been supported by the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health, the project investigates how anti-Jewish bias emerges during childhood and how interventions can be developed to prevent its formation. Combining developmental psychology, cognitive science, linguistics, and artificial intelligence, the study examines how subtle features of parent-child conversations influence the development of religious and social bias over time. By supporting this collaboration between nationally recognized scholars, the AS Lab helped launch research with the potential to advance understanding of how prejudice develops, inform future interventions aimed at reducing bias, and contribute to broader

conversations about social cohesion and democratic resilience. The project also provides valuable training opportunities for undergraduate researchers engaged in interdisciplinary scientific inquiry.

➤ **Looking Ahead**

Collectively, these achievements demonstrate the remarkable momentum generated during the AS Lab's first year. From securing a permanent institutional home to building a vibrant research community to supporting innovative scholarship and expanding educational opportunities, the Lab has quickly established itself as an emerging leader in the field of antisemitism studies. The AS Lab enters its second year well positioned to deepen its impact through research, teaching, student engagement, and public scholarship.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES AY 2025-2026

The Inaugural *Scholarship Spring Series*: Showcasing First Cohort of AS Lab Scholars

A defining milestone of the Antisemitism Studies Lab's inaugural year was the launch of its first *Scholarship Spring Series*, held on May 13, 2026, at Engelman Hall in partnership with the Baruch Performing Arts Center (BPAC). The event showcased original research conducted by the Lab's first cohort of affiliated faculty and student scholars and highlighted the interdisciplinary scope of inquiry that has become a hallmark of the AS Lab.

Bringing together eleven faculty and student researchers from across disciplines, the inaugural showcase demonstrated how the study of antisemitism intersects with fields as diverse as artificial intelligence, behavioral science, cognitive psychology, digital humanities, history, marketing analytics, philosophy, and Jewish studies. The projects presented reflected the Lab's commitment to supporting innovative scholarship that addresses both historical and contemporary dimensions of antisemitism while exploring new methodologies and emerging technologies.

Among the featured projects was a groundbreaking collaboration between Professor Joshua Moritz and a team of graduate students in Marketing Analytics and Digital Marketing including Shruti Ketanbhai Bhalala, Hesham Ebrahim, Nikita Jain, Nataly Olarte, Thao Monica Phan and Shannon Thomas. Working in partnership with the Tenement Museum, the research team developed an artificial intelligence model capable of analyzing more than sixty-seven hours of oral history interviews and archival materials documenting the experiences of Lower East Side Jewish residents and merchants across more than a

century of New York City history. By applying generative AI tools to previously unstructured archival materials, the project demonstrated how emerging technologies can be used not only to analyze data, but also to preserve cultural memory and recover voices that might otherwise be lost, and shed light to how antisemitism manifested itself in their lives.

Professor Linda Weiser Friedman presented research on Jewish humor as a historical and contemporary response to antisemitism. Her work examined how humor has functioned across centuries as a uniquely Jewish form of resilience, education, social critique, and resistance. By exploring humor's capacity to challenge stereotypes, foster empathy, and address difficult subjects through accessible means, the project highlighted an often-overlooked dimension of Jewish cultural responses to prejudice and discrimination.

The event also featured original research conducted by Professor Valente's undergraduate fellows mentored through the AS Lab. Leah Aguirre presented a behavioral science study examining the relationship between contemporary antisemitic rhetoric, gaslighting, and the development of internalized antisemitism among college students. Her research investigates how the delegitimization of Jewish experiences can shape identity formation and psychological well-being, contributing to broader conversations about the social and emotional consequences of contemporary antisemitism. Benjamin Ng presented research exploring the use of artificial intelligence as a tool for combating hate speech in online gaming environments. His project analyzed the opportunities and limitations of AI-assisted moderation systems, examining how technological innovation might contribute to creating safer digital spaces while balancing concerns of fairness, transparency, and user trust.

The evening concluded with the AS Lab Keynote Address, *Mapping and Intervening on the Development of Bias*, delivered by Professor Eric Mandelbaum, Ruth Printz O'Hara '52 Professor of Antisemitism and Holocaust Studies at Baruch College, and Professor Marjorie Rhodes, Chair of the Department of Psychology at New York University. Their presentation highlighted a major collaborative research initiative supported by the AS Lab that investigates how social and religious biases emerge in childhood and how evidence-based interventions can reduce their development. Combining developmental psychology, cognitive science, linguistics, and artificial intelligence, the project exemplifies the type of interdisciplinary, high-impact scholarship the AS Lab seeks to foster.

The event attracted distinguished guests from across CUNY and the broader community, including Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, President S. David Wu, Provost Linda Essig, Interim Dean Jennifer Mangels, Frances Laterman, Dov Schlein, and numerous faculty, students, and supporters. The Scholarship Spring Series not only celebrated the

accomplishments of the Lab's first cohort of scholars, but also demonstrated the intellectual vitality, interdisciplinary reach, and growing institutional significance of the Antisemitism Studies Lab. The event subsequently received public recognition from Chancellor Matos Rodríguez on LinkedIn, further underscoring the visibility and impact of the Lab's work within the university system and beyond.

Photos from the Scholarship Spring Series:



Joshua Moritz, Nikita Jain, Hesham Ebrahim, Monica Phan



Leah Aguirre



Benjamin Ng



Profs. Marjorie Rhodes and Eric Mandelbaum



Professors Eric Mandelbaum and Sarah Valente with AS Lab research students Leah Aguirre and Benjamin Ng & with Mrs. Frances Laterman.

Sample slides from Prof. Moritz and his team's presentations:



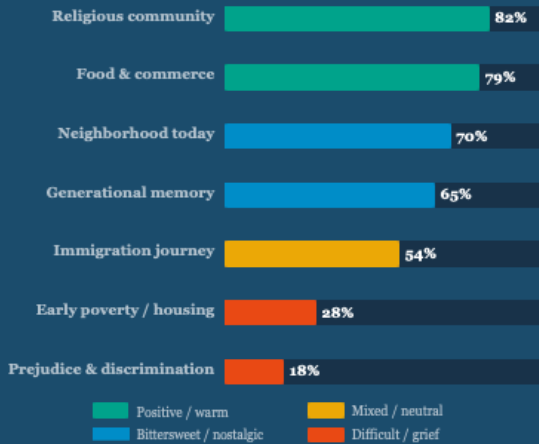
Sentiment Trends

Emotional analysis across 145 years of oral testimony



SENTIMENT VALENCE BY SUBJECT

% Positive tone in testimony



DEFINING VOICES

When they would come to Eldridge Street, it was a true sanctuary in all senses of that word.

— Amy Waterman, Eldridge St. Synagogue

If a thief would come in, he would see our conditions and instead of robbing us, he would give us.

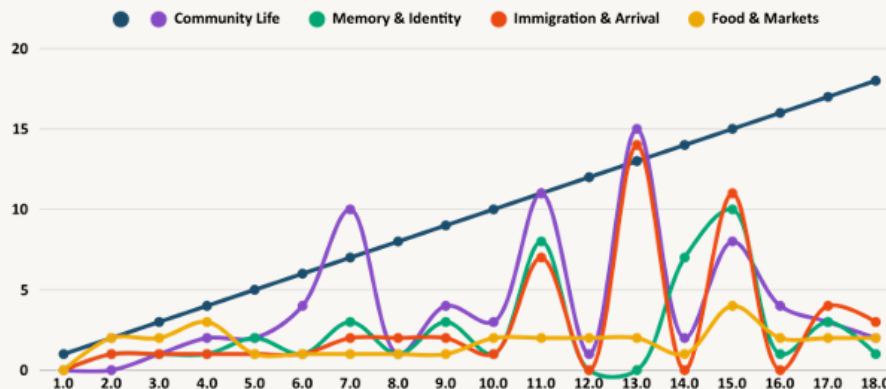
— Ephrom Kromitz, Depression-era resident

Nostalgia - nos algea - a disease: when you realize you cannot return to where you came from, a part of you dies.

— Seth Camel, Big Onion Walking Tours

How Themes Shift Across the Documentary

Chunk count per theme per tape - reveals the documentary's emotional arc from early to late tapes



▲ Community life peaks around Tape 20 (15 chunks), the documentary's most community-dense section.

▲ Memory & identity rises later in filming (peak: Tape 25), nostalgia intensifies toward the end.

▲ Immigration themes surge in major interview tapes, notably Ratner's and Russ & Daughters segments.

Sample slides from Prof. Friedman's presentation:

The Nazis Hated Jewish Humor

5,000

people sentenced to death
for anti-Nazi humor
1933–1945

Why the Jews?

Weaponized Dehumanization

Nazis called Jewish humor an "evil tool" — a way to malign and dehumanize Jews, making extermination seem acceptable.

The "Insidious" Talent

They claimed Jewish comedic talent had a wicked purpose: to appear harmless while advancing the "selfish interests of international Jewry."

Self-Deprecation as Weapon

The Nazis saw self-deprecating humor as one of the most potent Jewish weapons — it disarms the audience's defenses.

What This Tells Us

Sentencing people to death for jokes tells you everything: this humor was genuine resistance, not just entertainment.

They killed all the funny people

What Social Justice Humor Does

Educates Haters

Facts don't change opinions. Comedy gets past defenses that direct argument cannot. The laugh opens a door; the insight walks through.

Releases Anger

Rage that has nowhere to go destroys the vessel. Humor transforms it — makes it survivable, even shareable.

Bonding – The Secret Handshake

Shared laughter says: you are not alone. The joke is a handshake across time, space, and suffering.

Cues Remembrance

Humor is how history passes between generations. The joke teaches what the textbook forgets — and makes it stick.

Social justice humor combines comedy with activism. It doesn't just cope — it changes minds.

Spring Scholarship Series Speakers Bios:

Leah Aguirre is a Baruch Antisemitism Lab Research Assistant Fellow currently studying Business and Behavioral Science and Virtual Reality Development in CUNY BA. Her research focuses on internalized antisemitism and brings a behavioral science lens to questions of Jewish identity. Her interest in behavioral science was sparked through her work at The Nucleus Group with Fortune 500 companies, where she collaborated with behavioral scientists, anthropologists, sociologists, and futurists exploring the science behind culture, human behavior, and the forces that shape our decisions. Before returning to school, Leah was a multi-business founder who worked with companies including Rolls-Royce, the NYPD, and Jameson. This summer, she will join the Birthright Israel Excel Cohort and work as a Strategy Consultant at Monitor Deloitte.

Shrusti Ketanbhai Bhalala, data analyst and contributor, is Digital Marketing major at Baruch College. She is passionate about Social Media Marketing, Branding, and Strategy, with experience in Web Designing and Graphic Designing.

Hesham Ebrahim is a Marketing Analytics graduate student at Baruch College with a background in banking and fraud analysis. I am passionate about using data and consumer insights to drive effective marketing decisions.

Linda Weiser Friedman is a full professor in the Department of Information Systems and Statistics of the Zicklin School, and she is Associated Faculty in the Weissman School Jewish Studies Center where she has created and taught the course in Jewish Humor (JWS 3070) – a course which has been cross listed with many departments including English, History, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, Anthropology, Theater and others. Professor Friedman is also on the Doctoral Faculties in both Computer Science and Business at the Graduate Center / CUNY. Her scholarship interests are widespread and include humor studies, Jewish studies, computer information systems, higher education, and computer simulation. She has published many scholarly articles and working papers in these areas and, of course, in the area of Jewish Humor, and she is currently writing a book on Jewish Humor. Her previous book, *God Laughed: Sources of Jewish Humor* (2014), with Hershey H. Friedman, is published by Routledge. She also writes fiction and poetry.

Nikita Jain is a marketing professional with 8+ years of experience leading digital programs, partner marketing and data driven strategy at global brands including HP and Lenovo. She is completing an MS in Marketing Analytics at Baruch College.

Eric Mandelbaum is the Ruth Printz O'Hara '52 Professor of Antisemitism and Holocaust Studies, holding appointments in the department of Philosophy at Baruch College, as well

as the departments of Philosophy & Psychology at The Graduate Center, where he is the Director of the Cognitive Science Program. His research focuses on foundational issues in cognitive science, mostly pertaining to cognitive architecture and the structure of thought. He publishes in areas across philosophy, linguistics, cognitive, social, developmental, and comparative psychology. Before joining CUNY, he was the Mind/Brain/Behavior fellow at Harvard as a member of the Mind/Brain/Behavior Program and the Department of Philosophy; the ACLS New Faculty Fellow at Yale in the Department of Philosophy and Cognitive Science program; and the James Martin Fellow at Oxford University in the Faculty of Philosophy, St. Catherine's College, the Future of Humanity Institute, the Institute of Science and Religion, and the Oxford Martin 21st Century School. He has won grants and awards from foundations such as the ACLS/Mellon and the National Endowment for the Humanities, including the Stanton Prize from the Society of Philosophy & Psychology, the Glushko Prize from the Cognitive Science Society, and the Philosopher's Annual Award. In 2026-2027, he will be the Laurance S Rockefeller Visiting Distinguished Professor in the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University.

Joshua Moritz is full time lecturer at the Baruch Zicklin School of Business; an Assistant Adjunct Professor at NYU and serial entrepreneur. He has founded, developed, sold and been part of numerous start-ups including DMTG, Customer Growth, Medozza, Worktopia and Challahconnection.com. An expert in modeling, branding, customer acquisition, CRM and digital marketing, Moritz has delivered powerful results for clients like Citibank, American Express, Remy Martin, InBev, The US Mint, Dr Pepper, Colgate, Coca Cola products, New York University, QuickBooks and IBM. Moritz teaches Marketing Analytics, Marketing Information, Database Modeling, Integrated Marketing, Marketing Principles, Leadership, CRM, Capstone, Entrepreneurship, Digital Marketing, Advertising and Research. He was awarded a Rebus/CCNY grant to develop an open education resource textbook called *A Marketing Handbook* that was published in the fall of 2023. He is currently co-authoring a marketing research and analytics book with the working title of *Information for Decision Making and Analytics*.

Benjamin Ng is a student at CUNY Baruch College studying Computer Information Systems. As a sophomore, the knowledge he gained from classes, people he met, and experiences throughout college have encouraged him to pursue a career in the technical industry. One summer working as an intern in a small technical support business taught him the value and importance of various skills when working directly with customers. From this, he has become eager to deliver solutions that support businesses and its people to do their best work. As part of his career path, he is interested in exploring how new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) can be used in everyday lives as a tool to

assist others. In his free time, he enjoys trying new hobbies, exploring around New York City, and reading different genres of books.

Nataly Olarte, data analyst and contributor, a Marketing Analytics graduate student at Baruch College focused on turning data into strategic business decisions. She is actively developing her skills in analytics and exploring innovative ways to understand consumer behavior.

Thao Monica Phan, presenter, is a business and analytics professional with 6 years of experience in retail and e-commerce, specializing in inventory management, demand forecasting, and operations. She is currently working on her MS in Marketing Analytics at Baruch College.

Marjorie Rhodes is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology, and affiliated faculty in the Department of Linguistics, at New York University. Rhodes' research focuses on conceptual development in early childhood and the role of language in shaping the development of social thought. She directs the Conceptual Development and Social Cognition Lab at NYU, which addresses these questions with a combination of cognitive experiments with young children, natural language analysis of parent-child conversation, cross-cultural research, longitudinal field experiments, and computational approaches. Her research has been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Psychological Science*, *Child Development*, *Cognitive Psychology*, among other outlets, and has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Rhodes has received the Stanton Prize for interdisciplinary contributions to psychology and philosophy, and early career awards for contributions to cognitive development from the Cognitive Development Society and the American Psychological Association. Rhodes is currently the President-Elect of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. More information about her research is available at: <http://kidconcepts.org>.

Shannon Thomas, data analyst and contributor, is completing an MS Degree in Digital Marketing at Baruch College. A New York City native, she is proud product of everything this city represents — the energy, the hustle, and of course, the people.

The event was also highlighted and featured by CUNY's Chancellor on his LinkedIn account. Such visibility helps to bolster the mission of our work and provides reassurance for the importance of what we are building at Baruch and CUNY at large.



SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

The ASL launched a new annual lecture series entitled *Antisemitism: From Ancient Times to AI*. Featuring emerging and established scholars from across disciplines, the series will showcase innovative research that deepens our understanding of antisemitism across history and illuminates its evolving forms in the present.

The inaugural lecture was delivered by Dr. Daniel Miehling, a computational social scientist and Visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University Bloomington's Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (ISCA). Miehling's talk, "Beyond the Written Word: Toward New Frameworks for Studying Online Antisemitism in an Age of Political Polarization and Polycrises." The lecture was hosted on April 21, 2026, 6-8pm at Baruch's Newman Library & Technology Building, H-763 (7th floor; room 763).

Dr. Miehling, whose research studies the intersections of anti-Zionism and antisemitism in digital discourse, spoke about political communication in social media, analyzing narratives following the attacks on Israel after October 7. Using methods of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Computational Social Science (CSS), he examined how news coverage by state-funded media influences online discussions about Israel, Jews, Palestinians, and Islamist groups. By analyzing large-scale datasets, his research provided insights into the dissemination of contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, the emotional toning within User-Generated Content (UGC), and the challenges of detecting harmful content in digital spaces. Drawing on recent advances in the study of hate speech and online antisemitism, Dr. Miehling examined the multimodal nature of contemporary digital environments. Beyond written discourse, his talk highlighted recent manifestations of antisemitism and the diverse ways in which such content circulates online. He further demonstrated how emerging analytical methods enable researchers to trace and interpret the dissemination of multimodal antisemitic content, including images, audio, and video.

Dr. Miehling is the author of *Online-Antisemitismus verstehen: Hassrede im Web 2.0* (*Understanding Online Antisemitism: Hate Speech in Web 2.0*, Nomos 2024), and has published in academic journals on antisemitic discourse and social media analysis. Enriching the study of contemporary antisemitism with new methodologies to detect and analyze antisemitic and polarizing content online, he is also developing educational tools that empower students to engage critically with real-world data and the ethical implications of AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) in social science.

Photos from the event:



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Although only in its inaugural year, the Antisemitism Studies Lab has already established itself as a dynamic center for research, education, and engagement. Looking ahead, the Lab remains committed to advancing cutting-edge scholarship, expanding student opportunities, and strengthening partnerships that promote knowledge, understanding, and democratic values. Through these efforts, the AS Lab seeks not only to deepen scholarly understanding of antisemitism, but also to contribute meaningfully to the broader pursuit of tolerance, intellectual inquiry, and civic responsibility. As the Antisemitism Studies Lab enters its second year, it is poised to build upon the strong foundation established during its inaugural year. Several key initiatives are already underway that will expand opportunities for student engagement, strengthen the Lab's academic offerings, and deepen its long-term impact at Baruch College and CUNY.

A central priority is the development of research practicum and internship models that will allow students to receive academic credit for participation in AS Lab research projects. By integrating hands-on research experiences into the curriculum, the Lab seeks to create new pathways for experiential learning while preparing students to engage critically with contemporary issues related to antisemitism, prejudice, and democratic society.

The Lab is also expanding its curricular footprint through the development of new interdisciplinary courses. Among these initiatives is a proposed seminar on antisemitism and the law, to be developed by Professor Sarah Valente and offered as a Sarah Laterman and Sarah Ivri Schlein Seminar in Fall 2027. Bringing together perspectives from Jewish Studies, law, public policy, and civil rights, the course will provide students with a unique opportunity to explore contemporary legal and societal challenges related to antisemitism.

Looking further ahead, the continued growth and sustainability of the AS Lab will depend upon securing additional resources and long-term funding. To ensure the longevity of its research, educational programming, student opportunities, and public engagement initiatives, the Lab is actively exploring the establishment of an endowment that would provide permanent support for its mission and operations. In conclusion, the achievements of the AS Lab's inaugural year would not have been possible without the generosity, vision, and partnership of its supporters. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Laterman Family Foundation, the Herbert Simon Family Foundation, Eric Kirsch, Dov Schlein, and AddressHate, whose commitment to advancing scholarship, education, and understanding has made this work possible. We are likewise grateful for the steadfast support of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, the Zicklin School of Business, and the leadership of Baruch College. Their collective investment has enabled the creation of a pioneering academic initiative whose impact will continue to grow in the years ahead.

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