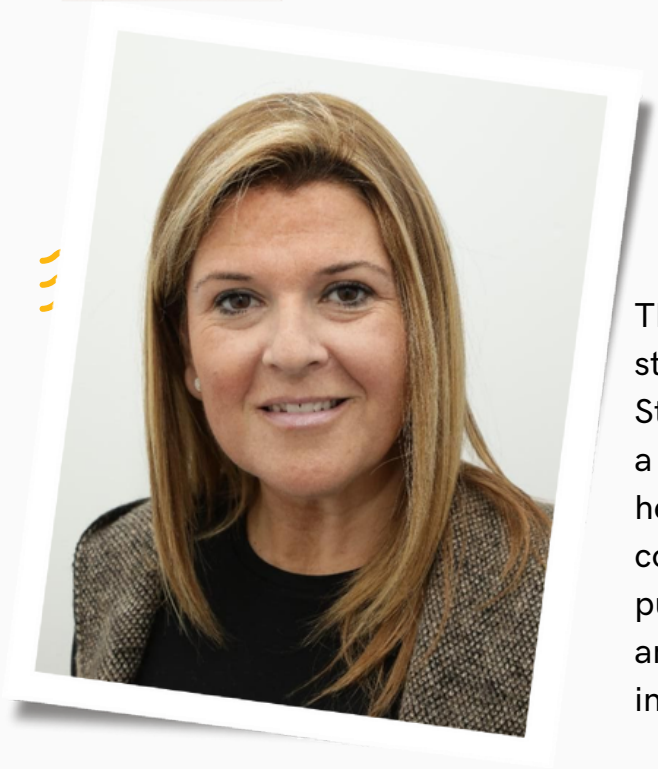
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



SARITTE WOLKENSTEIN

History Teacher

This year, our goal in the Civic Spirit club was to study the history of Jewish immigration to the United States and how it can foster civic spirit by promoting a deeper understanding of the nation's diverse heritage. Our students learn about the challenges and contributions of Jewish immigrants, such as their pursuit of religious freedom, cultural preservation, and the establishment of vibrant communities, including their own.

Jewish immigration is a testament to the multicultural fabric of the United States. By recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Jewish immigrants, our students develop an appreciation for the diverse backgrounds that enrich American society. This cultivates an inclusive and welcoming civic spirit that embraces people from different cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds, even among our array of Jewish students who hail from many different backgrounds.

Since Jewish immigrants often faced discrimination and prejudice upon arrival in the United States, we sought to engage the entire school during our monthly assemblies to learn about their experiences. As a result, students can develop empathy and understanding for the struggles faced by immigrant communities. This understanding can inspire a sense of social justice and encourage students to advocate for equal rights and opportunities for all.

Jewish immigrants and their descendants have significantly contributed to American society in various fields, including science, literature, business, and the arts. Students can explore these contributions and learn about how Jewish communities have positively impacted their local communities and the nation. This knowledge can motivate students to engage with their communities and seek opportunities to make meaningful contributions.

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The students understood that Jewish immigrants and their descendants have actively advocated for social justice, civil rights, and other causes. Learning about these historical and contemporary examples of civic participation can inspire students to engage in their communities, exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and become advocates for positive change.

Our mission as ambassadors for Civic Spirit is exemplified by the fact that we are Yeshiva University's High School for Girls—a culmination and testament to the beauty of the immigrant community and its results here in America.

YUHSG AP Government class celebrating Election Day with a special federalism layer cake.