



Professor Jessica Lang, William Newman Director

Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Engelman Recital Hall, 55 Lexington Avenue

Audience entrance on E. 25th St. between Lexington & 3rd Aves.

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center Presents:

## Chronicle of Return:

# Life Histories of Jews in the GDR (1989/93)

A Film Screening to be followed by Panel Discussion

Made in 1989-90, at a decisive historical moment for Germany and Europe, the film documents the lives of German Jews who left Germany under the Nazi regime and returned to what would become the German Democratic Republic. Exiled in Allied countries (the United States, England, and the Soviet Union), two generations of Jews tell the compelling stories that reveal their complex identities as Germans, Jews and Communists. Above all, they explain their personal reasons for choosing to come back to the Soviet occupied zone that became East Germany. For the postwar Western powers, this country was on the frontline of the “Iron Curtain,” but for these refugees it represented the anti-Fascist alternative to the West. The fall of the Wall on November 9, 1989 and the subsequent unification of Germany on October 3, 1990 seem to be the final chapter in their sagas of exile and return. These monumental historical events reshape again how they understand and define themselves under the unexpected circumstances of a new united Germany.

### Panelists:

**Jeff Peck**, Director, Europe, AKA I Strategy

**Albert Scharenberg**, Co-director, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung's New York office

**Frank Mecklenberg**, Director of Research and Chief Archivist at Leo Baeck Institute

**Kathy Pence**, Associate Professor and Chair, German and Women's History, Baruch College

**Moderated by Jessica Lang**, Associate Professor of English, Director, Wasserman Jewish Studies Center

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