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Talk on City Life in Tel Aviv to Kick-off Exciting Slate of Spring Programs

Sponsored by Rutgers Bildner Center

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Gadi Taub, a celebrated Israeli novelist, historian, cultural critic, and professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will bring his eclectic resume to bear on the talk “Tel Aviv: Between the Margins and the Center of Israeli Society” on Monday, February 3rd at Rutgers University. Taub, who earned his Ph.D. from Rutgers, returns to the New Brunswick campus to explore Tel Aviv culture through the lens of his own best-selling debut novel, *Allenby Street*, which depicts the less familiar, gritty, more neglected parts of society in Tel Aviv. The lecture is the first of numerous public programs this spring sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life on topics such as new ethnic traditions in 21st century Israel and the continuing significance of the Broadway musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. (For the full schedule, visit **BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu**)

The lecture is free and open to the public, and it will take place at 4:00 p.m. in the Douglass Campus Center, 100 George Street in New Brunswick. Free parking is available behind the Campus Center. (For GPS search, use “57 Lipman Drive.”) Advance registration is requested by contacting csjlrsvp@rci.rutgers.edu or 848-932-2033.

Taub, who earned his Ph.D. in American History from Rutgers University, has published fiction, non-fiction, and children’s books. He first exploded onto the Israeli cultural scene in 1997 with the publication of *The Dispirited Rebellion: Essays on Contemporary Israeli Culture*, a strong critique of postmodern relativism and political disillusionment and detachment. A politically-engaged, ardent Zionist, he is also the author of *The Settlers and the Struggle over the Meaning of Zionism*. Taub also writes an op-ed column for Israel’s largest daily, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, appears regularly on Channel 10 TV’s political talk show, and is a frequent contributor to American and European newspapers.

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life connects the university with the community through public lectures, symposia, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training.