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Revival of Ethnic Traditions in Israel Focus of Lecture at Rutgers

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – The rich variety of ethnic traditions in contemporary Israeli culture will be explored on February 20th by Galit Hasan-Rokem, the Max and Margarethe Grunwald Professor Emerita of Folklore at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Bildner Visiting Scholar at Rutgers in the spring 2014 semester. An expert in Jewish folklore and proverbs, Professor Hasan-Rokem will discuss examples from a range of folk cultures, including wedding traditions of Moroccan Jews, Georgian Jewish proverbs, and tales of place names of Israeli Palestinians. The talk is sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University.

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.

Hasan-Rokem has produced a diverse body of work including *Web of Life: Folklore and Midrash in Rabbinic Literature*; *Tales of the Neighborhood: Jewish Narrative Dialogues in Late Antiquity*; and *Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel: Life History, Politics, and Culture*, coedited with Ruth Kark and Margalit Shilo.

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.