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**“SACRED MUSIC HITS THE ISRAELI POP CHARTS”  
PUBLIC LECTURE AT RUTGERS ON FEBRUARY 23**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Sacred music has made its way to the Israeli pop music scene where Israeli rock stars have adapted traditional Middle Eastern religious songs. Performed in sold-out concerts and hitting the top of the Israeli pop charts, these hits are promoting a musical dialogue between tradition and popular culture. Dr. Galeet Dardashti, an anthropologist and lead performer in the New York based music group Divahn, will explore this recent phenomenon, drawing on her own musical background and several years of fieldwork in Israel. She will explore the complexities of cultural and artistic production in Israel today as ethnic identity, politics, and religion converge.

The lecture, “Sacred Music Hits the Israeli Pop Charts: Money, Music, and Identity,” will be held on Monday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Douglass Campus Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. Sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University, the talk is free and open to the public. Free parking is available behind the Campus Center. (For GPS search, use “57 Lipman Drive”) Advance registration is requested by emailing [csjlrvp@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:csjlrvp@rci.rutgers.edu) or calling 848-932-2033. For more information, visit the website [BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu).

Galeet Dardashti, the Bildner Center’s Reitman Visiting Scholar in fall 2014, is a visiting scholar at the Taub Center for Israel Studies at New York University. She has authored numerous essays and articles, including “‘Music of Peace’ at a Time of War: Middle Eastern Music Amidst the Second Intifada,” in *Narratives of Dissent: War in Contemporary Arts and Culture*; and “Jews and Popular Culture in the Twentieth Century: Israel and the Middle East,” in *The Cambridge History of Judaism*, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. She is also an active performer of traditional and original Middle Eastern and Arab Jewish music with her critically acclaimed projects Divahn, The Naming, and Monajat.

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.