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February 1, 2011

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From Sarajevo to Israel: Two Stories

Ilana Shafir's Artistic Journey and the Documentary Film *The Woman from Sarajevo*

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Award-winning Israeli artist and Holocaust survivor Ilana Shafir will reflect on her life and career at a public program on March 7th presented by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University. Shafir will discuss the different periods of her life and draw parallels between her biography and artistic work, beginning in Sarajevo, where she was a hidden child during World War II, and concluding with her newly built mosaic garden in Israel.

Following Shafir's story, there will be a screening of the film *The Woman from Sarajevo* (65 min.). Written and directed by Ella Alterman, this compelling documentary follows the story of a Muslim family that protects Jews in Sarajevo during World War II, and then, fifty years later, is rescued by that same Jewish family during the Bosnian War. For more information about the film, visit: <http://www.ruthfilms.com/films/docs/women-and-gender/the-woman-from-sarajevo.html>

The program will take place at 7:00 p.m. at Brower Commons, 145 College Avenue in New Brunswick. The program is free and open to the public. Advance registration is requested.

Ilana Shafir's artwork has been exhibited internationally and featured in numerous publications. She is a founding board member of the International Association of Contemporary Mosaic Artists and a member of the Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA). At the age of eighty-six, Shafir still travels annually to the United States to participate in conferences. She is the founding director of the Ashkelon Art Center, a flourishing art institute for the residents of Ashkelon, where she has lived since 1951. In recognition of her

contributions to her community, she was named Honored Citizen of Ashkelon. In addition, her mosaic "Gate of The Souls" received the *Curator's Choice Award* at the inaugural exhibition of SAMA in 2002. Another mosaic, "In the Deep," was recognized as the *Best Large Scale Contemporary Work* at the SAMA exhibition in 2005.

For more information on the Bildner Center's programs, visit jewishstudies.rutgers.edu. To RSVP, email csjlrsvp@rci.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-2033. 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.