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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**“Great Minds Visit Rutgers”:**

**Jonathan D. Sarna Delivers Lecture on Ulysses S. Grant and the Jews on Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – The eminent American historian Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University) will shed light on Ulysses S. Grant, one of America’s most enigmatic presidents, when he delivers the lecture “That Obnoxious Order: Ulysses S. Grant and the Jews” on February 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Sarna will explore General Grant’s wartime relationship with the Jewish community – when he issued the most notorious anti-Jewish official order in American history expelling “Jews as a class” from his war zone. Grant’s civil war experience helped to shape his relationship with the Jewish community when he became president. Surprisingly, Grant did more for Jews than any president had done before.

The lecture, the Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program, will be held in Trayes Hall, Douglass Campus Center, located at 100 George Street in New Brunswick, and is 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. Advance registration is requested by contacting csjlrsvp@rci.rutgers.edu or 732-932-2033. Free parking is available.

Sarna, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History and chair of the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University, is an award-winning author or editor of more than thirty books on American Jewish history. He is chair of the academic advisory and editorial board of the American Jewish Archives and chief historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History, which opened last year in Philadelphia. He writes the “Now and Then” column for the Jewish *Forward*. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy for Jewish Research. His book *When General Grant Expelled the Jews*, due to be released in March, will be on sale at the event.

For more information on the Bildner Center’s programs, visit [jewishstudies.rutgers.edu](http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu). 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.