

Contact: Darcy Maher, 732-729-9877; Email: dbmbildner@comcast.net

August 22, 2016 / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Uncovering American Jewish Life: 1766, 1866, and 1966”
Public Program to Commemorate Rutgers 250 on September 25**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Jewish life in America will be explored on key dates tied to the founding of Rutgers at a special panel program presented as part of the Rutgers 250 commemoration.

Laura Arnold Leibman (Reed College) will look at a rare letter from Hannah Lousada of New Brunswick, circa 1766, which helps to reshape our understanding of women’s place in early Jewish communities. Annie Polland (Lower East Side Tenement Museum) will focus on two Prussian Jewish immigrants in 1866 who, like many immigrants, required financial assistance and were on the ledger of United Hebrew Charities. Tony Michels (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will look at the Velvet Underground’s first album in 1966, and how the life of its leader, Lou Reed, reveals a wider story of Jews and the cultural avant-garde in 20th century America. The panel will be moderated by Jeffrey Shandler, chair of the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers.

The program, “Uncovering American Jewish Life: 1766, 1866, and 1966,” will be held on Sunday, September 25, at 3:00 p.m., at the Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. The program is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, the panel is the annual Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program. Free parking is available behind the Student Center. (For GPS search, use “57 Lipman Drive”) Advance registration is requested by emailing csjlrvp@rci.rutgers.edu or calling 848-932-2033. For more information, visit the website BildnerCenter.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.

RUTGERS