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**The Story of the Jews of Salonica:
Public Lecture at Rutgers on October 15**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Known as the "Jerusalem of the Balkans," the Mediterranean port city of Salonica (Thessaloniki) was once home to the largest Sephardic Jewish community in the world. In 1912, the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the city's incorporation into Greece caused a major upheaval that compelled Salonica's Jews to forge a new place for themselves in Greek society. Devin E. Naar, Isaac Alhadeff Professor of Sephardic Studies at the University of Washington, recently published the first book to tell the story of this tumultuous transition through the voices and perspectives of Salonican Jews. On Sunday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m., Professor Naar will return to his native New Brunswick to discuss his new book, *Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece*, winner of the 2016 National Jewish Book Award for Archival Research.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will be held at Rutgers' Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. Free parking is available behind the Student Center. (For GPS search, use "57 Lipman Drive.") Advance registration is requested by emailing rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu, calling 848-932-2033, or on the Bildner Center's website. For more information, visit the website BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu. Sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, the talk is the annual Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program and is cosponsored by the Rutgers Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA Centers).

Naar is an associate professor of Jewish studies and history and the director of the Sephardic Studies Program at the University of Washington. He has spearheaded a project to collect, preserve, and disseminate the rich Sephardic and Ladino historical, literary, and cultural heritage in the first major online Sephardic Studies Digital Library and Archive.

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.

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