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**Truth is Stranger than Fiction - Bizarre Tales from the Yiddish Press
Public Talk at Rutgers on March 19**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – On March 19, Dr. Eddy Portnoy will give a talk at Rutgers based on his new book, *Bad Rabbi: And Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press*. An alternative history of downwardly mobile Jews, the book exposes the seamy underbelly of pre-World War II New York and Warsaw, the two major centers of Yiddish culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The talk is sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, and is the annual Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program funded by the Karma Foundation.

Featuring true stories of the misadventures of Jewish drunks, thieves, murderers, wrestlers, beauty queens, and more, all plucked from the pages of the Yiddish dailies, this irreverent and frequently hilarious book provides a window into an unknown Yiddish world. An expert on Jewish popular culture, Yiddish, and Jewish humor, Dr. Portnoy is academic advisor for the Max Weinreich Center and exhibition curator at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

The lecture, “The Bizarre Tales of Yiddishland: What the Yiddish Press Reveals about the Jews,” is free and open to the public and will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. Free parking is available behind the Student Center. (For GPS search, use “57 Lipman Drive.”) The book will be available for purchase at the event.

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.

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.