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Panel examines Paul Robeson's ties to the Jewish community, left-wing political movements, and the Soviet Union in the 1940s

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – On October 6, four leading historians will explore Paul Robeson's connections to the Jewish community, left-wing political movements, and the Soviet Union in the 1940s at a panel discussion held on the Rutgers-New Brunswick Campus. Robeson, a Communist, was active in building a popular anti-fascist movement among Jews and an alliance between American Jews and African Americans. He contributed to this effort through his songs in Yiddish and Hebrew and his endorsement of Jewish causes, including support for the modern state of Israel. Robeson's defense of the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War, the subjugation of Eastern Europe, and the crushing of Soviet Jewish culture challenges the legacy of his commitment to universal human rights.

The panelists are: Program Moderator **David Greenberg**, Professor of history and journalism and media studies, Rutgers University; **Tony Michels**, George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History, the University of Wisconsin-Madison; **Ronald Radosh**, Professor emeritus of history, the City University of New York; and **Jennifer Young**, a public historian and former director of education for the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

The program, "Paul Robeson, 'Negro-Jewish Unity,' and the 'Jewish People's Movement' in the 1940s: Legacy and Challenges" will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. The event is free and open to the public and free parking is available on campus with vehicle registration. Sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, the event, funded by Leon and Toby Cooperman, is the Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program and is cosponsored by the Paul Robeson Centennial Celebration at Rutgers. Advance registration is requested; email rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu or register online on the Bildner Center 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.

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