

Contact: Darcy Maher, 732-406-6584; Email: [dbmbildner@comcast.net](mailto:dbmbildner@comcast.net)  
March 3, 2020 / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Jerusalem's Cultural Diversity Revealed through Hidden Libraries and Rare Manuscripts  
March 29, Rutgers-New Brunswick**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – What might it look like to imagine Jerusalem— known as a city of peoples of diverse faiths and cultures—as a city of the book? On March 29, a distinguished panel will tell the story of this extraordinary place, where some of the Western world's most enduring ideas were developed, through its historic Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Armenian literary treasures.

Benjamin Balint, coauthor of *Jerusalem: City of the Book*, will discuss unusual caretakers of Jewish library collections; Father Columba Stewart, executive director of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, will talk about rare early Christian and Islamic manuscripts; and Bedross Der Matossian, associate director of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and president of the Society for Armenian Studies, will explore literary treasures of Armenian Jerusalem. The panel will also address how libraries and archives continue to play a critical role in preserving history and culture, and will showcase current efforts to digitize and preserve endangered documents.

Presented by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers, the program is free and open to the public. It will take place at 4:00 p.m. at the Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. The event is the Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program, and it is cosponsored by the Rutgers–New Brunswick Libraries and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Advance registration is requested; email [rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu](mailto:rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu) or register online on the Bildner Center website: [BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu). Free parking is available on campus with online vehicle registration through the Bildner Center website.

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