

Contact: Darcy Maher, 732-406-6584; Email: [dbmbildner@comcast.net](mailto:dbmbildner@comcast.net)  
October 5, 2020 / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Jerusalem’s Cultural Diversity Revealed through Hidden Libraries and Rare Manuscripts  
“Jerusalem: City of the Book,” Online Panel Discussion, October 25**

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 October 25 at 2:00 p.m., 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 at Saint John’s University, will talk about rare early Christian and Islamic manuscripts; and Bedross Der Matossian, associate professor of history 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, this online program is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required on the Bildner Center website: [BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu). 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.

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.