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**Antisemitism in the Heartland: Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights
Public Talk at Rutgers, Oct. 16**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Following the death of George Floyd in 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota, gained international notoriety for its recent history of anti-Black violence and extreme racial disparities. Yet, back in the mid-1940s, a young, trailblazing Hubert Humphrey made significant progress in dismantling virulent antisemitism and anti-Black racism as mayor of the city. With great moral and political courage, he led the way to making Minneapolis a national model for civil rights, long before, as Lyndon Johnson’s vice president, he helped to push through the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts of the mid-1960s. Raised in a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant enclave in South Dakota, there was no intrinsic reason for Humphrey to devote so much of his public life to battling racial and religious discrimination. Yet, he did.

Though little remains of Humphrey’s legacy in Minneapolis, his remarkable story is important and instructive for current social and political challenges, according to award-winning author and journalist Samuel G. Freedman (Columbia University), who will discuss his new book, *Into the Bright Sunshine: Young Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2023). Free and open to the public, “Antisemitism in the Heartland: Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights” will be held on Monday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m., at the Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. The lecture is presented by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University and cosponsored by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Advance registration is required at **BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu**. Free campus parking is available.

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life connects Rutgers University with the community through public lectures, symposia, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training in Holocaust education.