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**X-Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War II
In-Person Public Talk, December 9**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – In June 1942, Winston Churchill and his chief of staff devised an unusual plan: the creation of a new commando unit made up of Jewish refugees in the United Kingdom. Called “X Troop,” the unit was made up of a motley group of intellectuals, artists, and athletes from Germany and Austria. Many had lost their families and homes and would stop at nothing to defeat the Nazis.

This top-secret unit is the subject of Dr. Leah Garrett’s in-person talk at Rutgers–New Brunswick on Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. Free and open to the public, the talk is based on her new book, *X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War II*. Drawing on extensive original research, including interviews with the last surviving members, Garrett follows this unique band of brothers from Germany to England and back again, with stops at British internment camps, the beaches of Normandy, and the hellscape of Terezin concentration camp—the scene of one of the most dramatic, untold rescues of the war.

The talk is sponsored by the **Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life** at Rutgers University and will be held at the Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. All guests attending the event must be fully vaccinated and wear face coverings. Advance registration is required online at **BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu**. The first forty people in attendance at the event will receive a free copy of Garrett’s book. Funding for the lecture is provided by Leon and Toby Cooperman through the Raoul Wallenberg Endowed Program Fund.

Leah Garrett is the director of the Jewish Studies Center and director of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Hunter College, CUNY. She has published four books, most recently *Young Lions: How Jewish Authors Reinvented the American War Novel*, winner of the 2017 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award for modern Jewish history and a National Jewish Book Award finalist.



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.