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**Introducing a New Online Exhibit: “Jewish Agriculturalism in the Garden State”
Virtual Public Talk, October 21**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers is pleased to announce the launch of a new online exhibit that tells the little-known story of New Jersey’s Jewish farming legacy. Bildner Visiting Scholar Jonathan Dekel-Chen developed the exhibit as part of his contribution to intellectual life at Rutgers and furthering the Bildner Center’s community connections and outreach.

Farming defies the traditional image of American-Jewish success, but the Jewish farmer played an important role in the American Jewish immigrant experience. Fleeing violence and oppression, many Jewish immigrants chose New Jersey farm life, despite its challenges, over suffocating urban tenements. The rural setting often offered more rapid assimilation into American life than isolated and insular city neighborhoods.

In addition to historical photos and descriptions, the exhibit features interviews, on-location videos, and music inspired by Jewish rural life. Oral histories are planned as a future addition. The exhibit is meant to begin conversations, as many Jewish New Jerseyans have a connection to this history, even if they are not aware of it. The hope is that the exhibit will help people discover and share their own family history.

Join us for the launch of this new exhibit, “Jewish Agriculturalism in the Garden State,” on Thursday, October 21, at 1:00 p.m. on the Zoom platform. Free and open to the public, the event is sponsored by the Bildner Center. Advance registration is required at **BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu**.

Jonathan Dekel-Chen, Rabbi Edward Sandrow Chair in Soviet & East European Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will continue to serve as the Allen and Joan Bildner Visiting Scholar through June 2022.

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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