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**Yiddish: Biography of a Language  
Dr. Jeffrey Shandler Discusses his New Book, April 12**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – The most widely spoken Jewish language on the eve of the Holocaust, Yiddish continues to play an important, vibrant, and evolving role in Jewish life--from Hasidim for whom it is a language of daily life, to avant-garde performers, political activists, and LGBTQ writers who turn to it for inspiration. **Jeffrey Shandler**, Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, tells the story of this centuries-old language—the defining vernacular of Ashkenazi Jews--in the unusual form of a biographical profile in his new book *Yiddish: Biography of a Language* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

In conversation with literary scholar **Josh Lambert**, Wellesley College, Shandler will discuss how this approach to telling the story of Yiddish offers insights into the dynamic relationship of the language with its speakers and their culture. Together, Shandler and Lambert will explore the wide range of symbolic values that Yiddish speakers and others have invested in the language over the centuries.

This online event will be held April 12 at 4:30 p.m. on the Zoom platform. Free and open to the public, it is presented by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University. Advance registration is required at [BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu).

Dr. Jeffrey Shandler, a scholar of modern and contemporary Jewish culture, has written, edited, or translated sixteen books. He has served as president of the Association for Jewish Studies and is a fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research.

Dr. Josh Lambert is the Sophia Moses Robison Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and English, and director of the Jewish Studies Program at Wellesley College. He is the author of *American Jewish Fiction: A JPS Guide* and *Unclean Lips: Obscenity, Jews, and American Culture*, and co-editor of *How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish*.

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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