Bukharan Jews: Memories of a Disappearing Past

Thursday, September 27, 2018
6:00—8:00pm
Rita Anne Rollins Building, Room 252
Candler School of Theology
Emory University

Bukharan Jews have occupied various Central Asian cities, towns, and villages for centuries. Some say they arrived at the end of the Babylonian exile, when Cyrus the Great gave the Jews permission to return to Palestine, after his conquest of Babylonia in 538 B.C.E. Other accounts trace Jewish emigration to Central Asia up to the 20th century, with constant assimilation of new waves of Jewish immigration. Whatever their provenance, Bukharan Jews have been deeply ensconced in the region for centuries, where they have played a significant part in the development of Central Asian civilization.

This documentary film presents interviews with six elderly Bukharan Jews, some still residing in Bukhara, Uzbekistan and some now living in New York City. They share memories of their childhood in Bukhara, descriptions of their religious traditions, and stories of living with Muslim neighbors. The film aims to promote the preservation of the Bukharan Jewish culture and the language known as Bukhori.

Rahimjon Abdugafurov, PhD candidate at Emory University and documentary filmmaker will be available for discussion after the film.

Additional Co-Sponsors:
- Tam Institute for Jewish Studies
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- Leadership and Multifaith Program, Candler School of Theology and Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
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