

## FALL EXHIBIT AT HEBREW UNION COLLEGE BASED ON *FIGRELLO'S SISTER: GEMMA LA GUARDIA GLUCK'S STORY*

### RED FERN THEATRE COMPANY'S DELBO PLAY PARTNERS WITH INSTITUTE

#### GEMMA LA GUARDIA GLUCK EXHIBIT AND EVENT AT HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

*Fiorello's Sister: Gemma La Guardia Gluck's Story*, a new expanded edition of the memoir by the sister of beloved New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, edited by Rochelle G. Sidel, is the subject of an exhibit at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1 West Fourth Street, New York, NY. Guest curator is Dr. Sidel, in cooperation with Laura Kruger and Jean Bloch Rosensaft. The exhibit runs from October to January 25, with a reception and public program on December 12 at 5:30 p.m. The program features a conversation with Dr. Sidel, discussing La Guardia family history and Jewish roots, as well as Gemma's experiences during the Holocaust in Hungary, as a political hostage in Ravensbrück concentration camp, and as a displaced person in Berlin.

The exhibit uses photographs and documents from the new 2007 edition of Gemma's memoir, edited by Dr. Sidel, which incorporates the 1961 memoir entitled *My Story*, edited by S. L. Shneiderman. Remember the Women Institute cooperated with Syracuse University Press to publish the book, with grants from the Five Millers Family Foundation, and the Fiorello H. LaGuardia Foundation.

This new edition includes formerly unpublished photographs, as well as Nazi documents and letters between Gemma and Fiorello. This edition is annotated, with a new prologue and epilogue.

#### RED FERN THEATRE COMPANY PARTNERS WITH REMEMBER THE WOMEN INSTITUTE FOR CHARLOTTE DELBO PLAY

*Who Will Carry the Word* by Auschwitz and Ravensbrück French political prisoner Charlotte Delbo, directed by Melanie Moyer Williams, will be presented by Red Fern on February 21 - March 2, 2008 at Center Stage, 48 West 21st Street, New York City. Remember the Women Institute is

honored that Red Fern co-founders Emilie E. Miller and Melanie Moyer Williams chose the Institute as their partner. A special "talk back" session will follow the March 1 performance. For tickets and more information, see <http://www.redferntheatre.org>.

#### HEBREW EDITION OF *THE JEWISH WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK CONCENTRATION CAMP* LAUNCHED IN ISRAEL IN OCTOBER

October 31, 2007 marked the official date for the publication of the Hebrew edition of *The Jewish Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp* by Rochelle G. Sidel. The book, elegantly translated by Avri Fischer, is the first in Hebrew on this subject. Published by Beyahad, the publishing division of Beit

Lohamei Haghetat (The Ghetto Fighters' House and Museum), the book is being distributed by Yad Vashem.

The foreword is by Professor Dalia Ofer, Max and Rita Haber Professor of Holocaust and Eastern European Studies,

Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The book launch, co-sponsored by

Remember the Women

Institute, was a feature of the conference **Women and the Holocaust: Childhood and Youth under the Third Reich – A Gender Perspective**, held in Israel.

The publication of the book was made possible by generous grants to Beit Lohamei Haghetat by Lili Haber, Naomi Asai, the Crakowian Association in Israel and Moshe Borger; and to Remember the Women Institute by the Five Millers Family Foundation, the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, and the S. H. and Helen R. Scheuer Family Foundation.

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**WATCH FOR A FORTHCOMING DOCUMENTARY ON RAVENSBRÜCK AND SACHSENHAUSEN BY ROSEMARIE REED, WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERVIEW WITH ROCHELLE G. SAIDEL.**  
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*October 2007 – January 2008 exhibit at Hebrew Union College-New York about Gemma La Guardia Gluck—sister of Mayor Fiorello La Guardia and a survivor of Ravensbrück.*  
**RECEPTION AND PUBLIC PROGRAM, DECEMBER 12, 2007, WEDNESDAY AT 5:30 PM.**

**REMEMBER THE WOMEN INSTITUTE is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, registered in the State of New York. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the address below, and inquiries are welcome.**

**Dr. Rochelle G. Sidel, Founder and Executive Director**  
**Eleven Riverside Drive - Suite 3RE, New York, NY 10023**

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**[www.rememberwomen.org](http://www.rememberwomen.org)**

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**REMEMBER THE WOMEN INSTITUTE CONDUCTS AND ENCOURAGES RESEARCH  
AND ACTIVITIES THAT HELP TO INTEGRATE WOMEN INTO HISTORY**

**RESEARCH AND CULTURAL INTERESTS OF THE INSTITUTE**

- *How the lessons of the Holocaust apply to women in the present and future*
- *Sexual abuse of women during the Holocaust and other genocides*
- *The effect of politics on memorialization of women in the Holocaust*
- *Women in Ravensbrück and other Nazi concentration camps*
- *Women in ghettos, resistance, and partisan groups*
- *Relationships between sexism, antisemitism, and racism*
- *Women and genocide*
- *Women and migration*
- *Women and immigration*
- *Women and displacement*
- *Women in science and technology*
- *Women in inter-religious dialogue*
- *Women in religious worship*
- *Women in Jewish history*
- *Women in the university*
- *Marginalized women*

Special emphasis is on women in the context of the Holocaust and its aftermath, including post-World War II immigration. Other topics include women marginalized within the Jewish religion and inter-religious dialogue, as well as the accomplishments and exclusion of women in Jewish and general history, the effects of genocide on women, exploitation of women, and the effects of culture on memorialization.

Through this research and related activities, the stories of women—from their own point of view—will be available for integration into history and collective memory.

The work of the Institute is intended to influence academic research and publications, as well as popular culture, by encouraging the inclusion of all of humanity in historical and commemorative representations. Such academic fields as History, Holocaust Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Women's Studies, Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies can benefit from the Institute's contributions. The Institute's work is available to enrich future films, theater, museum exhibits, and other cultural products. (For more information, see [www.rememberwomen.org](http://www.rememberwomen.org).)

***We are pleased to announce that Dr. Sonja M. Hedgepeth has joined the Executive Board of Remember the Women Institute and Dr. Insa Eschebach has joined the Advisory Board.***

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**THE JEWISH WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK CONCENTRATION CAMP NOW IN PAPERBACK  
NEW ISRAELI EDITION LAUNCHED IN FALL 2007 – BRAZILIAN EDITION TO FOLLOW**

Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel's critically acclaimed book, *The Jewish Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp*, was published in October 2007 in Hebrew by the Ghetto Fighters' Museum in Israel. A Portuguese edition by the University of São Paulo Press, Brazil will follow. The book was released as a paperback by University of Wisconsin Press in English in 2006. The hardcover edition, published by University of Wisconsin Press in cooperation with Remember the Women Institute, was a 2004 National Jewish Books Awards Finalist in the Holocaust Studies and Barbara Dobkin Women's Studies categories. This is the first book in English, Hebrew and Portuguese on this subject. Ravensbrück was the Nazis' major concentration camp for women. Some 132,000 women from more than 40 countries were imprisoned there—political prisoners, Jehovah's Witnesses, "asocials" (Gypsies, prostitutes, and lesbians), criminals, POWs, and Jewish women (some 20 percent of the population).

Dr. Saidel first visited the Ravensbrück memorial in 1980, and worked for more than twenty years to track down information on the camp's Jewish victims. Drawing upon interviews with and unpublished testimonies from more than sixty survivors, as well as documents, oral histories, and photographs from private and public archives, the book provides vivid collective and individual portraits of Ravensbrück's Jewish women prisoners. Set in the context of all of the camp's female victims, testimonies of the Jewish women provide new perspectives about Ravensbrück and its many slave labor satellite camps. The book includes accounts of the women's lives before the Holocaust, their daily struggles to stay alive in the camp, gender issues specific to women, and the survivors' lives in the aftermath of their experiences. This thoroughly documented book reclaims and restores the lost voices of the victims and the survivors.

See [www.rememberwomen.org](http://www.rememberwomen.org) for photos and details about the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ravensbrück.

**HISTORY OF JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MIELEC, POLAND PROJECT MOVES FORWARD**

"The Untold Story of Mielec, Poland," a project that included a Research Fellowship at the Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Research during the Fall 2006 semester for Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel, is moving forward. New research was carried out in Mielec in May, 2007 and a preliminary report was presented at Yad Vashem on June 27. Like hundreds of other shtetls and small towns in Poland, the Mielec Jewish community was destroyed during the Holocaust. The entire population was murdered, sent to slave labor or deported en masse to the Lublin District on March 9, 1942. The deportees were mostly women and children. Mielec is unique because this was the first town in the Generalgouvernement that had its Jewish population deported in the context of the

Final Solution. The decision to do so was made very early, in January 1942, but they were not murdered immediately. Nevertheless, histories of the Holocaust barely or never mention Mielec. A survivor living in Jerusalem, Moshe Borger, has rare documentation about Mielec before, during, and after the Holocaust. He was hidden near Mielec with the help of a school friend's family. However, his sisters, Sarah and Zipporah, were deported and murdered. This study will include information about Moshe and his sisters, as well as a wealth of testimonies from the Yad Vashem archives and elsewhere. A related project, planned for the future by Remember the Women Institute, will create an exhibit about Moshe Borger and his sisters, using his photographs and artifacts. Dr. Nancy Ordway is the co-coordinator of this project.

► **SEXUAL ABUSE DURING HOLOCAUST ADDRESSED AT FALL CONFERENCES** ◀  
**“Forced Prostitution and War in the 20th and the beginning of the 21st Century”**

**Ravensbrück Women's Concentration Camp Memorial, Germany, September 3-7, 2007**

Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth, Middle Tennessee State University, represented Remember the Women Institute at a conference at the Ravensbrück women's concentration camp memorial's Summer University Ravensbrück. The topic of the conference was “Forced Prostitution and War in the 20th and the beginning of the 21st Century.” Under the patronage of the Minister of Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg, Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, the sessions reflected the theme of an exhibition, “Forced Sex Labour in Nazi Concentration Camps,” shown at the Ravensbrück Memorial until September 30, 2007. Dr. Insa Eschebach, a member of the Advisory Board of Remember the Women Institute, is director of the memorial. This conference questioned the relationship between sexual violence and war. Forced prostitution in Nazi concentration camps and in the territories occupied by Japan during World War II were also addressed, as well as legal issues in the international framework.

**“Childhood and Youth under the Third Reich – A Gender Perspective”**

**The Fourth International Conference on Women and the Holocaust, October 29-31, 2007**

**Beit Berl Academic College, Beit Terezin and Beit Lohamei Haghetat, Israel**

As part of this conference, the morning of October 31 was the official launch for the publication of the Hebrew edition of *The Jewish Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp* by Rochelle G. Saidel. The session featured remarks by Dr. Saidel about children in Ravensbrück, as well as by one of those children who now lives in Israel. The conference included papers by scholars and survivors from Israel, Europe, and the United States, focusing on a wide variety of subjects that included sexual abuse. Dr. Batya Brutin of Beit Berl Academic College, a member of the Advisory Board of Remember the Women Institute, was chair of the conference.

**“Questions of Memory and Conscience,” November 8-10, 2007**

**Holocaust Conference at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN**

At the eighth bi-annual Holocaust Studies Conference at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), a special ground-breaking session entitled “Sexual Coercion of Women During the Holocaust” took place on November 9, organized by Remember the Women Institute. Featured presentations were: “Silenced by Death, Silenced by Shame: Sexual Abuse in the Ghetto” by Helene J. Sinnreich, Ph.D., Director, Judaic and Holocaust Studies, Youngstown State University; and “Gendered Violence: Rape in the Nazi-occupied East” by Monika Flaschka, Doctoral candidate, Modern European History, Kent State University and Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellow for Archival Research, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2007. Moderator was Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel. Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth, MTSU, and executive board member of Remember the Women Institute, reported on the conference on forced prostitution, held in September at the Ravensbrück concentration camp memorial. Dr. Nancy Rupprecht of MTSU, a member of the Advisory Board of Remember the Women Institute, was conference chair

**Because of the difficulty of obtaining information from the victims, and the sensitivity of the subject, sexual abuse of women during the Holocaust has not yet received the academic attention that it deserves. Remember the Women Institute is organizing an anthology of work on this subject, co-edited by Dr. Hedgepeth and Dr. Saidel. For more information, please contact [info@rememberwomen.org](mailto:info@rememberwomen.org).**

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**Fall 2007 Lectures by Rochelle G. Saidel, Institute Director**

November 7, St. Louis, MO, St. Louis Jewish Book Festival and Washington University in St. Louis  
November 14, 2007, Holocaust Museum and Study Center, Spring Valley, NY

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**CROSSING BORDERS: TRAFFICKING WOMEN FROM THE 1880'S TO TODAY**

“Crossing Borders: Trafficking Women from the 1880's to Today” is a project proposal to create a film about the history, social structure, and lives of the Jewish prostitutes known as Polacas. The so-called Polacas emigrated from Europe beginning in the late nineteenth century and became prostitutes, generally controlled by a multinational crime syndicate called Zwi Migdal until the 1930's. The project highlights the “Polacas” in Brazil and their desire to maintain religious identity within a community that shunned them. It includes a section on trafficking of women today. The project is planned in cooperation with Suzanna Sassoun, internationally known art consultant and exhibit organizer, and NEMGE - Center for Study of Women and Gender, University of São Paulo.

**▲ WOMEN OF RAVENSBRÜCK – PORTRAITS OF COURAGE, ART BY JULIA TERWILLIGER ▲**  
**Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel, Curator, The Remember the Women Institute**  
**Exhibit Rental Inquiries: Erin Blankenship, FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**  
**55 Fifth Street So., St. Petersburg, FL 33701 . Tel. (727) 820-0100 - [info@filholocaustmuseum.org](mailto:info@filholocaustmuseum.org)**

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**ACTIVITIES SERVING THE INSTITUTE'S PURPOSE OF INTEGRATING WOMEN INTO HISTORY**

- Conducting and sponsoring related research that is initiated by independent scholars.
  - Writing books, publishing a newsletter, and producing audiovisuals.
  - Translating relevant documents and women's memoirs from other languages.
  - Organizing lectures and seminars.
  - Providing academic support to artistic, cultural, and historical projects.
  - Making books and other products available for educational purposes.
  - Maintaining and updating an Internet web site, [www.rememberwomen.org](http://www.rememberwomen.org).
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**Officers**

President and Executive Director: Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel  
Vice President-Treasurer: Dr. Guilherme Ary Plonski  
Member of the Board: Dr. Sonja M. Hedgepeth

*Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel, the founder and president of The Remember the Women Institute, supervises all research and cultural projects carried out under its auspices. She is also a senior researcher at The Center for the Study of Women and Gender at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. She was a research fellow at Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research for Fall 2006, and has been an Associated Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Women and Society at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and Distinguished Visiting Scholar at The Philadelphia Center on the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the Graduate Center of City University, and is the author of The Jewish Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp (University of Wisconsin Press), Never Too Late to Remember: The Politics Behind New York City's Holocaust Museum (Holmes & Meier) and The Outraged Conscience: Seekers of Justice for Nazi War Criminals in America (SUNY Press). She is the editor of Fiorello's Sister: Gemma La Guardia Gluck's Story (Syracuse University Press, 2007). The first woman member of the National Commission for Catholic-Jewish Religious Dialogue in Brazil, she has researched, lectured, and written extensively on subjects related to the purposes of the Institute.*

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**Funding**

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**Please send tax deductible contributions to support Remember the Women Institute's work to:**  
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