Women’s eNews Honors 21 Challengers of Cultural Narratives

NEW YORK (WOMENSENEWS) Feb. 26, 2015—Women’s eNews is proud to announce that Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel, the founder and executive director of the New York City-based nonprofit Remember the Women Institute, will be honored at the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century 2015 on Tuesday, May 5, at the JW Marriott Essex House in New York City. Saidel and 20 other leaders were chosen for their local, national, and global impact on the lives of women and girls.

Dr. Saidel is committed to giving Jewish women their place in Holocaust history. Women have been written out of history in general, she said, and the Holocaust is no exception. Some feminist Holocaust scholars began asserting in the 1980s that the particular experiences of women should be included in the memory of that genocide.

"When some of us began to talk about it," Saidel said, "we were often seen as interfering with the trajectory of the story of the mass murder of 6 million Jews."

Saidel wrote her first book in 1984 on Nazi war criminals in the United States. She is also co-editor of a groundbreaking 2010 book, "Sexual Violence against Jewish Women during the Holocaust." She authored two other books on the Holocaust and edited the memoir of Mayor Fiorello La Guardia's sister, a Ravensbrück internee. With a Ph.D. in political science, she has explored the subject of women and the Holocaust by curating exhibitions, lecturing internationally and publishing numerous articles.

"Not only women's suffering, but cases of women's heroism get left out," Saidel said.

Saidel's work is carried out through the multifaceted efforts of the Remember the Women Institute, which since 1997 has been conducting research and organizing events, seminars, panels and lectures. The institute maintains a website, and has encouraged and worked with artists, filmmakers, students and theater projects that integrate women into Holocaust history. While seeking to locate victims of sexual violation during the Holocaust who are willing to offer testimony, the institute also cooperates with those dealing with violence against women during other genocides.

For the full biography of Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel, and other honorees, please go to: http://womensenews.org/21leaders

All 21 honorees and their categories:

**Seven Who Interrupt Legacy Narratives**

**Brenda E. Stevenson:** Los Angeles' Challenger of the Accepted History  
**Dr. Nina Ansary:** Los Angeles' Unearther of Unexpected Consequence  
**Dana Bolger:** D.C.'s Campus Rape Survivor Turned Title IX Activist  
**Sharon D'Agostino:** New Jersey's Texter-in-chief For Saving Lives of Pregnant Women
Dorothy Davis: Transcontinental Developer of African Economic Justice
Dianne Dillon-Ridgley: Iowa's Ceaseless Traveler for Mother Earth
Karen Elizaga: Hawai'i's Welcomer of New Arrivals

Seven Who Transform Cultures

Dr. Julie R. Enszer: Michigan's Circulator of Lesbian Poetry
Mary Fisher: Michigan's Uniter of Women with HIV/AIDS
Preston McMurry, Jr.: Arizona's Online Promoter of Women's Safety
Geeta Mehta: India's Distributor of New Forms of Wealth
Kathy Miller: Texas Campaigner for Women's Reproductive Health
Graciela De Oto: Argentina's Broadcaster of Equality
Ai-jen Poo: Taiwan's Strength Trainer for the Lowest Paid

Seven Who Give Life to Movements

Jyothi Gaddam-Pulla: Portland's Nurturer of Girls and STEM
Sally Roesch Wagner: South Dakota's Reincarnator of Suffragists
Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel: New York's Detector of Jewish Women's History
Susan Scanlan: Washington's Motherer of 300 Activists
Marcy Syms: New York's Instigator for Taking Our Rights
Debbie Walsh: New Jersey's Documenter of Our Access to Political Power
Lizz Winstead: Minnesota's Nationwide Mocker of Anti-Choice Politicians

Women's eNews is a daily, nonprofit news organization producing original content for multiple platforms. Launched in 2000, Women's eNews has won 40 journalism awards and is one of the top three U.S. nonprofit news sites.

To schedule broadcast interviews or for more information about the Women's eNews 21 Leaders 2015, please contact Meagan Lee Butler at (212) 244-1720 or via e-mail at meagan@womensenews.org.