

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***LETTERS TO SALA: A YOUNG WOMAN'S LIFE IN NAZI LABOR CAMPS***  
**ON DISPLAY THROUGH NOVEMBER 29, 2011 ON THE EASTERN CAMPUS OF**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Riverhead, NY –In conjunction with The Suffolk Center on The Holocaust, Diversity, and Human Understanding, the Lyceum Gallery, located in the Montaukett Learning Resource Center on the College's Eastern Campus in Riverhead, is presenting *Letters to Sala: a Young Woman's Life in Nazi Labor Camps*. The exhibit will run through November 29, 2011.

A reception, open to the general public, will take place on Thursday, November 17 at 5:00 p.m. with a program to follow at 6:00 p.m. The speakers will be Dr. Jill Vexler, Exhibit Curator, and Dr. Ann Kirschner, Author of *Sala's Gift* and daughter of Sala Garnarcz Kirschner.

For most of her life, Sala Garnarcz Kirschner shielded her children from her Holocaust years and never talked about her Polish Jewish family's experiences during World War II. In 1991, Sala gave her daughter, Ann, a worn leather portfolio, saying, "These are my letters from the war." It contained over 300 letters, photographs, and scraps of paper - Polish, German, and Yiddish writing, some barely legible, some written in beautiful calligraphy, covered with stamp-sized "Hitlers" and thick "Z" stamps.

Sala had been taken from her home when she was 16 and survived five years in seven different Nazi forced labor camps. The letters she saved were from people she loved, friends and family waiting for her return. She risked her life to preserve the letters, hiding them, throwing them under a building, even burying them. She always managed to take them with her from camp to camp.

This exhibit provides a remarkable first-hand view of the human drama that unfolded among Jewish victims forced to work as slave laborers. From Sala's letters, we learn about friendship and love, Jewish life in occupied Poland, Nazi labor camps, the intense human need to rebuild life after the catastrophe of war, and the ability of words to give and sustain life.

This traveling exhibition was inspired by *Letters to Sala: A Young Woman's Life in Nazi Labor Camps*, presented at The New York Public Library in 2006. Support has been provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the French Children of the Holocaust Foundation, The David Berg Foundation, and by the Robert and Trudy Gottesman Philanthropic Fund. Unless otherwise indicated, the letters, photographs and documents in the exhibition are drawn from the

Sala Garncarz Kirschner Collection, donated by the Kirschner family in 2005 to the Dorot Jewish Division of the New York Public Library.

The Traveling Exhibition Curator is Jill Vexler, Ph.D. The traveling exhibition design firm for this exhibit is Monk Design, New York.

Directions to the Eastern Campus: Take the Long Island Expressway to exit 70. Take County Road 111 four miles to County Road 51. Turn left toward Riverhead and go north on 51. After 3.5 miles, turn right onto Speonk-Riverhead Road to the campus entrance on the right. Gallery hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on Sunday. For further information, please call: 631- 548-2536.



**Photo Caption: Sala Garncarz at age 12, Sosnowiec, Poland, 1936, is one of the images that will be on display at Suffolk County Community College's Eastern Campus through November 29, 2011 in the exhibit *Letters To Sala: A Young Woman's Life In Nazi Labor Camps*. (Additional photos are available upon request.)**

#### **About Suffolk County Community College**

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) is the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, enrolling approximately 26,000 students at its three campuses in Selden, Brentwood and Riverhead. SCCC offers the Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees, as well as a variety of certificate programs. Offering the lowest college tuition on Long Island, a highly respected Honors program, extensive extracurricular activities, championship athletic teams, and numerous unified transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at [sunysuffolk.edu](http://sunysuffolk.edu).

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