Fiorello’s Sister; Gemma’s Brother

Tue. April 24 6:30 pm
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Consulate General of Italy
Wagner College
Columbus Citizens Foundation
Key Tre Viaggi under the auspices of the Jewish Community of Trieste
National Organization of Italian American Women
Fiorello H. La Guardia Foundation
Remember the Women Institute
FIORELLO’S SISTER; GEMMA’S BROTHER.

On the occasion of the publication of *Fiorello’s Sister: Gemma La Guardia Gluck’s Story*, the memoir by Gemma La Guardia Gluck, edited by Rochelle G. Saidel (Syracuse University Press).

Opening remarks by Marjorie B. Tiven, Commissioner, City of New York. Speakers: Matilda Raffa Cuomo, Katherine LaGuardia, Rochelle G. Saidel. And a special appearance by Tony Lo Bianco presenting excerpts from the show *Fiorello*.

Public conversation, slide show, film, and radio clips exploring the early years of the La Guardia family; the political career of Fiorello La Guardia and his public and personal involvement with the American Anti-Nazi-Fascist campaigns, the Jewish Labor Committee, and civilian relief during and after World War II; and Gemma's experiences in Nazi Europe and afterward.

Mayor La Guardia's “Talks to the People” and “Comic Readings” on WNYC are a well-known part of New York City history. However, few people know that in July 1945 the “Little Flower” also used his public passion with the radio to connect to Berlin and speak with his sister Gemma, who had survived Ravensbrück concentration camp with her daughter and baby grandson.

At the core of Gemma’s memoir is her recollection of deportation as a political hostage of the Nazis, because of her famous brother. Her story is set against the backdrop of the Italian and Jewish stories of their parents, Triestine Irene Luzzatto Coen and Sicilian Achille La Guardia, their coming to the United States in 1880, the family's return to Trieste in 1898, and Fiorello's pursuit of his passion for politics.

**Tuesday, April 24 at 6:30 pm (sharp) - Reception to follow.**

**Center for Jewish History - 15 West 16 Street, New York**