

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Photojournalist Ruth Gruber, 99, at Film Event

May 12 Screening of *Ahead of Time*, Detailing Gruber's Life
Free and Open to Public at Katz JCC

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- World-famous photojournalist and author Ruth Gruber will be present for a special film event co-sponsored by the Stockton Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage and the Katz Jewish Community Center.

The event, to take place 7 pm Thursday May 12, 2011 at the Katz Jewish Community Center, 501 North Jerome Avenue in Margate, is free and open to the public. It will include a showing of the film *Ahead of Time*, detailing Gruber's fascinating life. Executive Producer of the film, Patti Kenner, will also be in attendance at the event.

Ruth Gruber, now aged 99, was a special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior during World War II. In 1943 she was assigned a secret mission to escort nearly 1,000 Jewish refugees and wounded US servicemen from Europe to Oswego, NY. During the voyage on the troop transport ship *Henry Gibbons*, the vessel was hunted by Nazi seaplanes and U-boats. Upon their arrival, the refugees were locked behind a chain link fence with barbed wire.

While US government agencies argued about whether they should be allowed to stay or deported to Europe, Gruber lobbied to keep them through the end of the war. It was not until January 1946 that the decision was made to allow them to apply for American residency. This was the only attempt by the United States to shelter Jewish refugees during the war. Her interviews with the refugees became the basis for her book, *Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1000 World War II Refugees and How They Came to America*, published in 1983.

In the postwar years, Gruber covered the Nuremburg Trials and witnessed and documented the attempt in 1947 by the ship *Exodus* to deliver 4,500 Jewish refugees to Great Britain.

Following the May 12 screening, Gruber will answer questions from those in attendance. For further information call the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, 609-652-4699.

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