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Grandfather's Efforts to Save Jews During WWII to be Revealed

(MAHWAH, NJ) - "Jews Saving Jews During WWII: The story of Gilel Storch" will be the title of a talk to be given by Robert Molander at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Thursday, April 18 from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in Room B224. A native of Sweden, Mr. Molander will relate the story of his grandfather's efforts, under extraordinary circumstances, to save his fellow Jews from the Nazi killing machine. The program will be sponsored by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and is re-scheduled from March 7.

Having narrowly escaped from occupied Latvia to Stockholm Sweden, Gilel Storch pursued a multi-pronged effort to rescue his fellow Jews from the Holocaust. These included negotiating directly with leading Nazis, securing food for starving concentration camp inmates, helping orchestrate Raul Wallenberg's effort in saving Hungarian Jews, and seeking to ensure that camps would be turned over intact to the Allies.

In 1998, an award-winning drama documentary was released called "Stateless, Arrogant and Lunatic". This is what British authorities called Gilel Storch, in 1945 when he was preparing to go to Berlin to negotiate with Heinrich Himmler, head of the Nazi SS, about saving Jews. During his presentation, Molander will show segments of the film.

Robert Molander grew up with his grandfather and heard the story of his well-documented rescue efforts first-hand. He will forever carry loving respect and admiration for what this persistent man, against all odds, was able to accomplish.

Mr. Molander resides with his wife Sabina and two sons Alexander and Paul in New Jersey. He originally came to the United States through the Sweden-American Foundation to pursue college studies in Economics and International Studies, and went on to earn his MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. Currently with Novartis Consumer Healthcare, Robert is the company's Global Head of New Growth Opportunities.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic

structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.