For nearly fifty years, Sala Kirschner kept a secret: She had survived five years as a Jewish slave in seven different Nazi German forced labor camps. Living in America after the war, she kept hidden from her children any hint of her epic, inhuman odyssey. She held on to more than 350 letters, photographs, and a diary without ever mentioning them. Only in 1991, on the eve of heart surgery, did she suddenly present them to Ann, her daughter, and offer to answer any questions Ann wished to ask.

When Sala first reported to a camp in Geppersdorf, Germany, at the age of sixteen, she thought it would be for six weeks. Five years later, she was still at a labor camp and only she and two of her sisters remained alive of an extended family of fifty.

Ann Kirschner is a distinguished author, educator, and speaker on the future of education, digital media, and history. Her first book, Sala's Gift, (Simon and Schuster, 2006), tells the story of her mother’s letters she had saved while working in Nazi German forced labor camps, and has since been published in seven languages. The letters are the subject of an international traveling exhibit, a theatrical play, and a forthcoming documentary film. Her latest book, Lady at the OK Corral: the True Story of Josephine Marcus Earp, was published by HarperCollins in March, 2013.

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library

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