



Inspired by Jewish values and the vision and resilience of our founder, David J. Azrieli ז"ל, the Azrieli Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of present and future generations through Education, Research, Healthcare and the Arts mainly in Canada and Israel. The foundation has eight priority funding areas with support reaching a diversity of people, places and needs. Our vision is to remember the past, heal the present and enhance the future of the Jewish people and all humanity.

The publication of the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs is guided by the conviction that each survivor of the Holocaust has a remarkable story to tell, and that the personal accounts of those who survived against all odds are as different as the people who wrote them. Recognizing that most survivor memoirs never find a publisher, the Azrieli Foundation established the not-for-profit Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program to collect, archive and publish these distinctive records.

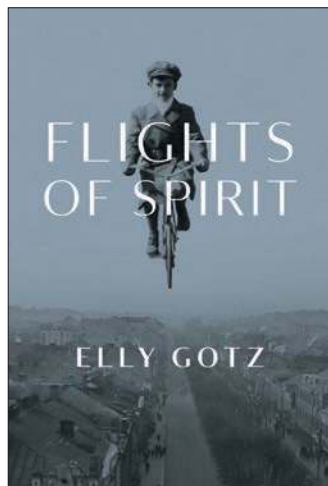
All revenues to the Azrieli Foundation from the sale of the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs go toward continuing the publication and educational work of the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program.

In telling these stories, the writers have liberated themselves. For so many years we did not speak about it, even when we became free people living in a free society. Now, when at last we are writing about what happened to us in this dark period of history, knowing that our stories will be read and live on, it is possible for us to feel truly free. These unique historical documents put a face on what was lost, and allow readers to grasp the enormity of what happened to six million Jews – one story at a time.

David J. Azrieli, C.M., C.Q., M.Arch.

Holocaust survivor and founder, The Azrieli Foundation

Highlights

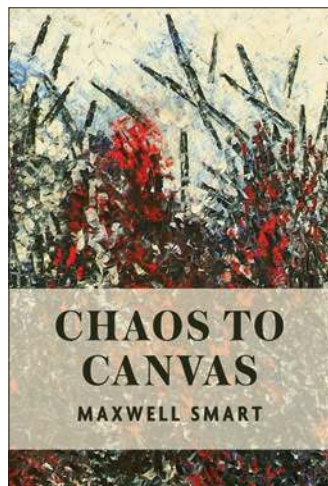


Page 32

Author profiled in Fortune magazine in 2018

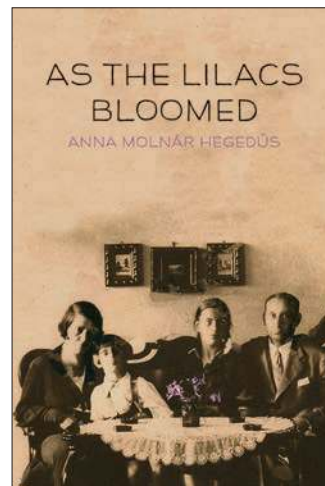
Highlights archival images and letters

Enlightening perspective on Kaunas ghetto and Kaufering concentration camp



Page 16

Features colour photo section of author's paintings, inspired by his lone survival in the forest as a child



Page 39

Written in Hungarian in 1945 and published in Romania in 1946; first English translation

Poignant and timely read for 2019 commemoration of 75 years since the German occupation of Hungary

New Titles

Confronting Devastation: Memoirs of Survivors from Hungary

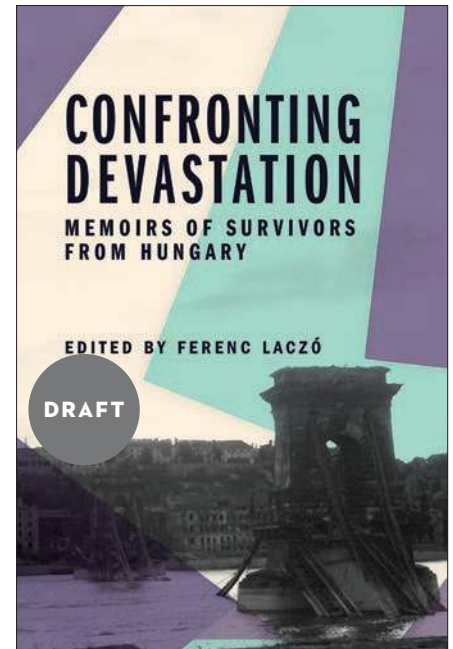
Ferenc Laczó (editor)

I feel someone has to speak for those who are dead. I think someone needs to remind those who try to forget. This is demanded by the cries of the dead echoing from their graves.
(Peter Vas)

Commemorating seventy-five years since Nazi Germany occupied Hungary, *Confronting Devastation*, an anthology of writing from Hungarian Holocaust survivors, examines the experiences and memory of the Holocaust in Hungary. From idyllic pre-war life to forced labour battalions, ghettos and camps, and persecution and hiding in Budapest, the authors reflect on lives that were shattered, on the sorrows that came with liberation and, ultimately, on how they managed to persevere. Editor Ferenc Laczó frames excerpts from some twenty memoirs in their historical and political context, analyzing the events that led to the horrific “last chapter” of the Holocaust — the genocide of approximately 550,000 Jews in Hungary in 1944.

About the editor

Ferenc Laczó is assistant professor in history at Maastricht University. He is the author of *Hungarian Jews in the Age of Genocide: An Intellectual History, 1929–1948* (2016) and co-editor (with Joachim von Puttkamer) of *Catastrophe and Utopia: Jewish Intellectuals in Central and Eastern Europe in the 1930s and 1940s* (2017). His articles have appeared in *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*, *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* and *Yad Vashem Studies*, among others. In 2019, Ferenc Laczó will be a Yetta and Jacob Gelman Fellow at the Mandel Center of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



6×9 paperback
312 pages with photos
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September 2019



Too Many Goodbyes: The Diaries of Zsuzsanna Löffler

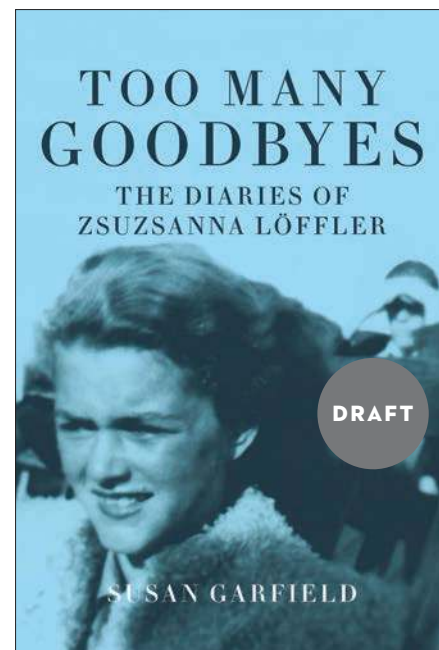
Susan Garfield

It was a grey, foggy day. Frightened, I wondered what was going on. My mother tried to set my mind at ease, telling me not to worry, but she failed to reassure me. My fears were well-founded, as we soon found out.

In 1944, as Budapest's Jews begin to suffer under German occupation, eleven-year-old Zsuzsi (Susie) takes to her diary to write about her friends and family as she copes with what it means to be persecuted. Precocious and charming, Susie records the mundane along with the poignant as she describes her daily life in Budapest against the backdrop of the war. Her pre-teen life is marred by farewells — first to her father, as he is drafted into the forced labour service, and then to her mother when Hungarian fascist collaborators take her away. Alone after the war, Susie makes a fateful decision to leave her relatives and embark on a journey to a new country, where she struggles to adapt and begins to yearn for her home in Hungary. Uncertain whether she made the right decision to emigrate, Susie writes all her feelings down in a new diary, the only place where she feels she truly belongs.

About the author

Born Zsuzsanna Löffler in Budapest in 1933, Susan Garfield immigrated to Canada as a war orphan in 1948 and lived in Vegreville, Alberta, before moving to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she still lives. In 1954 she married Harry Garfinkel (Garfield) and started a family, eventually raising three children. Susan later earned a bachelor of arts (honours) from the University of Winnipeg and a bachelor of recreation studies from the University of Manitoba. Her English translation of her Hungarian wartime diary was published in *Voices of Winnipeg Holocaust Survivors* (2010), and her story as a new immigrant to Canada was told in *Holocaust Survivors in Canada: Exclusion, Inclusion, Transformation, 1947–1955* (2015).



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November 2019



In the Hour of Fate and Danger

Ferenc Andai

Portents of death are trembling in the air.

Ferenc Andai is one of approximately 6,000 Jewish Hungarian men conscripted to work as forced labourers in the copper mines of Bor, Serbia, between 1943 and 1944. Subject to the whims of cruel Hungarian commanders and German overseers, the men are forced to work to exhaustion while they subsist on a starvation diet. For nineteen-year-old Ferenc, the only relief from his harsh reality is his company — an artistic and literary circle of men that includes the inspirational poet Miklós Radnóti. When the men are suddenly notified that they'll be going home, chaos ensues as the group is split and sent in different directions. Will a farewell to his mentors, among them the famed poet, lead to his liberation or his demise? As a fierce battle for power between collaborationists and partisans rages on, Ferenc must make a decision that will determine whether he lives or dies.

About the author

*Ferenc Andai (1925–2013) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He arrived in Canada in 1957, where he obtained an MA in Slavic Studies from the Université de Montréal and a teaching diploma from McGill University. He also earned his PhD in history (summa cum laude) from Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Ferenc taught history at Selwyn House School in Montreal and then became the head of the social science department at Pontiac High School in Shawville, Quebec, from 1968 until his retirement in 1994. His book *Mint tanu szólni: bori történet* (To Bear Witness: A Story of Bor) was published by Ab Ovo in 2003 and awarded the Radnóti Miklós National Prize in 2004. Ferenc Andai was a member of the International Association of Hungarian Studies and the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada.*

COVER NOT FINAL

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Sustaining Memories: Stories of Canadian Holocaust Survivors

Paula Draper (editor)

As the years go by, when I try to remember the faces of each member of my family, I see only an outline, a shadow, a blurry image, yet each image is covered with a halo. That is the memory etched in my mind. They have never aged, nor have I witnessed their funerals or seen the monuments of their final resting place. Therefore, they will forever remain young, alive and vibrant in my memory.

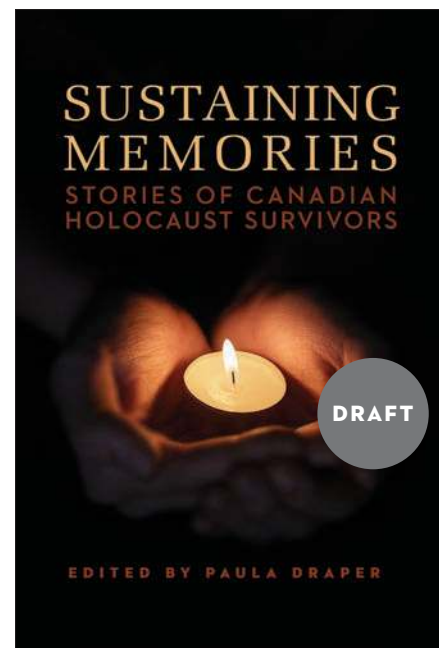
(Arnold Friedman)

The Azrieli Foundation established the Sustaining Memories Project to help survivors write their stories. A unique partnership between survivors and volunteer writing partners who were trained to work with Holocaust survivors on recording and transcribing their stories, volunteers spent countless hours on these testimonies. The strength of the bonds that form when a volunteer and a survivor create a memoir, of the emotional challenges that a survivor faces in the telling and the understanding, and the insight that the listener experiences were all part of an incredible journey. Excerpts of these co-written memoirs, never before published, are produced in this anthology to give readers a wide range of understanding of the varieties of experiences of Holocaust survivors.

Sustaining Memories gives voice to Canadian Jews who suffered through ghettos, camps, hiding, fighting in the underground, as refugees in foreign countries or passing as non-Jews in daily fear of betrayal. Between 1946 and the 1980s, they all built new lives in Canada.

About the editor

Dr. Paula Draper is a Holocaust historian and educator. An early advocate of memory history, she oversaw the videotaping of interviews with four hundred survivors in Toronto in 1986 and then became Lead International Trainer for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. She has taught in the History department of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), the Jewish Studies department of York University and the Canadian Studies department of University College, University of Toronto. Dr. Draper served as vice-president of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies for nine years and has created texts for Holocaust-related exhibits in Toronto and Vancouver. She has published widely on the topic of Canada and the Holocaust and is now researching the post-war experiences of Canadian Holocaust survivors.



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Always Remember Who You Are

Anita Ekstein

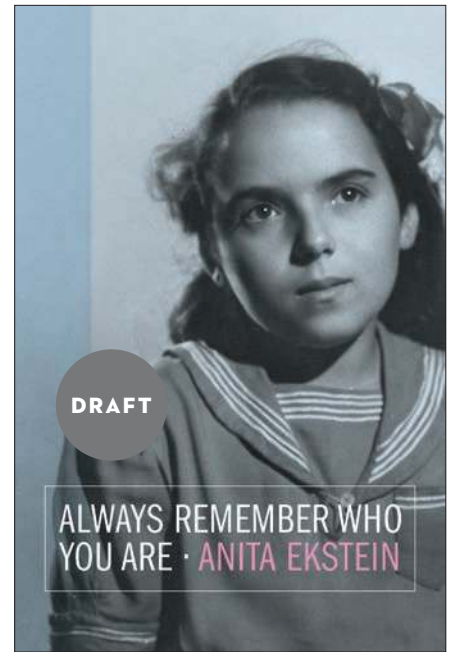
I understood from my year in the ghetto how dangerous it was to be outwardly Jewish, and trusted that practicing Catholicism would protect me until the war ended.

As the Nazis invade eastern Poland in 1941, seven-year-old Anita discovers that being Jewish is dangerous. Her parents no longer have time to dote on her — they are occupied with trying to save her life. When the Nazis deport Anita's mother, her father, devastated, immediately enlists the help of a Catholic man, Josef Matusiewicz, who courageously smuggles Anita out of the Skole ghetto and gives her shelter. Anita must do whatever it takes to survive

— be quiet, stay in the house — and become a Catholic.

About the author

Anita Helfgott Ekstein was born July 18, 1934, in Lwów, Poland. An orphan after the war, she and her aunt immigrated to Paris in 1946 and to Toronto in 1948. Anita married Frank Ekstein in 1955, and they raised three children. A Holocaust educator since 1989, Anita founded a group for child survivors and hidden children in Toronto, has chaired the March of the Living three times and has been a survivor participant eighteen times. Anita lives in Toronto.



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A Childhood Adrift

René Goldman

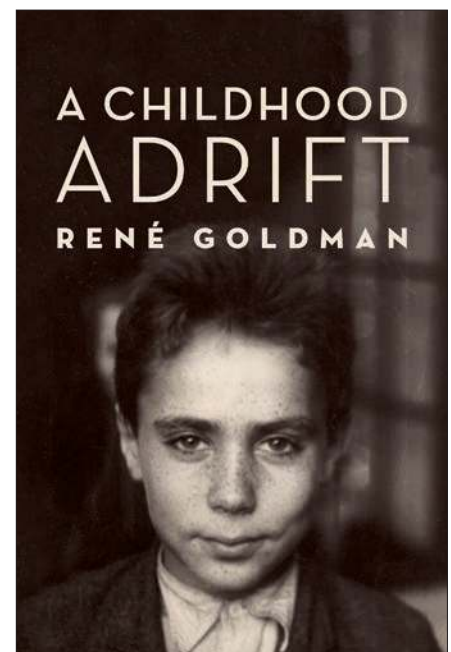
Holding me kicking and screaming, that brute ran toward the awaiting train, past Mama, whom I saw being dragged over the floor struggling and crying. The entire station was a scene of bedlam....

René Goldman grows up entranced with the theatre, music, languages and geography. Surrounded by his parents' love and protection, he wanders the streets of Luxembourg and then Brussels, carefree and prone to mischief. But in 1942, his family flees to France and eight-year-old René is separated from his parents and shunted between children's homes and convents, where he must hide both his Jewish identity and his

mounting anxiety. As René waits for his parents to return, even liberation day does not feel like freedom.

About the author

René Goldman was born in Luxembourg on March 25, 1934. After the war, he lived in children's homes in Paris and then pursued his education in Poland. In 1953, René left for Beijing, where he studied Chinese language, literature and history. He graduated from Columbia University and then joined the faculty of the University of British Columbia, where he taught courses in Chinese history. René Goldman lives in Summerland, British Columbia.



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Behind the Red Curtain

Maya Rakitova

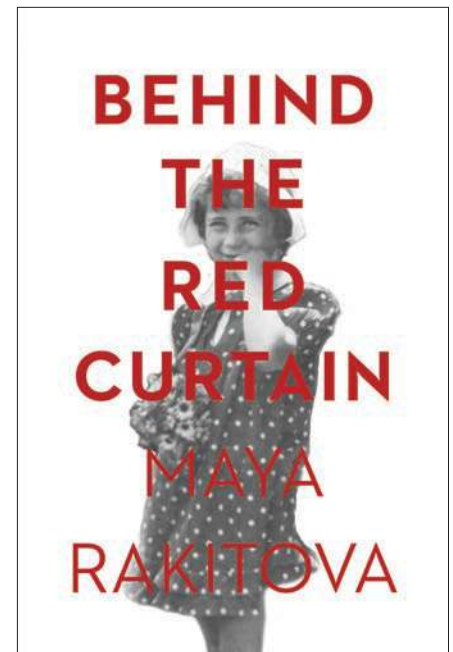
As I looked at the postcard with a view of my native town, I recognized the exact place where I had been standing late at night, sixty years earlier, sobbing violently in fear and despair because I had nowhere to go.

Maya Rakitova's family has already faced innumerable obstacles and hardships together, having lived through the Communist Party purges that culminated in the disappearance of Maya's father. But when the Nazis occupy their hometown of Vinnitsa, Ukraine, in 1941, new and terrifying threats surround them. Nine-year-old Maya quickly learns to hide her Jewish identity as her mother, with "uncommon courage,"

fights to protect her, relying on the kindness of friends and strangers.

About the author

Maya Rakitova was born in Smolensk, the Soviet Union, on June 4, 1931. In 1954, she graduated from the Faculty of Radio and Television at the Bonch-Bruевич Leningrad Electro-Technical Institute of Communications. Maya, her husband and their youngest daughter immigrated to Montreal in 1981. There, Maya worked at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) for seventeen years. Maya Rakitova lives in Montreal.



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Buried Words: The Diary of Molly Applebaum

Molly Applebaum

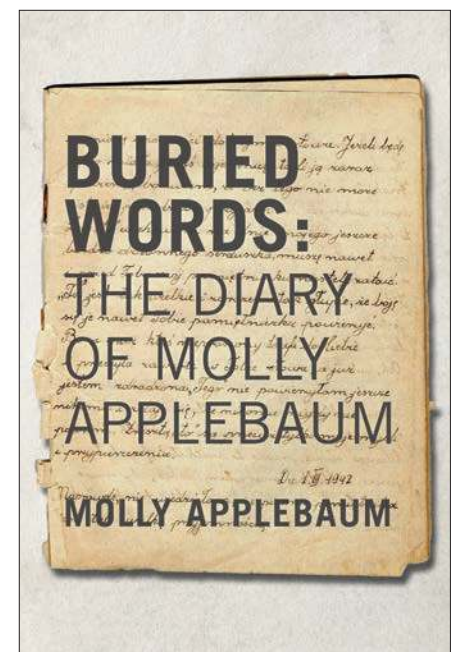
When I looked at the world with the eyes of a child it appeared so rose-coloured ... and now? I am happy when I survive another day and I await the next in fear. When is it going to end? Are we even going to live until the end?

Hidden away underground, in a box, twelve-year-old Molly has only her older cousin and her diary to keep her company. For two years, she writes of her confinement "in a grave": the cold, dark space, the unbearable suffering from insufficient food, and the complicated reliance on the two farmers who are risking their own lives to save her. *Buried Words* is a stark confession

of Molly's fears, despair and secrets and, above all, her fervent wish to stay alive.

About the author

Molly Applebaum was born in Krakow, Poland, in 1930. After the war, she spent three years in displaced persons camps in Europe before immigrating to Canada as a war orphan. Buried Words is the first English translation of the diary Molly wrote in Polish from 1942–1944 while hidden on a farm in Dąbrowa Tarnowska, Poland. Molly Applebaum lives in Toronto.



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The Hidden Package

Claire Baum

When I opened the parcel, I was confronted with the past, memories long forgotten. The letters and drawings described happy as well as sad moments while Ollie and I were in hiding and separated from Mam and Pap.

Almost forty years after the end of the war, Claire Baum opens a package from a stranger in Rotterdam, unleashing a flood of repressed memories from her childhood. As Claire delves into her past, she uncovers the personal sacrifice and bravery of her parents, the Dutch resistance and the families that selflessly gave shelter to her and her sister, Ollie.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *The Hidden Package* is available.

About the author

Claire Baum was born on January 25, 1936, in Rotterdam, Netherlands. The family immigrated to Canada in 1951, where Claire met her husband and raised three children. Claire Baum lives in Toronto.

2015 MOONBEAM CHILDREN'S
BOOK AWARD BRONZE
MEDAL WINNER



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Where Courage Lives

Muguette Myers

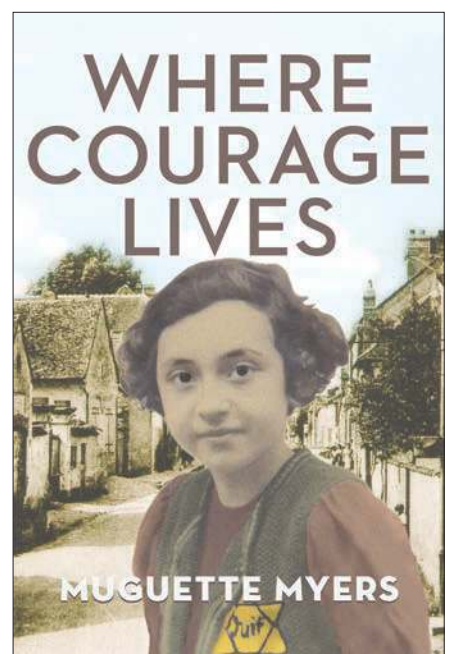
Everyone in Champlost had a hand in hiding us.

From the bustling city of Paris to the quaint, countryside village of Champlost, France, *Where Courage Lives* follows ten-year-old Muguette Szpajzer and her family as they seek refuge from the war. Written in vignettes with child-like charm and innocence, Muguette's memoir provides rich insight into rural life during wartime upheaval, honouring both her indomitable mother and the courage of the people of Champlost.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Where Courage Lives* is available.

About the author

Muguette Szpajzer-Myers was born in 1931 in Paris, France. In 1947, Muguette immigrated to Montreal, where she worked as a translator. Muguette returned to Champlost in 2005 for a ceremony to honour four members of the community as Righteous Among the Nations for hiding her and her family during the war. Muguette Myers lives in Montreal.



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The Violin

Rachel Shtibel

A Child's Testimony

Adam Shtibel

Rachel Milbauer, a vivacious, outgoing music lover, lay hidden and silent with her extended family and a family friend in an underground bunker for nearly two years. Adam Shtibel, only eight when the war broke out, survived in the forest with other Jewish children until he was taken in by a gentile couple.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *The Violin* is available.

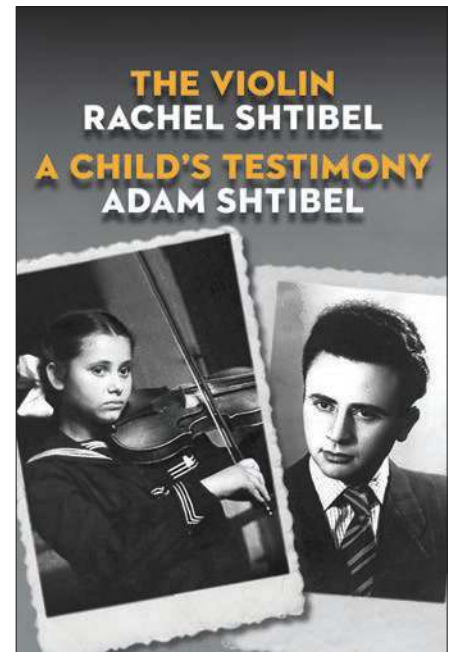
About the authors

Rachel Milbauer was born in 1935 in Eastern Galicia and Adam Shtibel was born in 1928 in Komarów, Poland. In the mid-1950s, the Shtibels moved to Israel, where Rachel obtained an MA in microbiology. In 1968, the family moved to Toronto, where they still live.

2008 INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHER GOLD MEDAL

WINNER



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Tenuous Threads

Judy Abrams

One of the Lucky Ones

Eva Felsenburg Marx

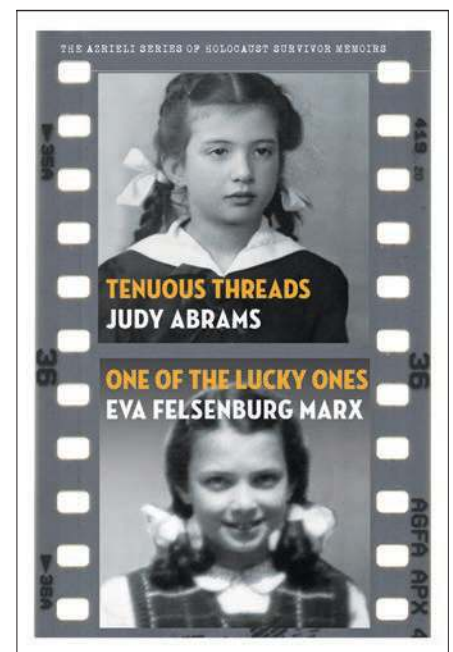
I had always liked to play make-believe, but somehow they made me understand that this game was real. I never gave away my secret.

Two Jewish girls born six months apart – Judit Grünfeld in Hungary and Eva Felsenburg in Czechoslovakia – are separated from their parents and forced to “pass” as Christian children. Theirs are the amazingly parallel but unique stories of two children who were able to survive when so many others perished.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Tenuous Threads/One of the Lucky Ones* is available.

About the authors

Judy Abrams, born in Budapest, Hungary on April 28, 1937, immigrated to Montreal in 1949 and later taught French at the UN International School in New York City. She and her husband live in Montreal. Eva Marx, born in Brno, Czechoslovakia on October 21, 1937, also immigrated to Montreal in 1949, and also became a teacher. She and her husband, retired Quebec Superior Court Justice Herbert Marx, live in Montreal.



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In Hiding

Marguerite Élias Quddus

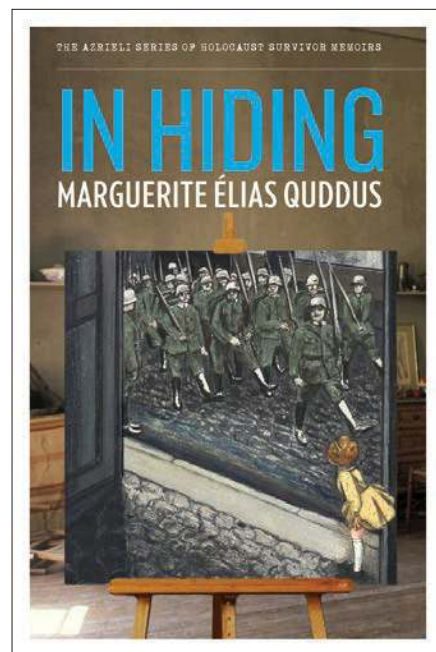
I'm ready, but I'm overcome with sadness. Mama hugs us and kisses us: "Goodbye, children! Go, and don't look back...."

With these last words from their mother, two little girls, Marguerite and her older sister, Henriette, start on a wandering journey that lasts three years. Taken from farms to convents, they learn how to remain silent, to pretend, to lie in order to survive. This story is beautifully illustrated by the author.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for In Hiding is available.

About the author

Marguerite Élias Quddus was born in Paris, France. She and her husband, Abdul Quddus, married in 1965 and moved to Canada, first to Vancouver and then to Montreal, where Marguerite became very involved in volunteer teaching. Today, she is extremely active in giving talks about her war experience.



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Memories from the Abyss

William Tannenzapf

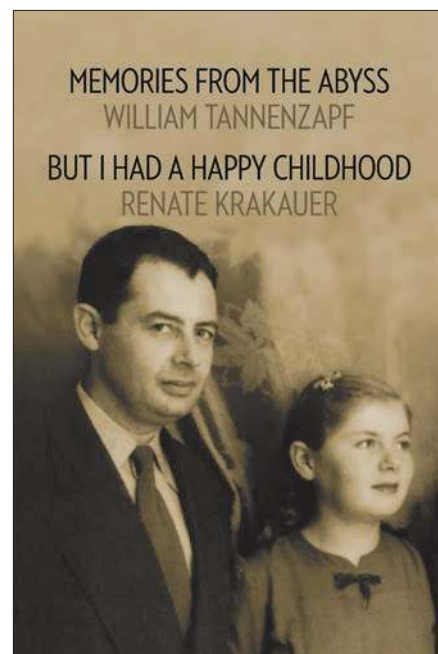
But I Had a Happy Childhood

Renate Krakauer

William Tannenzapf entrusts his baby daughter to a Polish family to save her from the evil gripping his hometown of Stanisławów. Renate Krakauer was a “miracle baby,” born as the world descended into war. Later reunited and thrown into refugee and immigrant life, Krakauer’s thoughtful observations provide fascinating insight into the perceptions and feelings of a child survivor and offer a counterpoint to her father’s adult reflections on the same events.

About the authors

William Tannenzapf was born in 1911 and his daughter, Renate, was born in March 1941, during the Nazi occupation. The family immigrated to Canada in 1948. William Tannenzapf passed away in 2011 at 100. Renate Krakauer has written and published numerous short stories and essays. She lives in Toronto.



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ISBN 978 1 897470 06 0 · \$14.95



Escape



Momentum, Maxwell Smart, oil on canvas, 1972. From *Chaos to Canvas*.

Chaos to Canvas

Maxwell Smart

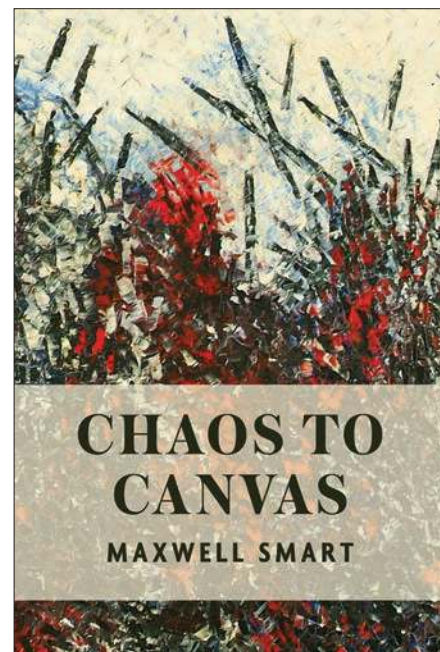
The only sounds breaking the grim silence of the forest were the chirping of birds, the cry of an animal. I became intensely aware of the world around me and would dream of travelling through endless space. I created my own little world of safety.

In the town of Buczacz, Poland, nine-year-old Maxwell's life is turned upside-down when the Soviets invade in 1939. His family eventually adapts, but nothing can prepare them for the Nazi invasion two years later. Soon Maxwell is alone in the woods, hiding from the roving groups of Nazis and Ukrainian collaborators searching

for Jews, while depending on the few people he can trust. In the bitter journey of *Chaos to Canvas*, Maxwell transforms from a boy dependent on his family to a teenager fighting to survive and, ultimately, to a man who finds himself through art in a life beyond the war.

About the author

Maxwell Smart was born in Buczacz, Poland, in 1930. After surviving the Holocaust on his own, he immigrated to Canada in 1948 through the War Orphans Project. Maxwell lives in Montreal, where he has become a successful painter, opening his own art gallery in 2006.



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A Part of Me

Bronia Jablon

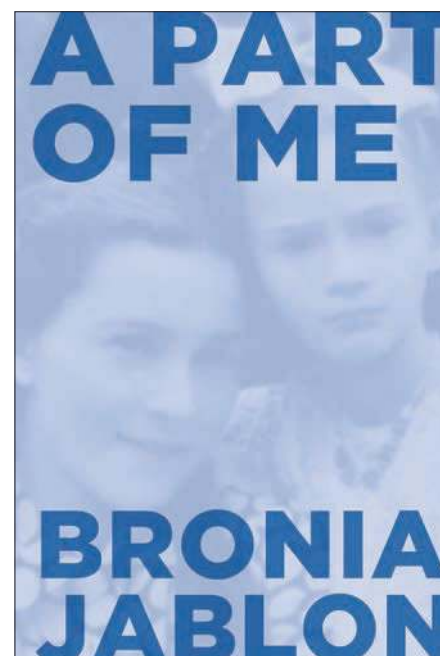
My young daughter and I were now totally alone, relying on my own strength and the caprice of fate. My beloved Lucy depended on me for solace, comfort and protection. I hoped that God would not desert us.

Separated from her family, Bronia and her three-year-old daughter, Lucy, wonder how they will survive each day. It is 1942, the height of Nazi persecution in Poland, and Bronia's friends and neighbours are either collaborating with the Nazis or too terrified for their own lives to offer assistance. When they finally find help, a cold, dark cellar becomes both their haven and prison. *A Part*

of Me is the harrowing story of how a mother and daughter make it through the war, one pivotal decision at a time.

About the author

Bronia Jablon was born in 1918, in Dubno, Poland. After the war, she completed her nursing degree in Russia and had a successful career. She lived in Russia, Poland and Israel before immigrating to Canada to be with her daughter and grandchildren in 1967. Bronia passed away in Toronto in 1994.



6×9 paperback · 166 pages with photos
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Silent Refuge

Margrit Rosenberg Stenge

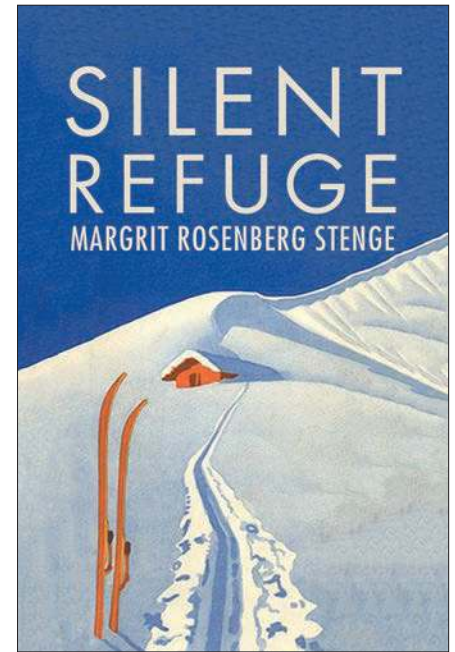
News travels fast in the countryside, and when I started school many of the villagers knew that we were Jewish, although they really did not know what that meant.

In the remote village of Rogne, Norway, eleven-year-old Margrit and her parents have finally found the safety that has eluded them since fleeing from Germany. But after war breaks out in Norway, they must hide in an even more secluded refuge – a rudimentary cabin in the mountains. The isolation offers relative security until the Nazis begin to deport the Jews of Oslo. The Rosenbergs then

make a fateful decision to trust the Resistance and escape from Nazi-occupied Norway to neutral Sweden.

About the author

Margrit Rosenberg Stenge was born in Cologne, Germany, on December 27, 1928. Margrit lived in Oslo in 1945, married in 1949 and immigrated to Canada, settling in Montreal, in 1951. She worked in administration for forty years, after which she translated six books from Norwegian to English. Margrit lives in Montreal.



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The Vale of Tears

Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung

My tears, like the words of the prayer, fell like fresh dew: pure, delicate, unadulterated, honest words, and pure, delicate, unadulterated, honest tears.

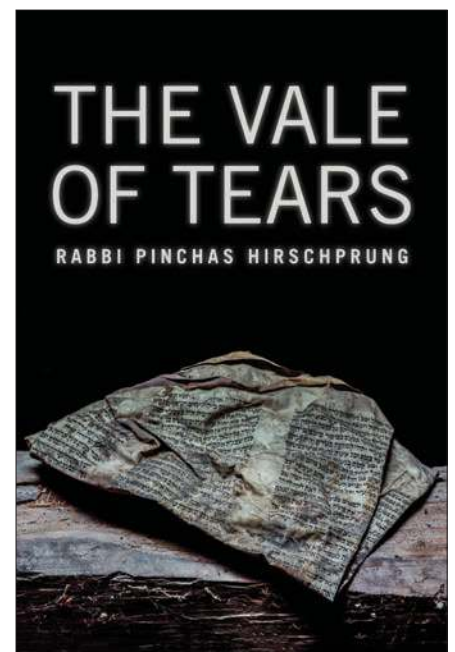
An epic journey across borders, *The Vale of Tears* chronicles close to two years in the life of Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung as he seeks an escape route from Nazi-occupied Europe. In this rare, near day-by-day account, Rabbi Hirschprung illuminates what life was like for an Orthodox rabbi fleeing persecution, finding inspiration and hope in Jewish scripture and psalms as he navigates the darkness of wartime to a safe harbour in Kobe, Japan.

About the author

*Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung was born in Dukla, Poland, in 1912. A world-renowned Torah and Talmudic scholar, Hirschprung became the chief rabbi of Montreal in 1969 and led its Jewish community until his death in 1998. Rabbi Hirschprung's Yiddish-language memoir was published in 1944 and translated into Hebrew in 1948; *The Vale of Tears* is its first English translation.*

2018 INDEPENDENT
PUBLISHER GOLD MEDAL
WINNER

2018 J.I. SEGAL TRANSLATION
AWARD



6×9 paperback · 368 pages with photos
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Joy Runs Deeper

Bronia and Joseph Beker

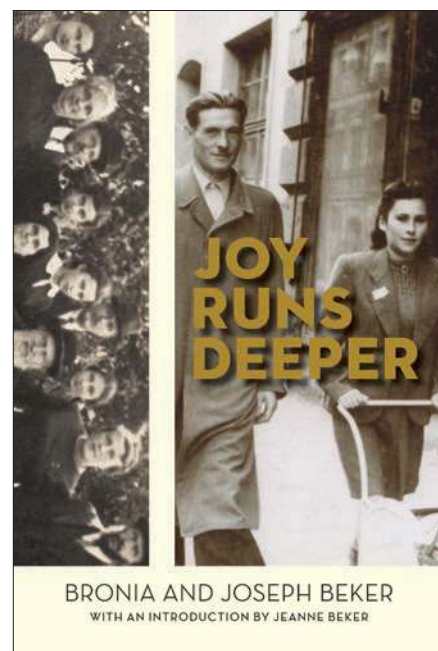
When Josio came into my room he was stunned. I will never forget the look on his face – he could not believe that I was alive. I couldn't understand it myself. I believe it was fate.

INTRODUCTION BY JEANNE BEKER

Bronia and Josio (Joseph) grow up in Kozowa, a shtetl filled with lively culture, eccentric characters and extended family. When Bronia meets Josio, she is charmed by his confidence and fearlessness. Separated when Josio is drafted into the army, reunited amid the chaos of the war, their connection endures as their persecution intensifies. When everything they hold dear is lost, together they build a new future.

About the authors

Bronia Rohatiner and Joseph Beker were both born in Kozowa, Poland – Bronia on December 9, 1920, and Joseph on April 1, 1913. They married in 1945 and came to Canada in 1948, where they raised their two daughters, Marilyn and Jeanne. Joseph passed away in 1988; Bronia passed away in 2015.



6×9 paperback · 144 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 897470 45 9 · \$14.95



Little Girl Lost

Betty Rich

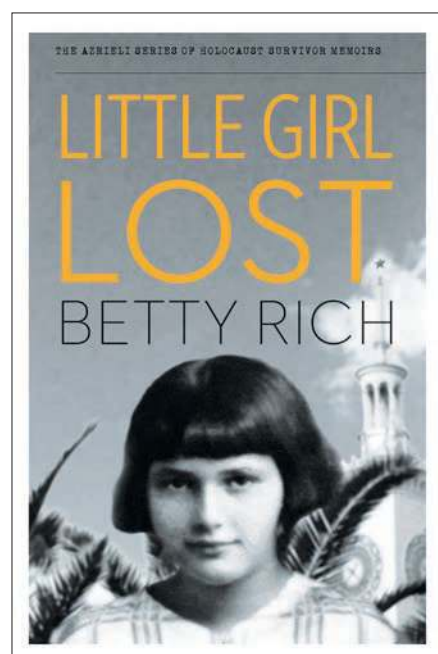
The more we felt the Germans' heavy boots in our lives, the more I knew that I had to leave ... but I was scared. Where was I going to go? What would I live on?

Sixteen-year-old Basia Kohn (now Betty Rich) escapes the invasion of her small hometown in Poland in 1939 and crosses into Soviet-occupied Poland, beginning a journey that takes her thousands of kilometres from a forced labour camp in subarctic Russia to subtropical Soviet Georgia.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for Little Girl Lost is available.

About the author

Betty Rich was born Basia Kohn in Zduńska Wola, Poland on June 10, 1923, the second youngest in a family of seven children. After the war she and her new husband fled the Polish Communist regime and arrived in Toronto in 1949. Betty Rich passed away in October 2017.



6×9 paperback · 256 pages with photos
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Survival Kit

Zuzana Sermer

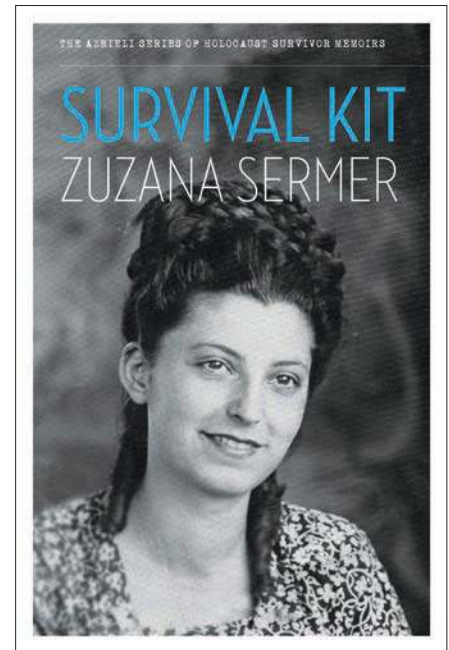
For the second time, I found myself about to be interrogated.... How could I die now, after all we had managed to get through?

Fifteen-year-old Zuzana Sermer tries to protect her father and ailing mother when the Nazis set up a fascist regime in her native Slovakia in 1939. Four years later, fleeing to the supposed safety of Budapest, Zuzana and her fiancé must instead navigate one treacherous situation after another when Germany occupies Hungary in March 1944.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Survival Kit* is available.

About the author

Zuzana Sermer was born in the small town of Humenné, Slovakia. She married Arthur Sermer in 1945 and lived in Communist Czechoslovakia for the next 23 years, fleeing to Canada when the Soviets occupied the country in August 1968. Zuzana Sermer lives in Toronto.



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If Home Is Not Here

Max Bornstein

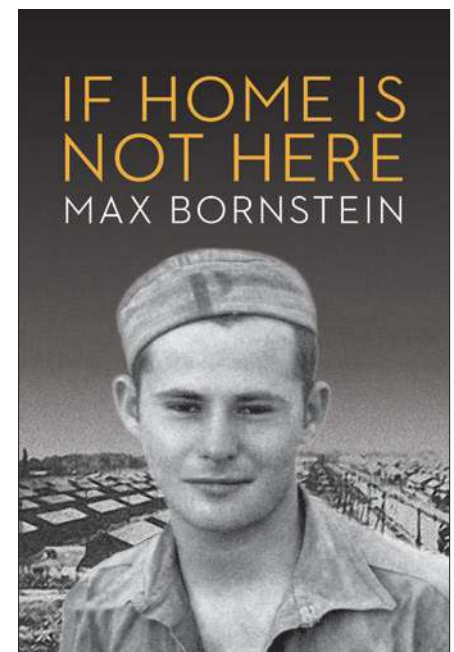
I dove into the frigid river, the sudden shock leaving me gasping.... Somehow, I managed to reach the shore – the unoccupied zone of France and my entry into freedom.

Not quite two when he immigrates to Canada, Max Bornstein returns to Europe in 1933, the year that Adolf Hitler came to power. Barely surviving as a stateless refugee in 1930s Paris, he escapes France when it falls to the Nazis only to be interned in a Spanish concentration camp.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *If Home Is Not Here* is available.

About the author

Max Bornstein was born on November 12, 1921, in Warsaw, Poland. After the war, he arrived back on Canadian soil on June 25, 1947. Max and his wife, Min, were married for more than 60 years. Min passed away in 2010; Max Bornstein passed away in 2015.



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A Drastic Turn of Destiny

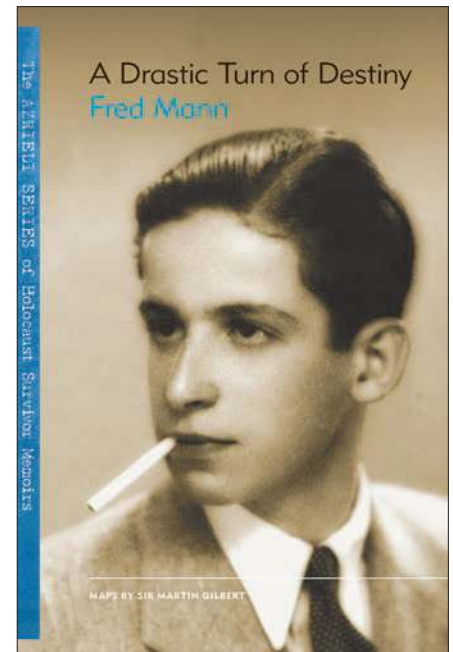
Fred Mann

In Germany I was “Jewboy”; in Brussels I was “boche”; in France I was “undesirable”; in Portugal I was a “refugee”; and in Jamaica I was simply a non-entity.... I was a pariah in an exploding world.

Fred Mann’s incredible story traces his family’s long journey of exile from Germany through Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Jamaica and finally to a new home in Canada. *A Drastic Turn of Destiny* is also a lament for a brave boy who had to grow up far too fast.

About the author

Fred Mann was born in 1926 in Leipzig, Germany. During his travels after the war, he met and married his wife in Salzburg, Austria and the family immigrated to Toronto in 1952, where he had a long career as an international financier. He passed away in 2008.



6×9 paperback · 304 pages with photos
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Knocking on Every Door

Anka Voticky

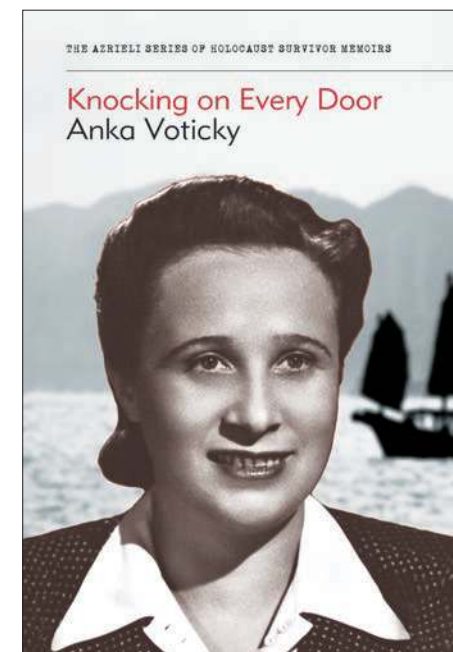
There was a feeling of imminent danger.... we were all subject to the mad and ever-changing rules of Hitler’s Germany. We were desperate to find a safe haven.

As Hitler’s army invades Czechoslovakia in 1940, Anka Voticky and her family flee to an unlikely refuge half-way around the world – the Chinese port of Shanghai. Global in scope, Anka Voticky’s memoir provides a rare glimpse of the far-reaching impact of World War II.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Knocking on Every Door* is available.

About the author

Anka Voticky was born in the small town of Brandy’s nad Labem in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1913 and moved to Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1918. In 1948 she and her family fled the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia and settled in Montreal. Anka passed away in Montreal in 2014, three weeks before her 101st birthday.



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Getting Out Alive

Tommy Dick

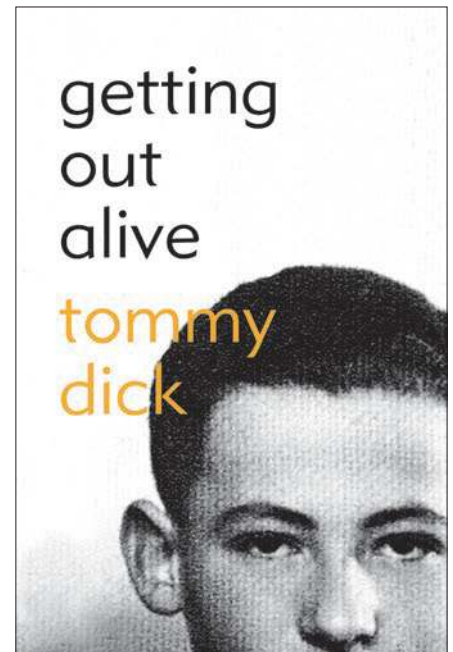
He pointed his gun and bayonet at me and ordered me to stop, my jaw was bleeding, hanging down. I could not speak and I was shivering.

Nineteen-year-old Tommy Dick is killed, only to resurface. Born into a Hungarian family who had converted from Judaism, Tommy soon finds out that in the eyes of the Nazis, he's still a Jew, still a target for murder. On the run and in disguise, Tommy is chased by death as much as he is by luck.

About the author

Tommy Dick was born in 1925 in Budapest, Hungary. In 1948, he immigrated to Canada and eventually settled in Calgary. At the age of 36, Tommy enrolled in law school and practiced law in Calgary for 30 years. Tommy Dick passed away in 1999.

2008 INDEPENDENT
PUBLISHER GOLD MEDAL
WINNER



6×9 paperback · 96 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 897470 01 5 · \$14.95



Album of My Life

Ann Szedlecki

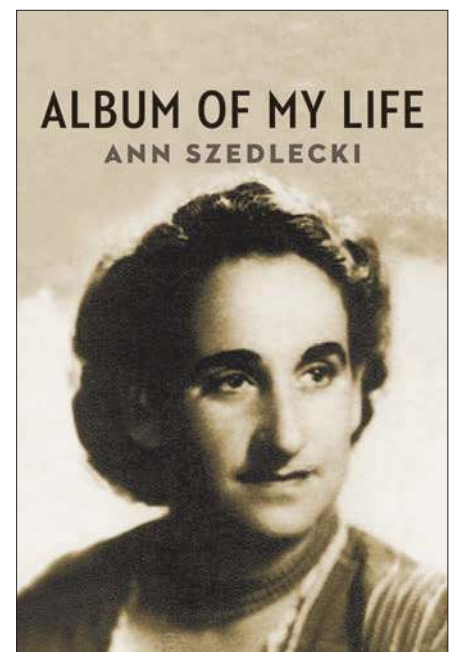
I am the daughter of nobody. I have no sisters. I am nobody's granddaughter or daughter-in-law, aunt or cousin. Who am I? My past is all gone. It disappeared....

Ann Szedlecki was a Hollywood-film-loving fourteen-year-old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 and she fled to the Soviet Union with her older brother. Her beautifully written story is compelling in its candour about her experiences as a young woman in the Soviet Union during World War II.

About the author

Ann Szedlecki was born Chana Frajlich in Lodz, Poland in 1925. After the war, she returned to Lodz to find that every member of her family had perished. In 1950, she married and immigrated to Israel and then, in 1953, to Toronto. Ann Szedlecki passed away in 2005.

2009 MOONBEAM CHILDREN'S
BOOK AWARD GOLD MEDAL
WINNER



6×9 paperback · 240 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 897470 10 7 · \$14.95



Under the Yellow & Red Stars

Alex Levin

I feel my brother's hand, trembling but strong, grab onto mine. I hear his words, urging me to run, take hold of my body and move my legs. We run, his hand holding mine ... to me it feels like freedom.

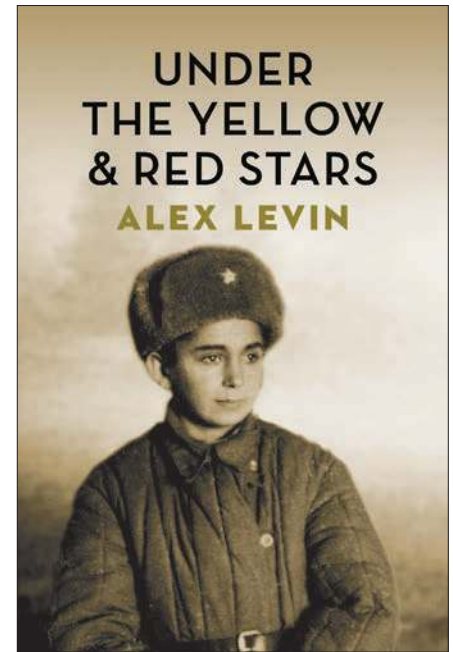
Alex Levin was only ten when he ran deep into the forest after the Germans invaded his hometown of Rokitno, Poland and only twelve when he emerged from hiding to find that he had neither parents nor a community to return to.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for Under the Yellow & Red Stars is available.

About the author

Alex Levin was born in 1932 in Rokitno, Poland. After the war, he was sent to the USSR and enrolled in cadet school, remaining in the Soviet army until forced out for being Jewish. Alex came to Canada in 1975 and lived in Toronto, where he regularly spoke about his experiences in the Holocaust. Alex Levin passed away in 2016.

2010 PEARSON PRIZE TEEN
CHOICE AWARD WINNER



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ISBN 978 1 897470 07 7 · \$14.95



From Generation to Generation

Agnes Tomasov

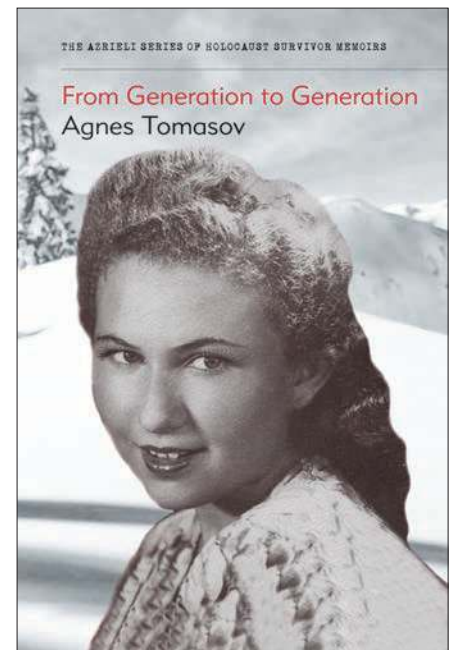
The mountains were almost 3,000 metres high.... We had to climb to the peaks, where it was frozen and slippery. One single misstep could mean certain death.

Hiding from the Nazis in Slovakia's Low Tatra Mountains, fourteen-year-old Agnes Grossmann's family makes the daring decision to escape along treacherous ice-covered mountain peaks to safety. Twenty-four years later, Agnes finds herself on the run from Czechoslovakia's Communist regime, carrying only what the family can fit in two suitcases.

About the author

Agnes Tomasov was born in the small town of Bardejov, Slovakia on June 16, 1930. In 1968, following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, she immigrated to Canada with her husband, Joseph, and their two children. Agnes lives in Toronto.

2011 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER
SILVER MEDAL WINNER



6×9 paperback · 240 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 897470 19 0 · \$14.95



Passing & Resistance



Frania Zoberman's *Kennkarte*, the false document that her sister procured for her in 1943 under the name Franciszka Jagiello. From *Before All Memory Is Lost*.

A Tapestry of Survival

Leslie Mezei with Magda Mezei Schwarz,
Klara Mezei Noy and Annie Wasserman Mezei

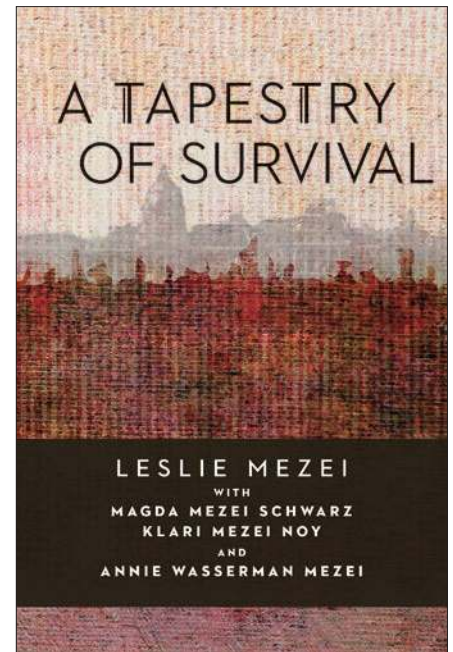
There were many close calls, and I think it took quick thinking and miraculous escapes to survive those times, as well as a strong will to live.

Twelve-year-old Leslie Mezei, a lively, curious boy, doesn't realize how precarious his life is as a Jew in German-occupied Hungary in 1944. His older sister Magda, aware of the growing danger from Nazis and Hungarian fascists, takes charge and bravely tries to direct the family's survival, while his sister Klari, tough and determined, faces a brutal ordeal of her own. After the war, in Montreal, Leslie meets his wife, Annie, who has a survival story of her

own. In *A Tapestry of Survival* the voices of Leslie, Magda, Klari and Annie are woven together to reveal a larger tale of courage, resilience and the search for healing.

About the author

Leslie Mezei was born in 1931, in Gödöllő, Hungary. In 1948 Leslie arrived in Canada, where he furthered his education and became a professor of computer science at the University of Toronto. An early pioneer in the field of computer art, Leslie also developed two new graphic programming languages. Leslie lives in Toronto, where he is very involved in an inter-faith and interspiritual movement.



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Dangerous Measures

Joseph Schwarzberg

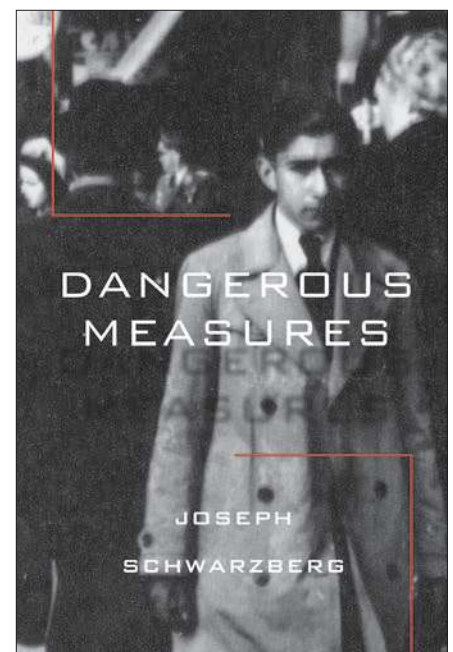
The officer inspecting my papers addressed me in German and in response I convincingly faked my lack of understanding. I was relieved that I was able to calmly withstand my first test in the art of deception, as many more tests of my nerves were yet to follow.

Under threat since fleeing from Germany after the violent attacks during Kristallnacht in 1938, Joseph and his family resolve to get as far from the Nazis as possible. After years in hiding and on the run, Joseph assumes the non-Jewish identity of nineteen-year-old Joseph-Jean Sarlat and bravely joins the underground resistance in France, fighting the

Germans and sabotaging their war effort. Narrowly avoiding roundups of Jews and escaping from arrests and interrogations, Joseph lives with the daily dread of being discovered.

About the author

Joseph Schwarzberg was born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1926. In 1945, Joseph and his family were part of the earliest legal Jewish immigrants to pre-state Israel. Joseph immigrated to Toronto in 1968, where he established his own business, Adina J. Fashions, in the garment industry. Joseph Schwarzberg lives in Toronto.



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Before All Memory Is Lost: Women's Voices from the Holocaust

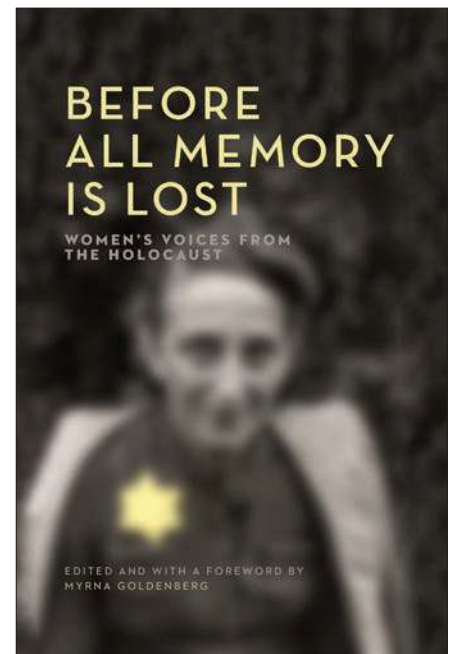
In this first Azrieli Foundation anthology, twenty women reflect on their experiences of survival – from the heart-stopping fears of hiding to the extreme risks of “passing” as non-Jews, and from the terrors of the Nazi camps to the treacheries of the Soviet Union. This powerful collection, woven together by the common thread of resistance, features a wide variety of narrative styles, including prose, poetry and diary excerpts.

2018 INDEPENDENT
PUBLISHER GOLD MEDAL
WINNER

About the editor

Myrna Goldenberg is the co-editor of Different Horrors, Same Hell: Gender and the Holocaust (2013) and Experience and Expression: Women, the Nazis, and the Holocaust (2003), as well as a number of other publications. A professor emerita of Montgomery College, Maryland, Goldenberg's research focuses on gender and the Holocaust and on teaching the Holocaust in the university and college classroom.

2017 CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK
AWARD AND FINALIST FOR
NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK
AWARD



6×9 paperback · 616 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 988065 11 3 · \$18.95



Unsung Heroes Tibor Benyovits

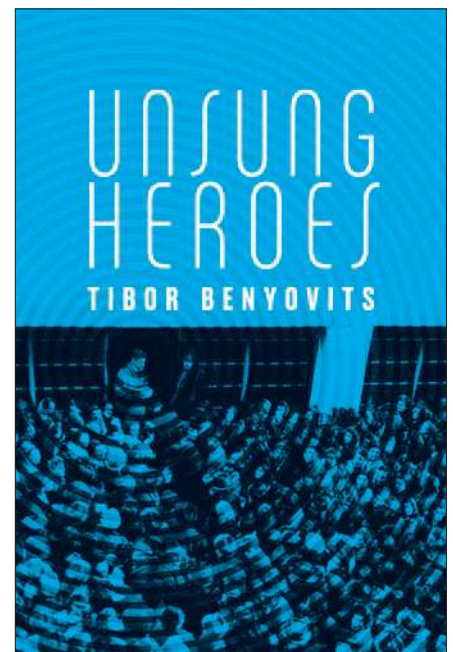
As the war continued and the restrictions became more severe, we began to prepare for the time when we would be required to move totally underground and equip ourselves with false identity papers, secure hiding places, alternative supply routes and safe forms of communication.

In 1944, after German forces invade Hungary, the Zionist youth organization that twelve-year-old Tibor belongs to goes underground to avoid detection. When Tibor is separated from his family, he must rely on the support of his network, a courageous group under immense pressure to save as many Jews as possible in

Budapest. Inspired by these *Unsung Heroes*, Tibor joins the resistance effort and bravely acts as a courier for the group, delivering false identity documents and protective papers to Jews in danger.

About the author

Tibor (Ted) Benyovits was born in Budapest in 1932. He immigrated to Israel in 1949, where he met his wife, Miriam; they moved to Canada in 1962, and Ted established a machine shop in Toronto. Ted and Miriam have two children and three grandchildren.



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From Loss to Liberation

Joseph Tomasov

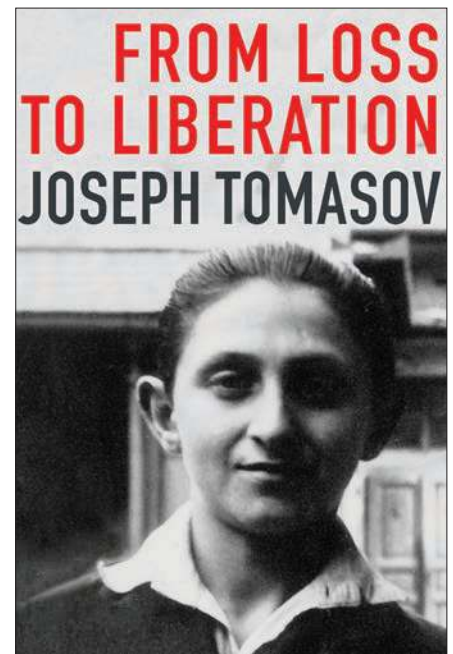
At first we weren't sure what was happening, but by looking through a small ventilation pipe we soon found out. We saw the Germans, who had followed our footsteps in the snow. There was no way out.

In the fall of 1944, the Slovak National Uprising both endangers and saves Joseph Tomasov's life. At twenty-two years old and Jewish, Joseph has been a constant target of the Nazis and their Slovak allies. Joining the resistance movement is his only way out, even though life on the run is steeped in peril. After the war, Joseph's liberation is short-lived – imprisoned by the communist regime, he faces a twenty-five

year-sentence. Joseph's journey *From Loss to Liberation* is the story of a young man who never gives up and who, ultimately, fulfills his hopes and dreams in Canada.

About the author

Joseph Tomasov was born on May 25, 1920, in Trstěná, Slovakia. After the war, he graduated from Prague's Charles University with a degree in engineering. In November 1968, after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, Joseph immigrated to Canada with his wife, Agnes, and their two children. Joseph passed away in January 2019.



6×9 paperback · 216 pages with photos
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Alone in the Storm

Leslie Vertes

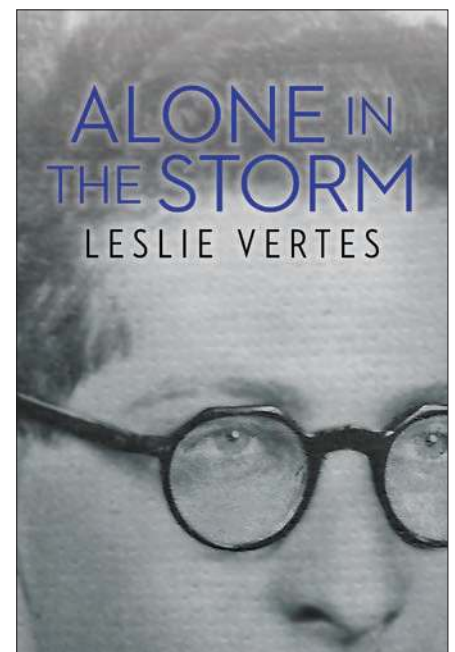
Writing opened the lid of my box of buried memories. Looking back at my long life's journey, I am dizzy contemplating the rough road and the distance I have travelled.

In 1944, twenty-year-old Leslie Vertes escapes from a forced labour detail in Budapest and miraculously survives by assuming a false identity. About to taste freedom as the end of the war nears, his liberation is short-lived when he is caught by the new Soviet regime and sent for two years of back-breaking labour and captivity. Years later, when he and his family flee to Canada, Leslie finally finds true freedom.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Alone in the Storm* is available.

About the author

Leslie Vertes was born in Ajak, Hungary, in 1924; he immigrated to Canada with his family in 1957. Leslie has been actively involved in Holocaust education and has volunteered for various organizations. In 2015, he received Quebec's YMCA Peace Medal and the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award in recognition of his volunteerism and contributions to the community.. Leslie lives in Montreal.



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If Only It Were Fiction

Elsa Thon

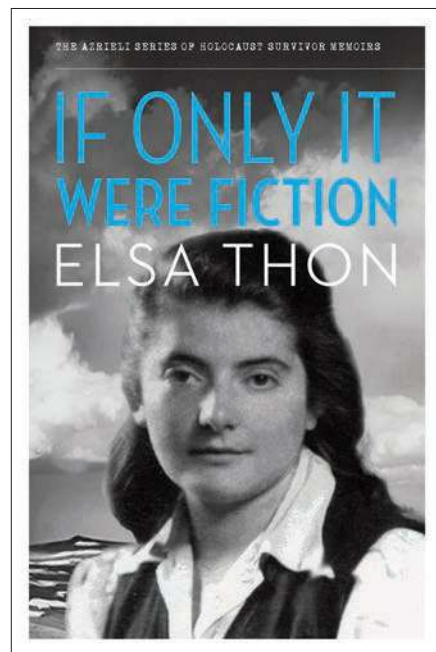
Only a miracle could save me now. What God would accept my prayers? I was a fraud. I carried forged documents. I lied all the time. I wasn't who I said I was. But I wanted to live.

Elsa Thon was a 16-year-old photographer's apprentice when the Nazis occupied her town of Pruszków, Poland. When her family is sent to the Warsaw ghetto, Elsa joins a community farm and is recruited by the Underground. Despite her deep belief in destiny, Elsa refuses to bow to her fate as a Jew in war-torn Poland.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *If Only It Were Fiction* is available.

About the author

Elsa Thon was born on January 10, 1923, in Pruszków, Poland. After liberation, she married Mayer Thon, a Soviet tank commander, and moved to Israel in 1948. As war survivors, they were given special permission to immigrate to Argentina in 1955, where they lived until moving to Canada in 1980. Elsa Thon lives in Toronto.



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W Hour

Arthur Ney

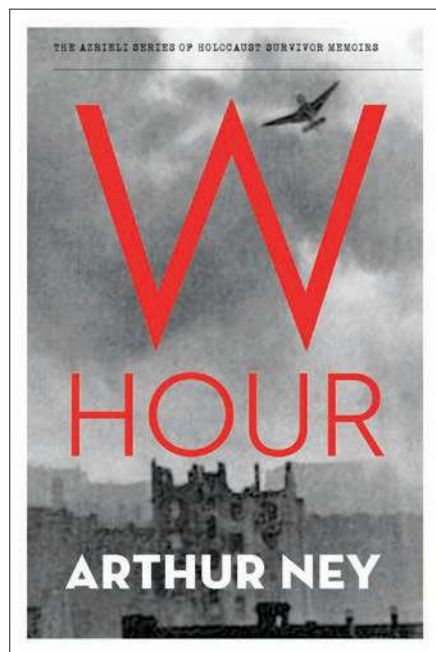
Two close calls in one day were enough for me. I realized that the uprising was not like the games I played with Józek before the war. This was a very real battle, in which people were being killed and wounded.

As the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins in spring 1943, twelve-year-old Arthur Ney is hiding outside the walls. Realizing that his family is gone, he finds refuge in a Catholic orphanage, struggling with loneliness, guilt and fear while living under a false identity. When the Warsaw Uprising – codenamed *W Hour* – begins in 1944, Arthur Ney joins the barricades and fights for liberation.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *W Hour* is available.

About the author

Arthur Ney was born in Warsaw on June 25, 1930. He came to Canada in 1948 and settled in Montreal, where he raised a family. Arthur Ney passed away in September 2016.



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If, By Miracle

Michael Kutz

I didn't see anyone outside the pit, so I jumped out.... I had the feeling that my mother was running beside me and calling out to me, "Michael, run faster and don't look back!"

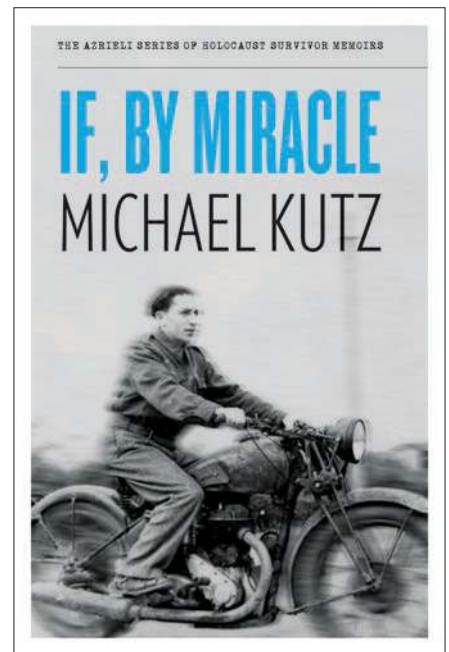
Nearly buried alive, ten-year-old Michael Kutz narrowly escapes the Nazi death squad that has killed 4,000 Jews, including his own family, in his hometown of Nieśwież. Guided by his mother's last words and determined to survive, he becomes the youngest member of a partisan resistance group in the dense Belorussian forest, taking part in daring operations against the Nazis and their collaborators.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *If, By Miracle* is available.

About the author

Michael Kutz was born in Nieśwież, Poland (present-day Belarus), in 1930. He arrived in Canada as a war orphan in 1948 and lived in Winnipeg before settling in Montreal, where he joined various charitable organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged youth, the elderly and war veterans. Michael Kutz lives in Montreal.

2015 LIVING NOW SILVER MEDAL WINNER



6×9 paperback · 184 pages with photos
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Vanished Boyhood

George Stern

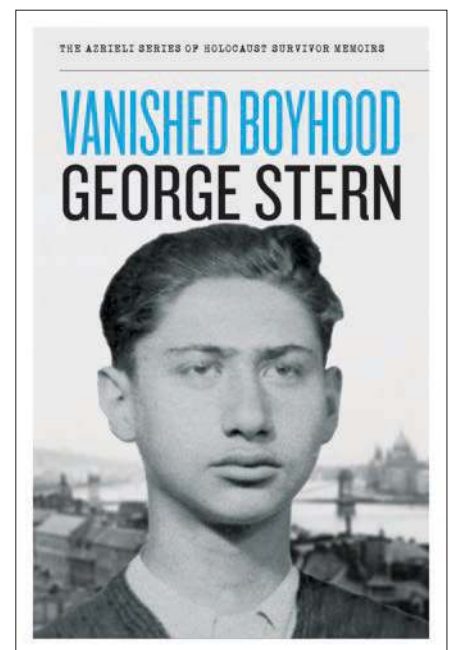
As soon as I heard the airplane engines I ran upstairs to watch the bombers approaching. It was dangerous, but I wasn't scared. I prayed to God that those American planes would destroy the Nazis and the factories so we all could be free again.

A month before George Stern's thirteenth birthday, Germany invades his native Hungary, anti-Jewish edicts are passed and a ghetto is established. A rebel even then, George refuses to wear the Jewish star. "Passing" as a Christian boy, he survives the siege of Budapest as the Soviet Red Army presses closer, strafing the city while the fascist Arrow Cross continues to hunt for Jews.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Vanished Boyhood* is available.

About the author

George Stern was born on April 21, 1931, in the Budapest suburb of Újpest. After the war, he immigrated to Israel and fought in the War of Independence. In 1960, George and his wife, Judit, left Israel for São Paulo, Brazil, and in 1969 immigrated from there to Canada. George Stern passed away in November 2017.



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Fleeing from the Hunter

Marian Domanski

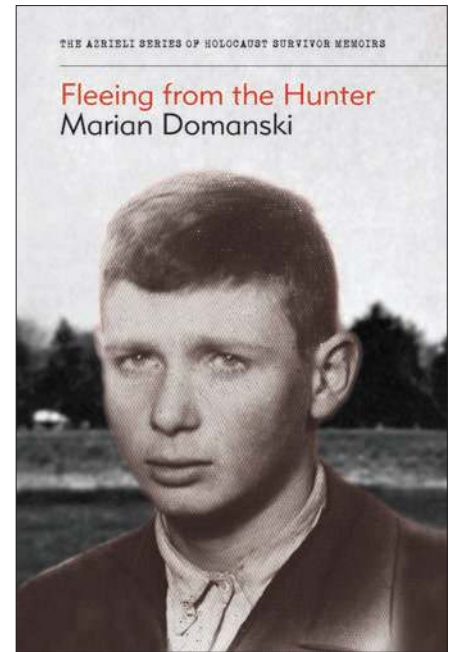
I asked myself, Am I a criminal doomed for execution? I was determined to run away ... that thought never left my mind.

On the run in Nazi-occupied Poland, thirteen-year-old orphan Marian Finkelman – later Domanski – is forced to grow up much too early. When he finally escapes the ghetto in his hometown, Marian's perfect Polish and fair complexion help him narrowly escape death as he travels alone through the Polish countryside.

About the author

Marian (Finkelman) Domanski was born in Otwock, Poland in 1928. He joined the Polish air force after the war and worked as a photographer before moving to Denmark in 1968. He immigrated to Canada two years later and was very active in Toronto's Polish-Jewish community until his death in 2012.

2011 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER
SILVER MEDAL WINNER



6×9 paperback · 240 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 897470 17 6 · \$14.95



Ghettos & Camps



Elly Gotz (standing) teaching students in the ghetto Fachschule (trade school) in Kaunas, Lithuania, 1944. From *Flights of Spirit*.

In Search of Light

Martha Salcudean

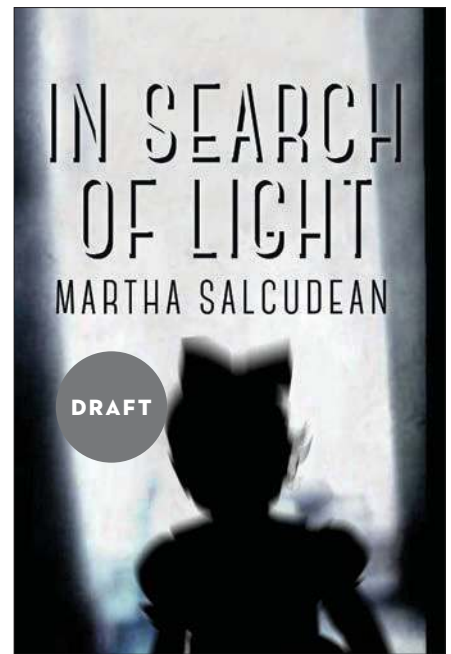
I understood that we were different, that we were considered as aliens — more correctly, enemy aliens — and that there was a different set of rules for us.

Martha Salcudean grows up in Romania before the area she lives in abruptly becomes ruled by Hungary and then, in 1944, by Germany. As Martha is forced into ghettos, she experiences such cruelty and hatred that at ten years old, she no longer feels like a child. But Martha's fate changes in an instant when she becomes one of those destined to be saved by Rudolf Kasztner, who is riskily negotiating with the Nazis.

After the war, Martha returns to Romania, but when the communist dictatorship takes hold, Martha again finds herself living in fear, and she is determined to escape with her new family to freedom.

About the author

Dr. Martha Salcudean was born in 1934 in Chiochiș, Romania, and immigrated to Canada in 1976. She was a professor at the University of Ottawa and head of mechanical engineering at the University of British Columbia. She has received three honorary doctorates and a number of prestigious awards and honours. Martha Salcudean is professor emerita at UBC and lives in Vancouver.



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Flights of Spirit

Elly Gotz

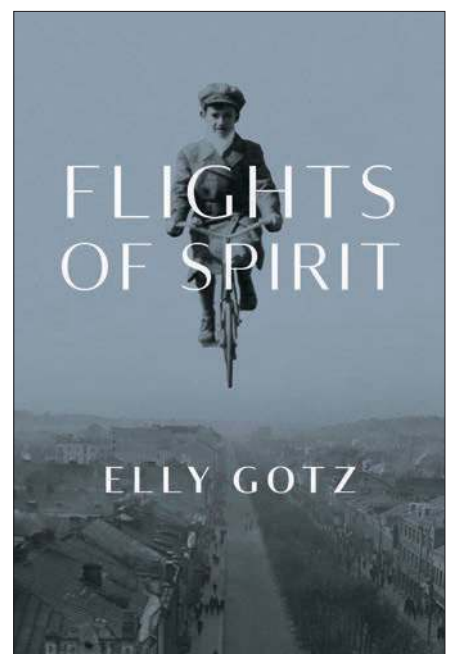
I had a lot of time to think and I had many questions: How does it feel to die? Does the brain go on working for a time after the heart stops? My mother was a strong woman and I trusted her, but would she have the strength to give me, her only child, the first injection?

Sixteen-year-old Elly Gotz hides with his family in an underground bunker in the Kovno ghetto in Lithuania, prepared to die rather than be found by the Nazis. But there is no escape from the ghetto's liquidation, and Elly and his father are taken to the notorious Dachau concentration camp. After the war, Elly fights to

regain his lost youth and education. His motivation and enterprising spirit give him the determination to succeed and to, ultimately, find strength in flight.

About the author

Elly Gotz was born in Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania, in 1928. In 1947, Elly and his parents immigrated to Norway and then to Zimbabwe. Elly immigrated to Toronto in 1964, where he established various businesses and achieved his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. In 2017, at age eighty-nine, he fulfilled another aeronautical dream by going skydiving. Elly lives in Toronto.



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Carry the Torch

Sam Weisberg

A Lasting Legacy

Johnny Jablon

Commandant Göth singled out a man from the line and shot him for no apparent reason at all. Göth then turned to the next person and asked, "Why are you staring at me so stupidly?" And he shot him as well.

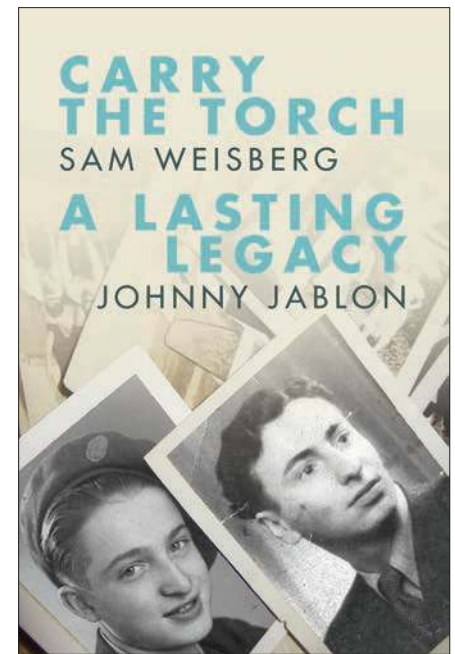
In the Krakow-Płaszów forced labour camp, both Johnny and Sam quickly learn of the brutality of the new commandant, Amon Göth. At sixteen years old, both feel like they are walking a tightrope, where one wrong move can make them the target of Göth's unpredictable volatility. *Carry the Torch* and *A Lasting*

Legacy are the different yet parallel stories of two men who must find their own way after the war and decide whether to keep their histories in the past.

About the authors

Sam Weisberg was born in Chorzów, Poland, in 1927. After liberation, Sam lived in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons (DP) camp, where he met his wife, Rosa. They immigrated to Canton, Ohio, in 1948 and to Toronto in 1959. Sam Weisberg passed away in January 2019.

Johnny (Ephroim) Jablon was born in Krakow, Poland, in 1927. After the war, Johnny lived in the Bindermichl DP camp in Austria. In 1948, as a war orphan, he immigrated to Montreal, where he still lives.



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Dignity Endures

Judith Rubinstein

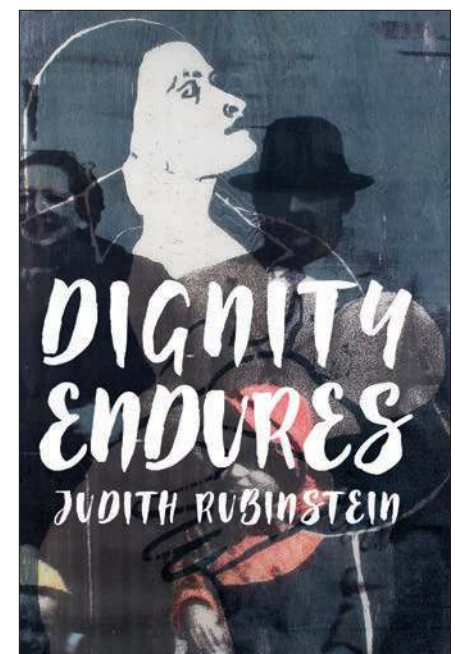
What they told us was a lie. After several days of travelling under the most degrading conditions, broken in spirit, hungry and dying of thirst, stripped of our human dignity, we finally arrived in Auschwitz-Birkenau, a place we had never heard of before.

The train from Hungary to Auschwitz brings Judith face-to-face with Dr. Mengele, the Angel of Death, who decides her fate. Her mother's quick actions are all that stand between her and certain death. At twenty-four years old, she struggles to stay alive after being separated from her family as they pass from the ghettos of

Hungary to the Nazi labour and concentration camps. Judith endures the destruction of her family, yet rebuilds her life and dignity.

About the author

Judith Rubinstein was born in Mezőcsát, Hungary, in 1920. After surviving Auschwitz-Birkenau and being liberated by the Americans in May 1945 from a labour camp in Germany, Judith immigrated to Canada in 1948 with her husband, Bela Rubinstein. She had a son and a daughter and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Judith passed away in 2013.



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Memories in Focus

Pinchas Gutter

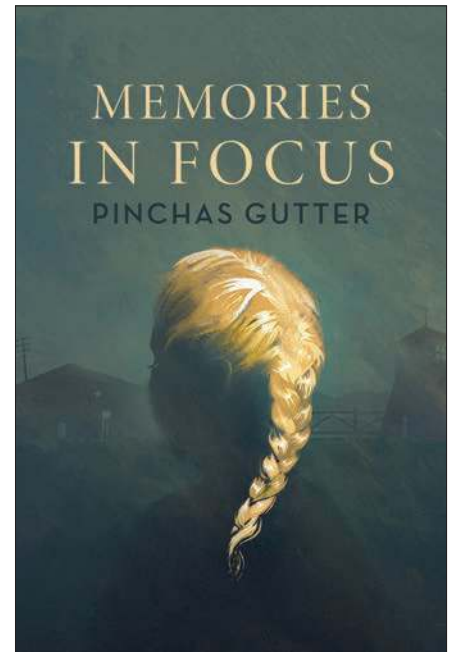
I think my mind just went blank. I had disengaged myself from what was happening around me. It was as if my eyes were cameras and my brain was the screen. I just recorded everything, without emotion or participation.

As ten-year-old Pinchas is deported from the Warsaw ghetto to the killing site of Majdanek and then to a series of concentration camps, he shuts himself off to the terrors surrounding him and tries his best to become almost invisible. But after liberation, his photographic memory won't let his past fade away, and Pinchas struggles to deal with nightmares and flashbacks while raising a family and healing his emo-

tional scars. A poignant reflection on suffering, injustice and trauma, *Memories in Focus* also offers hope and faith in the future.

About the author

Born in Lodz, Poland, on July 21, 1932, Pinchas Gutter was the only member of his immediate family to survive the Holocaust. Pinchas lived in France, Israel, Brazil and South Africa before immigrating to Canada in 1985. He is the first Holocaust survivor to have his storytelling and his likeness immortalized in an interactive three-dimensional projection in the USC Shoah Foundation's New Dimensions in Testimony. Pinchas Gutter lives in Toronto.



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Inside the Walls

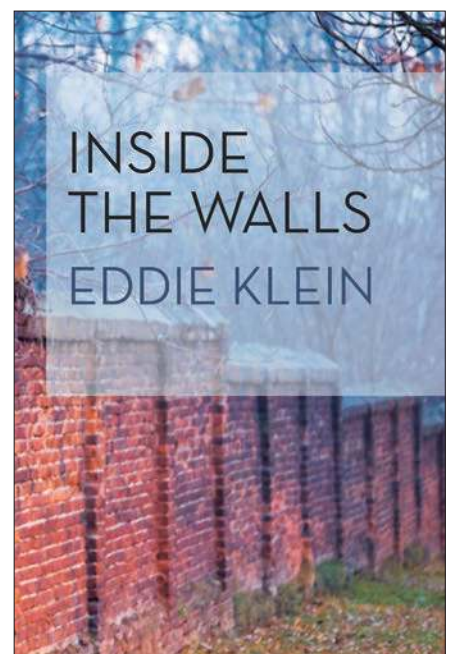
Eddie Klein

Rumkowski remains shrouded in mystery, and though my own view may be biased, I am convinced that he cared deeply about the Jews in the ghetto.

An idealist and a dreamer, orphaned Icchok Klein comes under the protective wing of those in charge of the Lodz ghetto, including the powerful Mordechai Rumkowski. In a flash, Icchok's life takes a decidedly different path, giving him a bird's-eye view of a house of privilege and a polarizing, controversial figure. But in August 1944, Icchok's fate spirals when he is transported from the ghetto and forced to face, alone, each precarious moment.

About the author

Eddie (Icchok) Klein was born in Si-eradz, Poland, in 1927. He immigrated to British Mandate Palestine in 1945, where he worked for the Palmach and later the Air Force. Eddie married his wife, Miriam, in Tel Aviv in 1955; they immigrated to Montreal in 1956, where Eddie still lives.



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Stronger Together

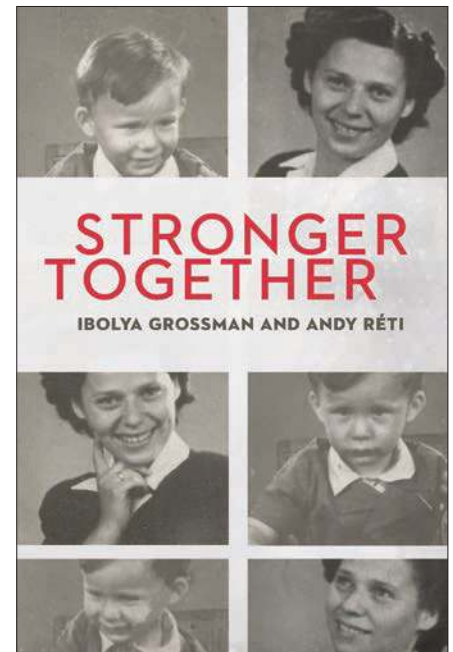
Ibolya Grossman and Andy Réti

“Don’t cry darling. We need this baby. You will see.”

With these words from her husband, Zoltán, Ibolya Rechnitzer’s fear of being pregnant during the uncertainty of wartime is somewhat eased. When Andy is born, Ibi realizes her husband was right – Andy gives her a reason to go on during the worst of times in the Budapest ghetto, and to persevere in their escape from Hungary after the war. Ibi’s story is a tribute to her son, and Andy’s memoir is a tribute to her legacy.

About the authors

Ibolya Grossman was born in Pécs, Hungary, in 1916; she passed away in Toronto in 2005. Andy Réti was born in Budapest in 1942. Andy has been a volunteer at Toronto’s Holocaust Education Centre since 1998 and joined his mother on many of her events as a survivor speaker. Andy continues to tell their stories to numerous audiences.



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Six Lost Years

Amek Adler

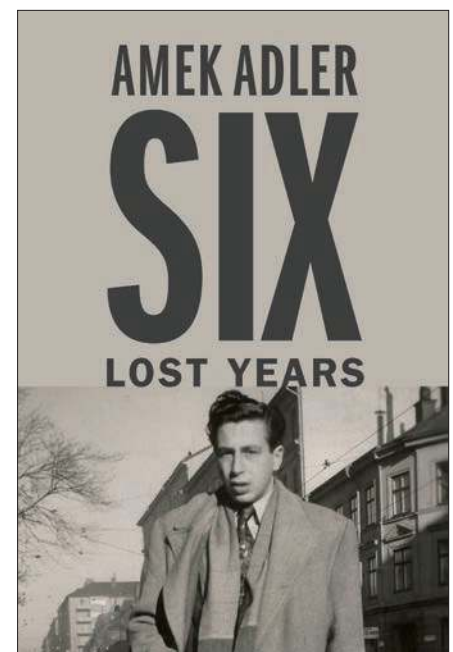
I had watched my family being torn apart and degraded, and I had feared for my life. I was heartbroken, but I had been hardened, and I had learned not to cry.

“How much longer could we last?” sixteen-year-old Amek Adler laments, after arriving at another concentration camp in the spring of 1945. From the Lodz and Warsaw ghettos to the Radom forced labour camp, and from Natzweiler to Dachau, Amek has witnessed too much destruction and tragedy to bear any more suffering. To hold onto hope for his survival, he dreams of the life he had with his

parents and three brothers, and he dreams of the future.

About the author

Abram (Amek) Adler was born in Lublin, Poland, on April 20, 1928. Amek lived in Italy (1945–1947), immigrated to Sweden in 1948 and then to Canada in 1954 with his wife, Ruth. In Toronto, Amek succeeded in both the fur industry and the jewellery business. He spoke to numerous audiences about his experiences during the Holocaust and was actively involved with the Jewish War Veterans of Canada. Amek passed away in 2017.



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The Weight of Freedom

Nate Leipciger

To avoid thinking I repeated the words “after the war.” The words stuck in my mind like a mantra. After the war. The words blended into the clang of the wheels. Would there ever be an end to the war?

Nate Leipciger, a thoughtful, shy eleven-year-old boy, is plunged into an incomprehensible web of ghettos, concentration and death camps during the German occupation of Poland. As he struggles to survive, he forges a new, unbreakable bond with his father and yearns for a free future. Introspective and raw, yet ever hopeful, *The Weight of Freedom* is Nate’s vivid journey through a past that can never be left behind.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *The Weight of Freedom* is available.

About the author

Nate Leipciger was born in Chorzów, Poland, in 1928. He immigrated to Toronto in 1948, where he eventually obtained a university degree in engineering. Nate was a member of the International Council of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum for fifteen years and has been an educator on March of the Living for twenty years. Nate Leipciger lives in Toronto.

THE WEIGHT OF FREEDOM



NATE LEIPCIGER

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In Fragile Moments

Zsuzsanna Fischer Spiro

The Last Time

Eva Shainblum

I am no longer who I used to be.... All I have left is hope.

Born two hundred kilometres away from each other and two years apart, the lives of both Zsuzsanna Fischer and Eva Steinberger are thrown into chaos when Germany occupies Hungary and destroys their peaceful childhoods. In the spring of 1944, sent into ghettos and then to Auschwitz, they each take refuge in the one constant in their lives – their older sisters. A glimpse into the fierceness of a sister’s love, these two stories mirror the remarkable differences in similar paths of survival.

About the authors

Zsuzsanna Fischer was born in Tornyoşpálca, Hungary, in 1925. After the war, she lived in Budapest until the 1956 Hungarian Uprising, immigrating with her family to Canada in 1957. Zsuzsanna Spiro passed away in August 2016. Eva Steinberger was born in Nagyvárad, Hungary, in 1927. She immigrated to Canada in 1948, settling in Montreal, where she still lives.



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A Name Unbroken

Michael Mason

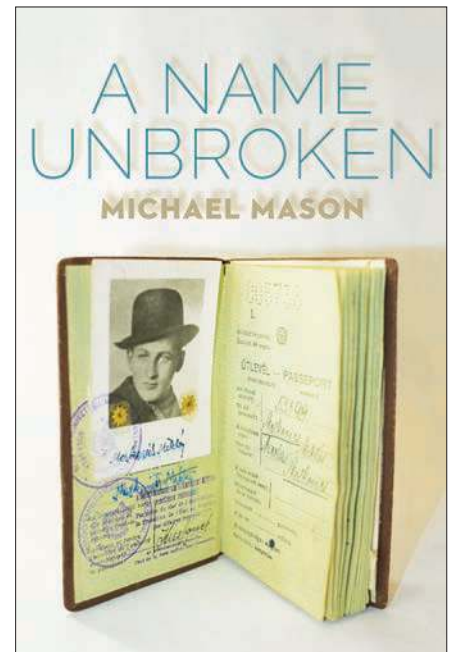
I was skin and bones. The person who looked back at me in the mirror was a scared-looking skinny little boy, not the person I thought I was.

When Germany occupies Hungary in 1944, fifteen-year-old Miklos Friedman must draw on his wits to survive. Recruited into forced labour, sent to a ghetto and, ultimately, to the Nazi camps of Auschwitz and Mühldorf, Miklos never stops fighting to change his fate. After the war, he risks everything in order to leave his past behind. Decades later, a chance meeting in Toronto leads Miklos, now Michael Mason, to discover the power of his new name.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for A Name Unbroken is available.

About the author

Michael Mason was born as Miklos Friedman in Beregszász, Czechoslovakia, in 1928. In 1949, he immigrated to Canada, working in a wide variety of business ventures in Hamilton before moving to Toronto, where he opened his own dental laboratory and became a denturist. Michael Mason lives in Toronto.



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Across the Rivers of Memory

Felicia Carmelly

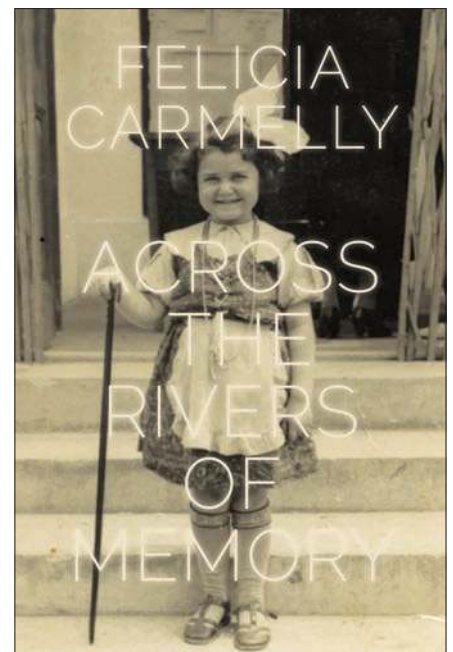
Everybody I knew seemed to be whispering all of the time. I was scared, but no one would talk to me about anything.

Ten-year-old Felicia Steigman is confused by the sudden disruption to her life when she is expelled from school and forced to wear a yellow star. But she is completely unprepared for what happens next – the forced abandonment of her home and a gruelling journey, overseen by cruel Romanian Nazi collaborators, to Transnistria, a squalid place that doesn't even exist on a map.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for Across the Rivers of Memory is available.

About the author

Felicia Carmelly was born in Vatra Dornei, Romania, in 1931. In 1959, Felicia and her family emigrated from communist Romania to Israel, immigrating to Canada three years later. Felicia founded Toronto's Transnistria Survivors' Association in 1994 and published the anthology Shattered! 50 Years of Silence: History and Voices of the Tragedy in Romania and Transnistria in 1997. Felicia Carmelly passed away in October 2018.



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ISBN 978 1 897470 54 1 · \$14.95



Hope's Reprise

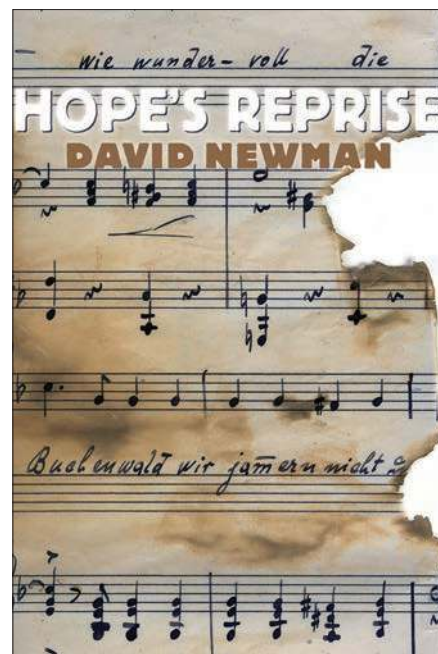
David Newman

The more we endured, the stronger our will to live became. This was our resistance against the degradation.

Torn from his family in Poland and deported for forced labour at Skarżysko-Kamienna, David battles desperation and the mounting death toll by writing songs, poems and satires about life in the camp. Later, in the infamous Buchenwald camp, the resistance recruits him for a clandestine initiative to protect the Jewish children there. With his soulful songs and his lessons for the children, David is able to rouse a chorus of hope, both in himself and those around him.

About the author

David Newman was born in Chmielnik, Poland, in 1919. He immigrated to Paris with his wife, Anna, and son, Jack, in 1946. In 1951, the Newman family immigrated to Canada. David was a performer in Yiddish theatre productions, taught Yiddish to countless students and co-founded the Kol Yisroel congregation at the Borochov Centre. David Newman passed away in 2002.



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Never Far Apart

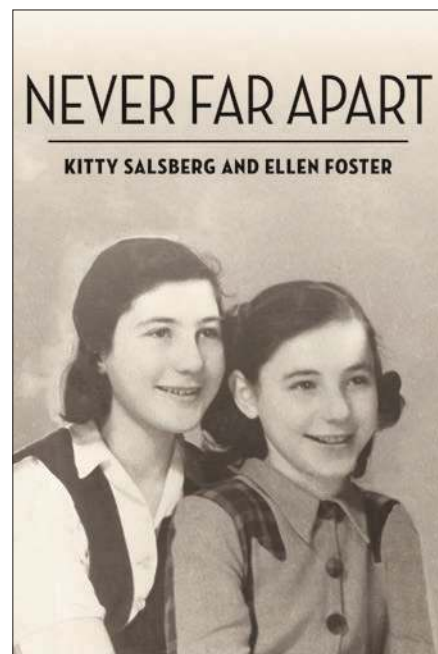
Kitty Salsberg and Ellen Foster

After all those terrible years when I so fiercely protected her and she clung to me for love and security, those "wise" social workers separated us, leaving us each to manage on our own in a strange environment.

Kati and her younger sister, Ilonka, arrive in Canada as orphans, with painful memories from the Holocaust. Their harrowing time alone in the Budapest ghetto is fresh in their minds, as are their fragile hopes to be adopted. But their lives in Toronto are far from what they expected, and full of broken promises.

About the authors

Kitty Salsberg and Ellen Foster were born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1932 and 1935, respectively. They immigrated to Canada in 1948, where Kitty enjoyed a long and fulfilling career as a teacher. Ellen moved to Los Angeles in 1952, where she worked and raised a family. Ellen still lives in LA; Kitty lives in Toronto.



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Traces of What Was

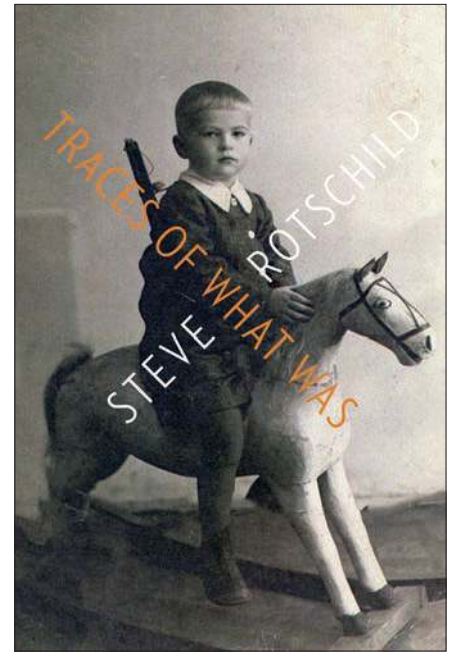
Steve Rotschild

It was at the end of March 1944, on a cool, bright and sunny day, the beginning of spring, the time of renewal of life, that the SS came to take the children.

Ten-year-old Steve Rotschild learns to hide, to be silent, to be still – and to wait. He knows the sound of the Nazis' boots and knows to hold his breath until their footsteps recede. Rotschild eloquently juxtaposes his past, furtive walks outside the Vilna ghetto with his long, liberating walks through Toronto after the war. This captivating story of survival and a mother's tenacious love leaves the reader indelibly marked by *Traces of What Was*.

About the author

Steve Rotschild was born in Vilna, Lithuania in 1933. He immigrated to Israel with his mother and new stepfather in 1949, and from there to Canada. He married Lillian Blumenfeld in Montreal in 1956 and they raised two daughters who have between them five children. Steve Rotschild now lives in Toronto.



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As the Lilacs Bloomed

Anna Molnár Hegedűs

Six months have passed since I arrived home. Six months full of hope, waiting, heart-gripping anxiety and dark despair.

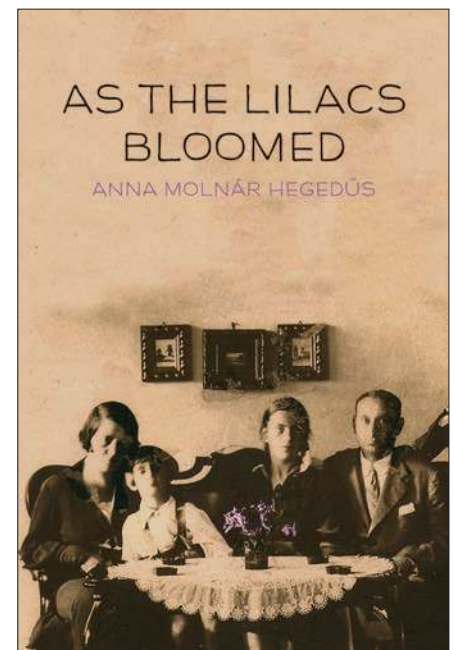
In the spring of 1944, as Germany occupies her native Hungary, Anna Hegedűs barely has time to notice the flowers blooming around her. One year later, as the lilacs blossom once again, she returns to her hometown and sets her memories, raw and vivid, to paper. Her unflinching words convey the bitter details of the Szatmár ghetto, Auschwitz and a perilous death march. Anna has survived a lifetime of trauma, and as she writes, she waits, desperately hoping her family will return.

About the author

Anna Molnár Hegedűs was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire on August 2, 1897. She married Zoltan Hegedűs in Szatmár (Satu-Mare), then in Romania, on June 14, 1921, and had two children, John and Agnes. Anna Hegedűs immigrated to Israel from Romania in 1949 and to Canada in 1952. She passed away in Montreal in 1979.

2015 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER
GOLD MEDAL WINNER

2015 LITERARY TRANSLATORS'
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA JOHN
GLASSCO PRIZE



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My Heart Is At Ease

Gerta Solan

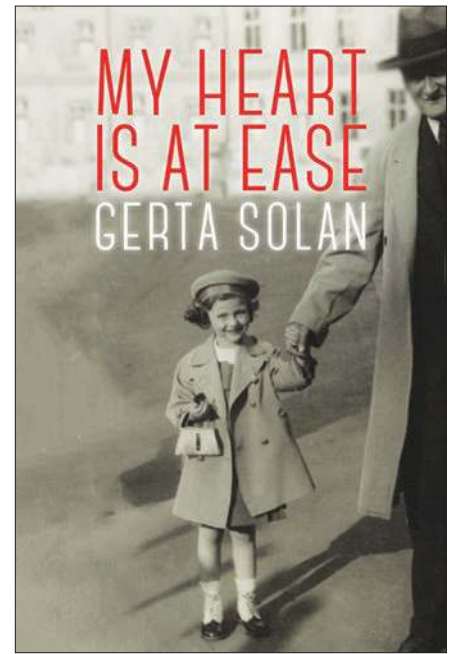
We played a game of nostalgia, recalling memories of the past to forget, for a while, the terrible present....

The siren at 5:00 a.m. woke us to the morning reality of roll call. We each wondered if we were going to be given another day of life.

In June 1942, when twelve-year-old Gerta is deported with her parents to the Theresienstadt ghetto – the Nazis’ deceptive “model Jewish settlement” – her family helps her cope with the surrounding devastation. Later, alone in Auschwitz, Gerta is determined to survive the unbearable. Her intrepid spirit and keen observation guides her anew through post-war communism to freedom in Canada.

About the author

Gerta Solan was born in Prague in 1929. After liberation, she returned to Prague and in 1949 she married Paul Seidner (Solan). They lived in Prague until the Soviet invasion in 1968. In Toronto, Gerta worked for the Red Cross, tracing and reuniting families after disasters, until her retirement in 1995. Gerta immigrated to Israel in 2014.



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Suddenly the Shadow Fell

Leslie Meisels with Eva Meisels

That night, a fierce air battle developed around and above our train. Guns were blazing, bombs were falling.... In the morning, instead of the enemy, US soldiers found us and heard our cries: “Oh God, we are free!”

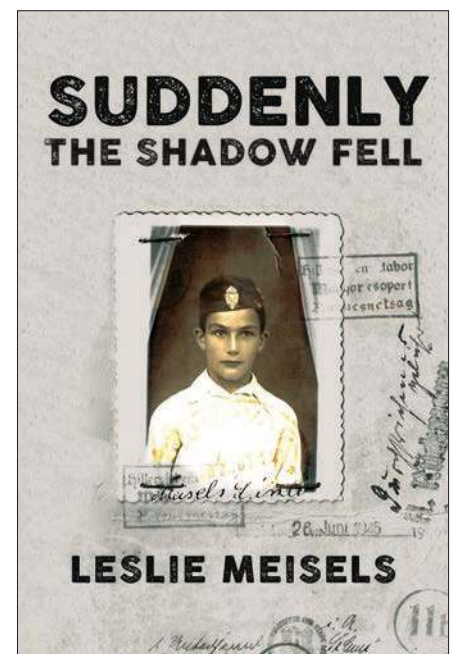
INTRODUCTION BY ANNA PORTER

When seventeen-year-old Leslie Meisels insists that his family join a transport leaving Debrecen, Hungary to go who knows where, that decision luckily put them among the roughly 20,000 “exchange Jews” whose lives had been bartered for cash and military equipment in a secret deal with Adolf Eichmann.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Suddenly the Shadow Fell* is available.

About the author

Leslie Meisels was born on February 20, 1927, in Nádudvar, Hungary. His whole immediate family survived the Holocaust. He immigrated to the US in 1958, following the Hungarian Revolution, and to Canada in 1967. He married Eva in 1961 and they have two children and four grandchildren. Leslie Meisels, a dedicated Holocaust educator, passed away in June 2018.



6×9 paperback · 168 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 897470 42 8 · \$14.95



Gatehouse to Hell

Felix Opatowski

I was stubborn. I didn't want to stay in Auschwitz. I didn't want to go to the gas chambers.... I didn't want to die there, and I kept pushing back.

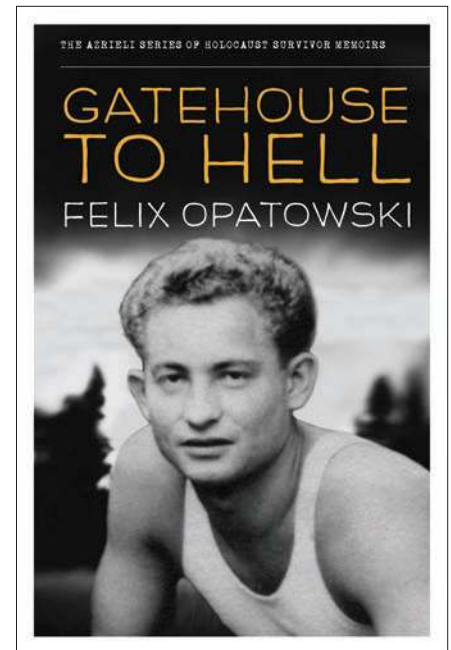
At 15, Felix Opatowski begins smuggling goods out of the Lodz ghetto in exchange for food. In 1943 he is deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he is recruited as a runner for the Polish Underground and implicated in the plot to blow up the crematoria.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for Gatehouse to Hell is available.

About the author

Felix Opatowski was born in Lodz, Poland on June 15, 1924. He was liberated in Austria by the US army on May 9, 1945 and worked at a US army base where he married his wife, Regina, in 1947. Felix and Regina arrived in Toronto in 1949; they were married for 69 years. Regina passed away in 2016; Felix Opatowski passed away in January 2017.

2012 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER
SILVER MEDAL WINNER



6×9 paperback · 216 pages with photos
ISBN 978 1 897470 26 8 · \$14.95



We Sang in Hushed Voices

Helena Jockel

In Auschwitz I was told that in two hours they could kill two thousand people....

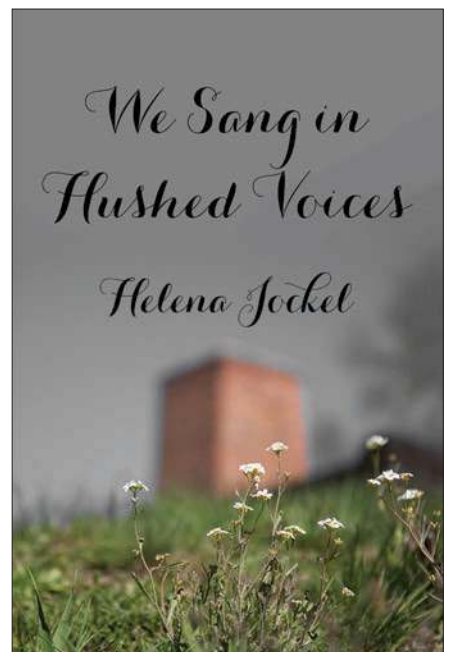
When the Nazis invade Hungary on March 19, 1944, elementary school teacher Helena Jockel can only think about how to save “her” children as she accompanies them all the way to Auschwitz. Her account of living and surviving in the camp is clear-eyed and poignant, sometimes recording the too-brief moments of beauty and kindness that accompany the unremitting cruelty.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for We Sang in Hushed Voices is available.

About the author

Helena Jockel (née Kahan) was born in Mukačevo, Czechoslovakia on October 23, 1919. After the war, she returned to Czechoslovakia and in 1948 married her widowed brother-in-law, Emil Jockel. They remained in Czechoslovakia until Helena retired and then moved to Canada in 1988 to join their daughter, Jana. Helena Jockel passed away in November 2016.

2015 LIVING NOW SILVER MEDAL
WINNER



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ISBN 978 1 897470 43 5 · \$14.95



E/96: Fate Undecided

Paul-Henri Rips

“Don’t move. Don’t open the door.” My knees had turned to jelly and I was trembling uncontrollably.... Sina grabbed her raincoat and declared, “I’m leaving. They’ll be back and I don’t want to end up in a camp.”

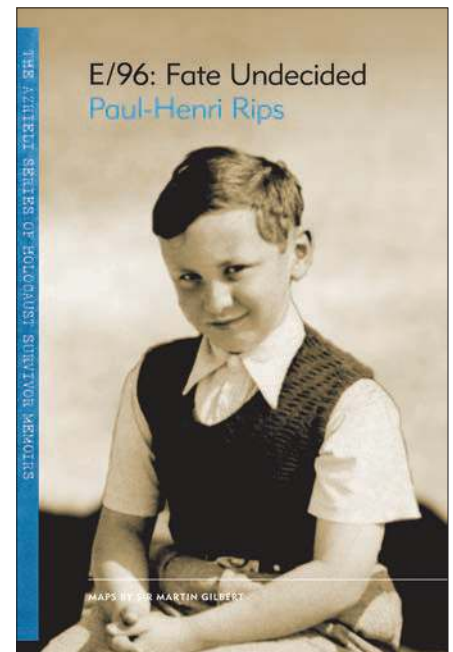
The son of an Antwerp diamond merchant, Paul-Henri Rips was ten when the Nazis invaded Belgium and ended his “golden childhood” forever. Guided by his father’s admonition to “Sei a mensch” (Be a decent person), Rips manages to hold onto his humanity in the face of unfathomable inhumanity.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for E/96: Fate Undecided is available.

About the author

Paul-Henri Rips was born in 1929 in Antwerp. He left Antwerp in 1950 and moved to the Belgian Congo and then to South Africa, where he married his wife, Lily. In 1997, the couple immigrated to Toronto to join their children and grandchildren, where they still live.

2009 MOONBEAM CHILDREN’S BOOK AWARD GOLD MEDAL WINNER



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The Shadows Behind Me

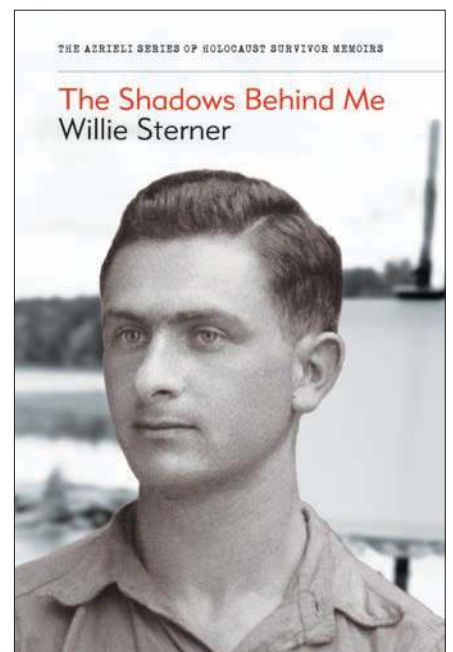
Willie Sterner

I was surprised that Oskar Schindler, a German industrialist, would talk to me not as a Jew but as a normal person.... I thought that I must be having a nice dream.

For six desperate years, Willie Sterner’s skill as a painter saves him from death at the hands of the Nazis. In a rare piece of luck, Sterner finds himself transferred to Oskar Schindler’s Emalia factory, where he becomes the famed German businessman’s personal art restorer.

About the author

Willie Sterner was born in Wolbrom, Poland on September 15, 1919. The eldest of seven children, he was the only one to survive the Holocaust. After the war, he lived in Displaced Persons camps in Austria, where he became chief of the Jewish police. He and his wife, Eva, immigrated to Canada in 1948 and settled in Montreal. Willie Sterner passed away in 2011.



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Bits and Pieces

Henia Reinhartz

My family and I were in hiding. Suddenly I heard someone panting on the stairs ... we didn't breathe. Who was coming now?

Lodz, Poland, 1944. Teenaged Henia Rosenfarb sits with her family in a small, secret room, hiding from the Nazi soldiers who are looking for them. Little can the fiery redhead imagine the path her life would take, from wartime Poland to Canada.

About the author

Born in Lodz, Poland in 1926, Henia Reinhartz endured the Lodz ghetto and survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. After the war, she moved to Paris where she graduated as a Yiddish and Hebrew teacher and met her husband. Henia immigrated to Canada in 1951 and moved to Toronto in 1952.

2008 INDEPENDENT
PUBLISHER GOLD MEDAL
WINNER

2008 CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK
AWARD WINNER



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Spring's End

John Freund

Into a new world I was brought by a dream

Never to see blood spilled again

But can I really throw away

The dreams that soiled my youth?

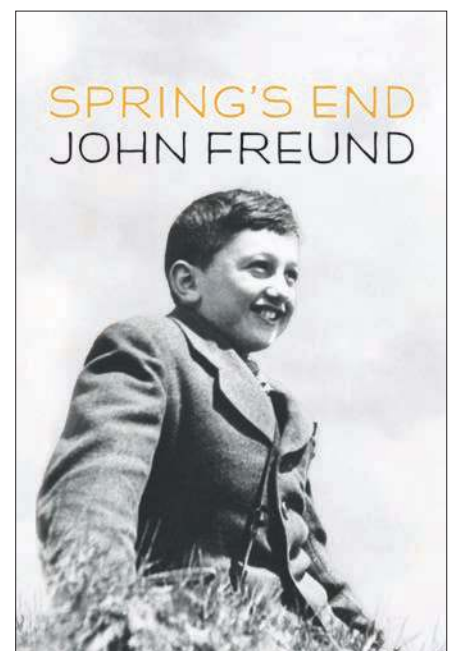
A young boy who loved soccer as much as he loved to write, John Freund's joyful childhood is shattered by the German invasion of Czechoslovakia. John's family suffers through the systematic erosion of their rights only to be deported to Theresienstadt – en route to the Auschwitz death camp.

The Azrieli Series Short Film for *Spring's End* is available.

About the author

John Freund was born in 1930 in České Budějovice, a town located south of Prague, in Czechoslovakia. He was liberated by American troops in 1945 and in March 1948, John immigrated to Canada. He and his wife live in Toronto.

2008 INDEPENDENT
PUBLISHER GOLD MEDAL
WINNER



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