

Writing as Witness Project
Stockton's Sara and Sam Schoffer
Holocaust Resource Center Memoirs

Memoirs can be ordered from ComteQ Publishing:
<http://www.comteqpublishing.com>

Georges Raymond Beck and Maryann McLoughlin
Forced to War: The WWII Memoir of Frenchman

Following the German annexation of Alsace and Lorraine in 1940, Berlin forcibly integrated the French citizens of Alsace and Lorraine into the German army. From 1942, they were made German citizens, and 100,000 Alsatians and 30,000 Mosellans (north Lorraine) were enrolled by force into the German *Wehrmacht*, especially to fight on the Eastern front against Stalin's army. These men were called the *malgré-nous* (literally, in spite of ourselves), or in English as the "unwilling" or the "against our will."

Georges Raymond Beck, an Alsatian, was one of these *malgré-nous*. In the spring of 1942, he received a notice to report for the *Reichsarbeitsdienst*, Reich Labor Service, compulsory pre-military service. In July 1942, he was inducted into the German army and ordered to report for basic training.

By October 1942, Georges and fellow *malgré-nous* were on a military train, traveling through Germany, Poland, and finally into the U.S.S.R. His convoy traversed unending Russian forests and along the way was strafed by the Soviet Air Force. During the Soviet counter offensive in 1943, George and a friend decided to escape. He said, "We had no allegiance to the German Nazi doctrine whatsoever. We had no interest in helping the German war effort and had no qualms about escaping, if and when the time was right." The rest of Georges' memoir describes his dangerous journey back to France and his subsequent marriage and immigration to the United States, where he prospers.

Forced to War will appeal to WWII buffs and to students of the history of WWII as well as to a general audience. All readers will appreciate Georges' determination and resilience both as a *malgré-nous* and as an immigrant.

Donald Berkman and Maryann McLoughlin
Two Voices: A Mother and Son, Holocaust Survivors

"As a young man, I did not speak of my past; however, as I have become older, I am haunted by memories." —Don Berkman

This is the remarkable story of Donald (Chipkin) Berkman, and his mother, Sara. They escaped from the ghetto to the forests of Lithuania, living in root cellars and barns but continually moving around to outwit the Nazis. They survived for

over two years on potatoes, bread, and, at times, grass. Immigrating to the U.S., Don and his family had a difficult life coping with language and poverty. Yet he prevailed, marrying, and building a prosperous business and a good life for himself and his family.

Two Voices: A Mother and Son, Holocaust Survivors adds to the literature about child Holocaust survivors and their resilience, despite the traumas suffered during the hell of the Holocaust.

Esther Berkowitz and Maryann McLoughlin
Traveling through Siberia with Bed and Babies:
A Holocaust Survivor's Joys and Sorrows

When the Germans attacked Poland, Esther Berkowitz and her fiancé, David, married and fled east to territory occupied by the Soviet Union. During their train journey to Siberia where they had been deported by the Soviets, Esther gave birth to her son, Daniel. The family's odyssey takes them to the Ural Mountains, then to Kazakhstan, and finally to Vineland and Atlantic City.

This memoir, *Traveling through Siberia with Bed and Babies: A Holocaust Survivor's Joys and Sorrows*, will add immeasurably to readers' knowledge of the Holocaust. In addition they will be enriched by Esther's life journey, her courage and resilience.

Fred Buff and Maryann McLoughlin
Riding the Storm Waves:
The M.S. St. Louis Diary of Fritz Buff

"The Voyage of the Dammed!" The "Double-Crossing!" This is how the 1939 journey of the *M.S. St. Louis* from Hamburg, Germany, to Havana, Cuba, is described. Seventeen-year-old Fritz (Fred) Buff was one of the 937 passengers on the infamous ship carrying refugees fleeing Nazi-dominated Germany. With Fred's diary we have a teenager's eyewitness account of life aboard the *St. Louis*.

Fred eventually immigrated to the U.S. and fought in WWII for the U.S. Navy in the Pacific at the Battle of Okinawa among others.

Fred Buff's diary will inspire teenagers as well as adults. In addition, his diary gives us a first-hand account of the voyage of the dammed.

Maud Peper Dahme and Maryann McLoughlin
Chocolate, The Taste of Freedom:
The Holocaust Memoir of a Hidden Dutch Girl

"This is story of a terrible evil and of those who at the risk of their own lives decided that evil must not triumph. It is a story of endurance and hope. It is the story of a gentle and courageous woman who emerged from the desperation of the European Holocaust to become a leader in her community in the new world."

—Governor Thomas Kean

Of the 1.6 million Jewish children who lived in Europe before WWII, only 100,000 survived the Holocaust. Most were hidden children. Dahme was one of those hidden children, hidden from the Nazis by righteous gentiles in the

Netherlands. In July of 1942, six-year-old Maud and her four-year-old sister, Rita, were taken to the Spronk farm in Oldebroek and later to a fishing village, Elburg, where they were hidden with the Westerinks for the rest of the war. In 2014, in The Netherlands, Jo (Frederica von Gulik-Westerink) and her parents, Jacob and Henriette Westerink, were honored as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Museum. The Spronks were honored at a ceremony in November at the Hague.

Chocolate, The Taste of Freedom chronicles not only the wartime adventures of Dahme but also her post-war experiences—reunion with parents, immigration, U.S. schools, marriage, and Holocaust education advocate.

In 2014, Maud Dahme was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame as one of the state's "Unsung Heroes." Dahme's memoir, her story of courage, hope, and bravery, will inspire generations of young and old. She will no longer be an unsung hero.

Phyllis Dunkelman and Maryann McLoughlin

In Fire and In Flowers:

The Holocaust Memoirs of Nathan and Phyllis Dunkelman

In Fire and In Flowers includes the memoirs of both Phyllis and Nathan Dunkelman, who met after the war in a displaced persons camp. Nathan, only twelve years old when the Germans occupied Poland, survived the Łódź Ghetto, Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, and Althammer labor camp. Phyllis, only ten years old when WWII started, lived in Koźienice, Poland, where a ghetto was established in 1941. In 1942 she was sent first to Gorzyczki Polenlager, a labor camp for non-Jewish Poles, next to Skarżysko Kamiennie labor camp, and eventually to five other camps including Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen.

After liberation, Nathan and Phyllis ended up in Zeilsheim displaced persons camp, where they met and fell in love. In 1951 they immigrated to the U.S., settling in Vineland on a poultry farm and raising three children as well as chickens. Their work evolved into a prosperous wholesale egg and chicken business, and the family continued to thrive with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. As Nathan remarked, "We went through hell and came back. We have been in fire and in flowers."

Nathan and Phyllis, a loving and resilient couple, surmounted many obstacles both during the Holocaust and in the New World. *In Fire and In Flowers* will inspire readers, especially those dealing with adversity.

Hanna Granek Ehrlich and Maryann McLoughlin

An Exile from A Paradise:

Memories of a Holocaust Survivor from Będzin

Paradise! Before the Holocaust, Będzin was considered by many Jews to be an earthly paradise. Będzin sang; it was happy. It was called the "singing town." Orchestras went throughout the streets. Courtyard musicians performed.

Hanna Granek was born in this beautiful city of Będzin. Hanna's happiest years were spent at Gymnasium Fürstenberg. Hanna remembers the close friendships that developed throughout her years at the gymnasium. Hanna and her friends walked the promenade, danced the tango, foxtrot, and the waltz and went to Shirley Temple and Laurel and Hardy movies. Her childhood was idyllic.

Paradise Lost! Będzin was captured by the Nazis. A mountain of stones remained of their great and beautiful synagogue. Here a small shoe that had been flung from a child on his way to annihilation. A short distance away from this shoe—a prosthesis. There a small *tallis* flapped on a fence and twisted its fringes, as if trying to oust the defiling forces, the evil that had penetrated Będzin.

After graduation, Hanna was on her way to the university when, in September 1939, the Germans attacked Poland, World War II broke out, and universities were forbidden to accept Jewish students. The occupation of Będzin was followed by restrictions, ghettoization, deportation, and the murder of most of Hanna's friends and family. After years in forced labor camps, Hanna was liberated and reunited with her friend from Będzin, Wolf Ehrlich. The two married in Munich and immigrated to the U.S. where they established a poultry farm and a china and crystal shop in Mays Landing, New Jersey. Hanna's memoir, *An Exile from a Paradise: Memories of a Holocaust Survivor from Będzin, Poland*, is awe-inspiring, a story of resilience and hope, of exile and acceptance.

Ida Feinberg and Maryann McLoughlin
If the Dawn Is Late in Coming:
Survivor of Vilna and Vaivara

Newly married, Ida Feinberg, her husband, Sender, her mother and father, younger brother, Peter, and her Bubbe were living happily in Vilna when the Germany army occupied Vilna on June 25, 1941.

Moved first into the Vilna Ghetto, Ida, Sender, and her father were next deported to Vaivara Concentration Camp in Estonia. Separated from Sender and her father, Ida survived, despite typhus, malnourishment, hard labor, and a death march.

Ida's memoir, *If the Dawn Is Late in Coming: Survivor of Vilna and Vaivara*, is one of the few we have of Holocaust survivors sent to one of the Balkan camps. Her memoir increases our knowledge of these camps as well as our information about the Vilna Ghetto. Although profoundly affected by her experiences during the Holocaust, Ida, a former Atlantic City resident, took comfort in her family and their love—her victory over Hitler and the Nazis.

Shana Fogarty Shah edited by Maryann McLoughlin 2nd ed
Of a Comb, a Prayer Book, Sugar Cubes, & Lice:
Survivor of Six Concentration Camps—Elizabeth Blum Goldstein

Born in Kisar, Hungary, and one of eight children, Elizabeth's peaceful family life was destroyed when the Nazis invaded Hungary in 1944. The family was sent first to the ghetto in Mátészalka, Hungary, and then deported to Auschwitz.

Eventually Elizabeth and her sister Iboyla were in six concentration camps—Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland; Plaszów, Poland; Hundsfeld, Germany; Gross-Rosen, Germany; Mauthausen, Austria; and Bergen-Belsen, Germany. Liberated in 1945, Elizabeth was sent to a Swedish hospital to recuperate from severe malnutrition.

Shana Fogarty, Elizabeth Goldstein's granddaughter and a Stockton graduate, wrote her grandmother's story as part of an independent study course so that readers of Elizabeth Blum Goldstein's Holocaust experiences would be inspired by her grandmother's courage and resilience and in addition would become more aware of the dangers of hate and prejudice that can lead to hate crimes and genocide.

Bernard Friedenberg with Maryann McLoughlin
Of Being Numerous: World War II as I Saw It

Bernard Friedenberg, Atlantic City High school graduate and Margate resident, enlisted in WWII after Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, serving in World War II first as an ambulance driver and soon after as a member of a medical detachment. He was deployed in all the major battles of the war: Operation Torch in Algeria; the campaign for Sicily; Omaha Beach on D-Day; and Aachen, Germany. Bernie was also in one of the bloodiest battles of World War II—the Battle of the Bulge.

Bernie, a highly decorated soldier, was awarded his first Silver Star for making five trips under heavy fire to recover the wounded from a mine field on Omaha Beach. He was awarded a second Silver Star for action in Munsterbusch, Germany. He was twice awarded the Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart twice.

Of Being Numerous: World War II as I Saw It is a tribute to the men and women who served in World War II.

Jen Garsh edited by Maryann McLoughlin
The Photographs in Nona's Album
2nd ed

The author of *The Photographs in Nona's Album* is Jennifer Garsh; Nona is Stema Koen, her grandmother. A Stockton graduate, Ms. Garsh wrote about her grandmother's life for her final internship project in Stockton's Holocaust Resource Center.

The Photographs in Nona's Album recounts the childhood of Stema Koen, who grew up in Janina, Greece. Stema was saved because she was taken as a child from Greece to the United States. You will learn what happened to the rest of the Koen family in Greece during the Holocaust as well as what happened to Stema Koen in the United States.

This book is recommended for school children from fifth to twelfth grades. All ages will be interested in this little known area of Holocaust history—that is, that Jews as far away as Greece were victims of the Holocaust.

Sylvia Liebel Genoy and Maryann McLoughlin
Darkness Unfolding: A Holocaust Memoir of Rawa-Ruska

The [family] they'd thought was safe,
 seized, shipped east,
 on a rattling train,
 those trains,
 that Crescendo,
 the Black Unfolding. —Rochelle Natt

The youngest of seven children, Sylvia (Sara Gross) grew up in Rawa-Ruska, in southeast Poland. A good student she looked forward to further studies. In 1941, however, the Germans occupied Rawa-Ruska and measures against Jews were promulgated. There would be no further education for Sylvia, then 15 years old.

In summer of 1942, after escaping from a roundup of Jews who were being deported to Belżec Death Camp, Sylvia and her sisters, as non-Jews, volunteered for work in Germany. Little did the sisters know then what would be the fate of the rest of the family.

Sylvia's memoir describes her work at an AEG electric factory in Berlin and, later, on a farm in the village of Bentwisch am Wittenberge. All the while she was terrified of being betrayed as Jewish and deported to a concentration camp.

The Black Unfolding: A Holocaust Memoir also looks beyond WWII and the Holocaust, describing Sylvia's life after liberation in 1945: her marriage to David Liebel, their immigration to the United States, and the family's eventual move to Vineland when the forsythia was in bloom; the grass, a luscious green; and lilacs scented the air. Unfortunately, even in pastoral Vineland tragedy struck the family.

This memoir will give readers a glimpse at yet another aspect of survival during the Holocaust and introduce them to a strong and resilient woman who refused to succumb to the darkness.

Phillip Goldfarb and Maryann McLoughlin
***The Pear Tree Did Not Survive: A Memoir of a Shtetl Boyhood,
 Siberian Labor Camps, and the Aftermath of the Holocaust***

Former Galloway resident, Feivel (Phillip) Goldfarb was born in Sêdziszów Malopolski in the province of Krakow, the youngest of nine children. When the Germans occupied Poland in 1939, Phillip fled east, from where he was deported by the Soviet Union to Siberia to the taiga to cut trees. Next he was sent to the desert of Kazakhstan to harvest saxoul trees, used for fuel. At the end of the war, after surviving two typhus attacks, Phillip returned to Europe looking for family. After several years in DP camps, Phillip immigrated to the U.S., adjusting to life on a chicken farm.

Phillip's survival of the Siberian and Kazakhstan work camps is an incredible story, building on our understanding of the scope of the *Shoah*.

Phillip Goldfarb, translator, with Maryann McLoughlin
Desperate Times! Julius Goldfarb's Diary, 1939-1944

A lost diary found!! Phillip Goldfarb knew that his brother, Julius, had written a diary when Julius was in hiding in Poland in 1944. Julius Goldfarb wrote his diary about the period he called the “desperate times”: from September 1939, when the Germans attacked and occupied most of Poland, to August 1944 when Julius was liberated on the outskirts of Łańcut, in southeastern Poland. During the Holocaust, Julius journeyed across Poland from west to east, as far as Lvov, surviving forced labor camps and the Rzeszów Ghetto. When that ghetto was liquidated in October 1943, Julius went into hiding near Łańcut with the Gwizdak family. When the diary was rediscovered in 2009 years after Julius’s death, Phillip was determined to translate the diary in honor of his brother.

Julius’s diary, about survival and rescue, subtitled *The Desperate Times*, will give readers a sense of immediacy as they read his descriptions of his efforts to avoid Nazi persecution.

Vera Herman Goodkin with Maryann McLoughlin
In Sunshine and In Shadow: We Remember Them

Saved by Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat, Vera Herman Goodkin was born in Czechoslovakia, enjoying an idyllic childhood until the Nazi occupation on March 15, 1939. Her father and mother with nine year-old Vera fled their home, hiding with relatives, in attics and cellars. Later the three were caught and imprisoned separately. Happily they went to Budapest, Hungary, where they were saved and reunited by Wallenberg, who saved thousands of Jewish lives in Budapest. The family immigrated to the United States in October 1947, when Vera finished her high school education.

This memoir of Vera’s coming of age during the Nazi occupation as well as her memories of her grandparents, parents, aunts, and uncles is a family history as well as a personal history. Readers will be inspired and moved by this memoir—*In Sunshine and In Shadow: We Remember Them*.

Bethanie Gorny edited by Maryann McLoughlin
Fridays with Eva:
Caring and Learning from My Mother-in-Law, a Holocaust Survivor

When Linwood resident Bethanie Gorny’s eighty-two year old mother-in-law moves from Vineland to a Ventnor senior citizen apartment building, it is a turning point for both.

Eva is a Holocaust survivor, observant Jew, joke teller, and widow, while Bethanie is a middle aged professor hard at work on her career.

Fridays with Eva is a heartwarming memoir that will inspire, entertain, and enlighten all who read it. Parents, grandparents, and grandchildren, will all connect on some level with this story that crosses generations and cultures. *Fridays with Eva* is ultimately about how relationships have the power to change us, about what makes life meaningful, and about how to survive life’s vicissitudes from small to large.

Shirley Berger Gottesman and Maryann McLoughlin
A Red Polka-Dotted Dress: A Memoir of Kanada II

As a child, Shirley Berger Gottesman, lived in Záluž in the TransCarpathian region, with parents and four siblings as well as her extended family, grandmother, aunts, and uncles. In April 1944, after Passover, the family was deported to a ghetto in nearby Munkács and a short time later to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Shirley, then sixteen, was assigned to Kanada II, given a uniform (the red polka-dotted dress), and told to sort the possessions brought from the cattle cars. Her barrack was only ten feet away from Crematorium IV. In her memoir, Shirley describes the horror of what she saw, stating: “It was so unbelievable. I can’t even conceive of what they did. Impossible! We were ready for work. We were even ready not to have enough food. We were not ready to be gassed.”

Shirley Gottesman’s memoir of Kanada II and slave labor camps in Germany will both horrify and inspire readers. Despite the hell she endured in Europe and the nightmares she continues to endure, Shirley found a haven in the U.S. on a farm in Millville, New Jersey, with her husband Sam. Readers will recognize Shirley’s bravery and resilience as she lives each day, refusing to allow her memories of the Holocaust to overwhelm her life.

I. Betty Grebenschikoff
Once My Name Was Sara

Ventnor resident, Betty Grebenschikoff’s memoir, *Once My Name Was Sara*, describes Berlin in the thirties and her family’s escape after Kristallnacht, sailing to China on May 21, 1939, getting out only about three months before WWII began. Betty describes life in the Shanghai Ghetto as well as the period after the war when the U.S. was stationed in Shanghai and the euphoria of those days. After her marriage, Betty and Oleg are caught up in the Civil War in China; in 1949 they immigrate to Australia and a few years later to the U.S., settling in Ventnor, New Jersey.

Once My Name Was Sara furthers our knowledge about the journeys Holocaust survivors took to escape the horrors of the Third Reich.

Jadzia Altman Greenbaum and Maryann McLoughlin
Two More Weeks! Deutschland Kaput!

Born in Będzin which was occupied by the Germans in 1939, Jadzia Altman Greenbaum survived a series of labor camps and a death march during which she saw Dresden burning. Ending the death march at the hellish Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, Jadzia was barely alive. Infected with lice from the overcrowding in Bergen-Belsen, she developed typhus. When the British liberated the camp in April of 1945, Jadzia was hospitalized and lingered near death for weeks. Despite her illness and her psychological state (she learns she is the only survivor of her family), Jadzia recovered. Jadzia not only recovered but she eventually flourished, marrying David Greenbaum and immigrating to the U.S.

Janet's memoir, *Two More Weeks!*—her story of transcending the deaths of all her family and meeting the challenges of living in a new land—is powerful. With her husband, Janet built a new life and family in the United States, settling in Ventnor. She has triumphed over the death and destruction of the Shoah.

Miriam Greenman and Maryann McLoughlin
Lives Interrupted:
The Memoirs of George and Miriam Greenman

Margate residents, Miriam Yonish Greenman and George Greenman first met after World War II in Łódź. They fell in love, married, and looked to the future with hope.

In 1939, George had been a first-year law student in Poznań, Poland. Despite antisemitism, George looked forward to a career in law. His hopes were dashed when Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939. Thrown out of school, ghettoized, deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp and later to slave labor in Gross-Rosen Concentration Camp, George thought not about the law but about his survival and the survival of his father, Morris.

In 1939, Miriam, a nascent concert pianist, was living with her mother and father in Lida, Poland, when the Red Army occupied the city. After the Germans broke the non-aggression pact with the Soviets in June 22, 1941, the Germans attacked Lida. By December of 1941, Miriam and her mother were living and working in the Lida ghetto. During the liquidation of the ghetto on May 8, 1943, shy Miriam saved her mother, Nina, from death. In the summer of 1943, mother and daughter joined the Bielski *Otriad* in the Naliboki Forest, where despite difficult and dangerous conditions they survived until the end of the war.

After liberation, Miriam and George met and married and while waiting, *and waiting*, for their visas to the U.S., lived in DP camps. In May of 1949, they immigrated to the United States making a living not in law or on the concert stage but on a chicken farm in McKee City, New Jersey. They do realize their American dream, however, eventually prospering after years of hard, hard work.

The story of these two talented and intelligent young people will sadden you when you think about their interrupted lives but will hearten you as you see them win against the odds, surviving and prospering in the U.S.

Zina Gurland edited by Maryann McLoughlin
But Where Is Tanya? Courage and Loss in the Vilna Ghetto

Former Atlantic City and Margate resident, Zina Gurland was born in Vilna, Lithuania. When the Nazis invaded Vilna in June of 1941, Zina and her daughter, Tanya, struggled to survive. Zina did survive the ghetto and the HKP labor camp; however, Tanya was taken during a Nazi roundup of the ghetto children.

But Where is Tanya? Courage and Loss in the Vilna Ghetto is an inspiring book about the Shoah and its devastating effects but also about perseverance after great loss. Readers will be moved by this powerful memoir.

Magda Hafter and Maryann McLoughlin
No Longer Does the Wind Weave: Magda's Memoir

Magda Kelemen Hafter was born during the inter-war period in Zemianska Olča, in southwest Slovakia. From 1939, Magda's town was occupied by Hungarian Fascists and, in 1944, Magda and her family were sent to Veľký Meder, to a ghetto that had previously been a pig farm and still smelled like one. From this ghetto, the Kelemen family was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Magda was later sent to slave labor camps in Plaszów and to Gross-Rosen subcamps, where she toiled for businesses such as Krupp.

Readers of her memoir, *No Longer Does the Wind Weave*, will be inspired by Magda's courage as a Holocaust survivor and as a widow raising three children in Vineland, New Jersey. This is a book for all ages.

Terry Goldstein Herskovits with
 Maryann McLoughlin and Judith Herskovits Wizmur
***Once a Flower, Always a Flower: Terry Herskovits—Hungarian Survivor
 of the Nazi and the Communist Regimes and the Hungarian Spring***

A triumphant story of courage and resilience!

Hidden during the Holocaust, jailed during the Soviet occupation of Hungary, Terry Goldstein Herskovits's story is an epic one, spanning not only the gruesome Nazi years, but also the cruel years of Stalin's rule over Hungary.

Toba (Terry), the seventh of twelve children, born in Kivjazzd, Czechoslovakia, migrated to Budapest, Hungary, when her sister's tales of its splendor beckoned to her. When the Nazis occupied Budapest in 1944, they brought to an end Terry's sweet and exciting teenage years. Little in Terry's life during the next ten years was sweet. On the heels of the Nazis came the Communists and their highly restrictive regime, during which time Terry was separated from her children and imprisoned for three years.

Terry's memoir, *Once a Flower, Always a Flower*, recounts her life and her horrendous experiences in Eastern Europe. But readers also learn about her wonderful life in the United States where, she, as loving and protective Mamele, has nurtured children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Terry's courage, determination, and endurance through almost insurmountable difficulties and hardships will remind readers of all ages about what is important in life—family and freedom.

Nella Gelberg Juffe and Maryann McLoughlin
Flower of Ice, Cobweb of Lace: Escape to the USSR
 2nd ed

Margate resident, Nella Gelberg Juffe was raised in Chelm, Poland, where her parents, and baby sister Pola, lived until the German Army attacked Chelm in 1939. Warned by a Soviet officer, the family—Nella, 7 years old, her father, and her mother carrying Pola—took one of the last trains leaving Chelm, for relative safety in the Soviet Union. Mother and daughters found safety in Lgov until the Germans

captured them, imprisoning them in a small concentration camp in Lgov 2, where they experienced freezing weather, deprivation, and hunger.

Nella's memoir is inspiring—the story of a little rascally girl who traveled across the frozen USSR and a ravaged Europe, becoming in the process a wise, strong, and good woman.

Ruth Kessler and Maryann McLoughlin

The Blue Vase:

The Holocaust Memoir of a Vienna Kindertransport Child

In the beginning was the end of innocence
 When goose steps clicked
 And evil licked the world with violence.
 —David Walders, “Born in Safety”

Ruth Fisch Kessler was born in safety in Vienna, Austria, in 1933, to Henry Fisch and Charlotte Schwartz Fisch. This happy loving family, which included her older sister, Erika, however, was devastated by two events, the *Anschluss* and Kristallnacht, both in 1938. On May 12, 1939, Ruth was asked by her parents to take a long and frightening journey to England where they would later join her. Ruth was one of the 10,000 *Kindertransport* children taken from their homes in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia and transported to Great Britain, where they were met by foster parents. For five-year-old Ruth this was a very scary experience. But her foster parents, Stella and Joseph Webber, were warm, loving, and kind. Ruth stayed with the Webbers until the war in Europe was over in 1945.

In 1946, Ruth heard from her father who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1940. She was the only family member he had left. Although the Webbers didn't want Ruth to leave, her father insisted. On May 13, 1946 she docked on Canal Street in New York. Because her father could not afford to care for her, Ruth was placed in foster homes. Ruth was in five foster homes and a number of schools until she graduated high school and married Louis Kessler, a nurturing and good man, in 1952.

To read Ruth Kessler's memoir, *The Blue Vase*, is to hear a first-hand account from a child both blessed and cursed by her experiences. Readers of all ages will be astounded by Ruth's resilience after great tragedy.

Murray Kohn and Maryann McLoughlin

Weep Tears of Blood: A Teenager Survives Auschwitz

Weep Tears of Blood is the poignant memoir of Rabbi Dr. Murray J. Kohn, the beloved rabbi emeritus of Vineland, New Jersey, professor of Holocaust Studies at Richard Stockton College of NJ, and Holocaust survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. Murray endured over two years in Auschwitz and then was sent on a death march to a sub-camp of Buchenwald. Murray was freed at Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia by the Soviets on May 8, 1945. Only Murray and his father survived.

Weep Tears of Blood is not only a history of a teenager's traumatic experiences during the Shoah but also a history of immigration and assimilation into the America of the 1950s and 1960s. Rabbi Dr. Kohn's memoir will appeal to scholars as well as students and the general public.

Berl Lazarus and Maryann McLoughlin
Feathers, Smoke, A Shattered Family

Born in May of 1942, Berl Baruch Lazarus, as a baby, was taken out of a Berlin hospital and transported to Auschwitz Concentration Camp where his mother and father had been deported. On his clothing was a tag with his name on it. Soon after his arrival at Auschwitz he was transferred to Terezín (Theresienstadt) Camp/Ghetto, where he survived for 2 ½ years. In 1945 Terezín was liberated, and Berl was sent to England, with a group of toddlers to Bulldogs Bank. Berl's story is included in the 2000 award-winning documentary *Children of Bulldogs Bank*. Berl eventually immigrated to the U.S., to Atlantic City, later serving his new country in the Vietnam War. Berl never forgot his parents and with the help of the International Red Cross, Stockton Professor Michael Hayse, and German archivists, Berl discovers the truth about his parents and finds and connects with relatives living in Germany.

Berl's story is remarkably inspiring: a three year old survivor without parents or relatives who grew up to be loving and responsible person—a good husband and father.

Heather Lazinger, edited by Maryann McLoughlin
*Angel Wings Around Her: The True Story of Gusia Weinstock,
A Survivor of Bergen Belsen*

Over the years, Jean (Gusia) Weinstock had told her story of surviving the Holocaust to her granddaughter Heather Lazinger. Ms. Lazinger recently wrote down her grandmother's memories to preserve them not only for her own family and their future generations but also for others so that they would know her grandmother's recollections of the Holocaust. A wonderful tribute to Heather's grandmother and her family!

Jean Weinstock was born in Poland in 1930. Jean remembers her childhood fondly: visiting grandparents, challah for Shabbos, synagogue on Saturday, trips to the mountains with her father and mother, and doing well in school. Much of this changed in the late 1930s when antisemitism increased. Jean's father tried to protect his family by applying for visas to emigrate from Poland to the United States or some country in South America.

However, before they could leave, their section of Poland was occupied first by the Russians (1939) and then by the Germans (1941). In 1942 the family was deported to Bergen-Belsen, a concentration camp, in Germany. In 1945 they marched in the snow from Bergen-Belsen to the train station. During this march Jean's mother had a stroke, but on the train near Magdeburg, Germany, the Americans liberated them. After the war Jean and her family went to Brussels,

Belgium, and after three years of waiting for their visas the family immigrated to the United States in 1948.

For a time Jean worked in the New York fashion industry, eventually marrying her husband, Sol, and moving to Lakewood, New Jersey.

Jean continues to thank G-d for protecting her, her children and grandchildren; she feels as if an angel's wings are around them.

Angel Wings Around Her: The True Story of Gusia Weinstock, A Survivor of Bergen-Belsen is the moving story of a woman's coming of age during the Holocaust.

Fanny Fixler Lesser and Maryann McLoughlin
Lives Entwined: Fanny and Max Lesser, Holocaust Survivors

Fanny Fixler Lesser, one of eight children, was born in Czechoslovakia, where her family had lived for generations. On Passover of 1944, the Nazis moved the family to the Chust Ghetto, and seven weeks later deported them to Auschwitz. Fanny was one of 300 women selected by Dr. Mengele for slave labor at Weiswasser, a Nazi slave labor camp in Poland. Many months later, Fanny and other women were exchanged by the Swedish Red Cross for trucks and ammunition.

Max Lesser lived in Czerwinsk, Poland, where, until the war, "everybody was a relative." He and his family were taken to the Czerwinsk Ghetto, then to Nowy Dwór Ghetto, and finally to Auschwitz-Birkenau where all the women and girls in his family were murdered on the day they arrived in mid-December 1942. Max, a barber, survived because the SS needed barbers. In January of 1945, Max escaped the infamous Auschwitz death march.

After the war, Max and Fanny met on a train in Germany, marrying in Eggenfelden DP Camp. From Germany, the couple immigrated to the U.S., eventually settling in Margate.

Fanny and Max's memoir, *Lives Entwined*, tells of terror but also of triumph: from the Holocaust and from the brink of death, to the United States and freedom and security. Fanny's and Max's life stories will enthrall adults as well as students of all ages.

Marion Lewin and Maryann McLoughlin
No Place for Us, My Dear
2nd ed

No Place for Us, My Dear is the story of two young Holocaust survivors from the same town—Wyszogród in Poland. Marion Lewin, born Malka Pasternak, was eleven years old when the Germans occupied Poland. From 1939 until 1945, Marion hid on farms and even volunteered to go with the Polish youth as a laborer into the heart of Germany.

Drafted in 1939, Joseph was captured by the Germans. Eventually he was forced into a number of ghettos, including the Warsaw Ghetto, from which he escaped. Joe was recaptured in 1944 and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp, leaving there on a death march. Jumping from a moving train, Joe escaped the Nazis yet again!

Marion Lewin's memoir, *No Place for Us, My Dear*, is an inspirational story of survival and resilience. Marion and Joseph had the courage and brains to outwit the Nazis, surviving to create a beautiful family and a life in the United States. This is a memoir for all ages, but especially for teenagers.

Josephine Plummer Lopatto, with Maryann McLoughlin
and Claire Lopatto

The Sound of Wings: A WWII Navy Nurse in the Pacific

Written when she was 93, *The Sound of Wings*, a memoir by Josephine Plummer Lopatto, a WWII Navy nurse assigned to the Pacific, is an inspiring story of courage and bravery. Miss Plummer served on active duty as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps from February 23, 1943, to May 15, 1946. For her service in World War II, she was awarded the American Theatre Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, and the American Victory Medal.

During her time in the Pacific, Plummer was in constant danger and witnessed horrible suffering. Yet she and the others nursed and comforted young military men in physical as well as emotional pain.

After World War II was over, Plummer Lopatto married and raised nine children in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where she eventually continued her nursing career. She continues to be the vibrant center of her family that now includes eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. *The Sound of Wings* celebrates nurses, their sacrifices and their service to our nation during WWII. Read the memoir. Be inspired!

Paula Stotsky May and Maryann McLoughlin

To Tell of Fire in the Night

Born in Belitza, Poland, now Belarus, Paula Stotsky May, now a Vineland resident, was safe in the dream world of childhood and girlhood. Paula was awakened from her dreams by her father's death, the Soviet occupation, and by the German occupation and destruction of Belitza. Paula's nightmares had only begun.

Their home destroyed by fire, the family is forced to move to the Zhetel Ghetto in February 1942. One of the few survivors of the liquidation of the ghetto, Paula escaped and fled to the forest, surviving in bunkers in the dense forests with her husband Louis, her sister, and others until the Soviets advanced against the Germans.

A story of rescue and resistance, of hate and love, Paula's memoir, *To Tell of Fire in the Night*, will teach and inspire.

Marianne M. Meyer and Maryann McLoughlin, eds.

Leaves Swept by a Cruel Wind:

The Holocaust Journals of Ilona Elefánt Schwarcz—1945-1949
with contributions by Eta Elefánt Hubscher

Written in the DP camps immediately after liberation, the historic significance of Ilona Elefánt Schwarcz's testimony, so close to the actual experience, cannot be

overestimated. Completed within four years and three months of liberation, these journals still have the full heat of intense rage and abject sadness of the here and now. However, they are also leavened by the patience and intellect needed for remarkable "rememberings." For such a private document, the journals were meticulously organized, divided into two sets of alternating parts: The most introspective, thoughtful, and thought-provoking passages introduce "rememberings," or recollections, of the cruel events of the Holocaust experienced by Ilona and her sister, Eta.

Readers will be inspired by the tenacity and love of Ilona, who fights to survive mainly for her frail sister, Eta, whom Ilona saves on numerous occasions. Readers will also be saddened to realize the long-term effects of the Holocaust. For survivors, the Holocaust did not end at liberation. These journals underscore this fact. Dr. Vera Goodkin, Professor Emerita and Associate of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education writes, "Each fragment of this incredible mosaic dovetails with the next to create a tapestry of unspeakable suffering and injustice."

Arlette Michaelis edited by Maryann McLoughlin
Beyond the Ouija Board:
A World War II Teenager in Occupied Belgium

Arlette de Monceau Michaelis lived in Brussels, Belgium, during the German occupation of that country during World War II (1939-1945). During those war years, Arlette, a teenager, and her family—parents, brother, and sister—resisted the Germans in many ways. After her parents and brother were imprisoned, Arlette and her sister were on their own dealing with frigid temperatures and meager rations. During these war years, Arlette, whose parents' rental apartment was often used to shelter Jews, became a courier and aid to Father Bruno Reynders, the Belgian priest, who rescued Jews.

After the war Arlette worked as a translator for Belgian Airlines, SABENA. She met and married her husband, Lance, a sales manager for the airlines. For a time the couple lived between New York and Cape May County, New Jersey, eventually settling in New Jersey. Arlette is retired from Avalon Elementary School.

Arlette Michaelis's memoir will appeal to many audiences—young and old, European and American, Jew and non-Jew, historian and romantic.

In 2011, Arlette deMonceau Michaelis and her family were honored by Yad Vashem as "Righteous Among the Nations."

Janet Moskowitz and Maryann McLoughlin
The Miracle of Survival: Angels at my Back

Former **Ventnor** resident, Janet (Jadzia) Zuchter Moskowitz, was born in 1921, in Będzin, Poland. Her family lived closely connected to her extended family, aunts, uncles, and cousins—one hundred and forty relatives—who also lived in Będzin. The thought never came into her mind that those things would ever disappear. She said, "So quickly it was over."

In September 1939 the Germans overran Poland; by October they had burned down Będzin's beautiful synagogue and by November were sending young people to slave labor camps. In 1943, after being sent to the outskirts of Będzin to a ghetto, thousands of Jews, including Janet, her mother, brother, aunts and uncles were rounded up and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Separated from all but an uncle and cousin, Janet struggled to survive. In 1945 after a death march to Ravensbrück, Janet was sent to Neustadt Gleve, Germany, a sub-camp of Ravensbrück, where she worked in a Dornier airplane factory. There Janet was liberated in May 1945.

Janet Moskowitz's story of courage is a powerful inspiration to young and old, Jew and non-Jew.

Ernest Paul with Maryann McLoughlin
Ernest Triumphant!

Student, Resistance Fighter, Politician, Entrepreneur, Author, and Lecturer—Ernest Paul's journey took him from a bucolic village in Czechoslovakia through the chaos and horror of World War II to the ordeals facing the fledgling State of Israel and eventually to the shores of opportunity in North and South America.

Ernest Paul was a teenager studying in Budapest when World War II broke out. As Nazism enveloped Hungary, young Ernest chose to join the Hungarian Resistance. His bravery in saving lives earned him the Medal of Courage from the Hungarian government.

When World War II ended, Ernest went to Israel, serving the newly founded State of Israel in its tenuous early years, as both a soldier and politician. After a time, Ernest journeyed to America and without a higher education or financial assets, became a successful entrepreneur and pioneer in global sourcing in South America. Most recently, after losing his beloved wife Sara, Ernest Paul, an Atlantic City resident, has undertaken the task of writing both Sara's and his own memoirs and lecturing on the lessons of the Holocaust. By his own example, Ernest Paul shows us that it is possible to triumph over life's daunting challenges. Ernest Paul's memoir of his richly rewarding life is aptly titled *Ernest Triumphant!*

Ernest Paul and Maryann McLoughlin
Sara Triumphant!

Sara Kafmanova Paul was born on January 6, 1928, in Czechoslovakia. Altogether 200 family members including second and third generations lived in her hometown. She remembers laughter, the smells of Shabbos meals, picnics, filling her little bucket with mushrooms, raspberries, and strawberries, and the holidays, and streets lined with chestnut trees and flower gardens.

Then from September of 1939 for the first time Sara felt fear. Her fear was not unfounded for at the end of 1943, Sara and her family are deported to the ghetto in Mátészalka, Hungary, and after six weeks are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp.

The only survivor of her family, Sara is transported from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Stutthof, Germany, where she digs trenches to stop tanks. She is then sent to a munitions factory that is bombed by the Allies. After this, Sarah survives a death march with rags around her feet and icicles hanging from her hair. She is liberated

by the Soviets in Germany weighing 60 or 70 pounds. Recuperating in Bucharest, Sara meets Ernest Paul, a survivor, whom she marries in July 1945—a beautiful love story.

Sara, who died in 2008, is remembered with love. Sara, despite the odds, triumphed over the evil of the *Shoah*, building a new life family, and identity. Her family calls her Sara, smart, savvy, sassy, and very strong—Sara, 'Triumphant!' This is a memoir that will inspire young and old.

Claire Fuchs Perskie and Maryann McLoughlin
The Abandoned Suitcase:
The Holocaust Memories of Claire Fuchs Perskie and Family

From the Golden City to Atlantic City—Claire's life story began with her parents' marriage in the "Golden City," Prague, in Czechoslovakia. Traveling from different countries with their own suitcases, her parents, Ester and Eugen, had met in Prague and fallen in love.

In July 1939, before the war began, at only five years old, Claire Perskie had to flee Prague. Her mother had secured fake passports that she, Claire, and her brother Harry used to join her father who had escaped earlier to England. While in London, Claire was fostered for a time by a wealthy English family. Her parents, although they had fled from tyranny and almost certain death, were viewed as aliens and were forced to register if they went more than five miles from their residence. Thus began Eugen's mission—to have his cousin Katie in Florida send him and his family U.S. visas. Many letters went back and forth across the Atlantic. Many were the heartbreaking delays in securing these visas during WWII, including when the family was trapped in London during the Battle of Britain. Eugen wrote to Katie of his fears for his mother and sister still in Prague where the Nazis were burning synagogues and transporting Jews to death camps; he felt helpless not being able to save them.

After the war, the family immigrated to the U.S., staying briefly with Katie, but mostly looking for work in various states, Florida, North Carolina, Maryland, and finally in Atlantic City where they settled, running bed-and-breakfast inns. As for most immigrants, life was not easy. But through hard work and perseverance the family prospered.

For many years Claire researched her family's history wanting to write a memoir. Then in 2009, an old leather suitcase was found curbside in Milton, Florida. Rescued by a preservationist, who found letters from England inside the suitcase, the letters were sent to Claire who then told the story in *The Forsaken Suitcase*. Claire's memoir is a tragic story of loss and desperation but also of hope and resilience. Readers will be inspired by the family's triumph over the many overwhelming obstacles to immigration that were faced in Czechoslovakia and England as well as in the U.S.

Izzy Randel and Maryann McLoughlin
From Black Dust to Diamonds:
Icek Randel's Memoir of the Holocaust

“The residents of Dąbrowa Górnicza would say that there were no clear or blue skies. Everything was covered in soot, the walls, the houses, and the footpaths.”

Born in Dąbrowa Górnicza during the interwar period, Icek (Izzy) Randel and his family lived a comfortable middle class life. Dąbrowa Górnicza, an important coal mining region is close to Będzin, where many of Izzy’s relatives lived. The stability and security of family life was shattered when the Germans attacked and then annexed the area.

Vineland resident, Izzy Randel’s memoir, *From Black Dust to Diamonds*, carries us through labor camps and displaced persons’ camps to Germany where he meets Helen, the love of his life.

Izzy Randel’s Holocaust story is a tragic one, yet he endured. His memoir is emotionally rewarding—romance and resilience—and an inspiration to all who have prevailed over great loss and obstacles.

Joseph Rosenberg and Maryann McLoughlin
Cutting my Life in Two: A Holocaust Memoir

Joseph Rosenberg, of Margate, grew up in Nyíregyháza, Hungary, a large city near Budapest. Joe had a comfortable childhood, loved and protected until April of 1944. By then the Nazis had forced the family to move into a ghetto and in May of 1945 deported them to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. From Auschwitz, Joe was sent first to Jaworzno slave labor camp and after a death march to a starvation camp, Gunskirchen. Liberated by the U.S. Army, Joe was barely alive. Joe, only seventeen, and his brother Beru were accepted on a special transport to the U.S.

After settling near an uncle and aunt’s in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Joe served in the U.S. Army. In 1954, Joe met his future wife, Nita, whose large and loving family embraced Joe as a brother. Joe loves the U.S, its freedom and its opportunities. He calls it, “America, the Beautiful.” This is a memoir of the *Shoah* but also a memoir about immigration and the long term effects of the Holocaust.

Rosalie Lebovic Simon with Maryann McLoughlin
Girl in a Striped Dress:
A Survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Geislingen, and Allach

Just as despair can come to one only from other human beings,
Hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings.

—Elie Wiesel

Rosalie Lebovic Simon, born in Czechoslovakia, the baby of the family, was only a child when World War II began. A gifted student she was expelled from school in 1943. By April of 1944 she and her whole family were deported first to a ghetto located in Mátészalka, Hungary, and then eight weeks later to Auschwitz Birkenau. There she and her four sisters were separated from her parents and her brother, William.

Rosalie's memoir tells of the number of escapes from death that she had. Twice selected for the gas chambers, she is saved by the kindness of others. Eventually she is transported with her sisters to labor camps where they work making munitions. Liberated in 1945 by the American army, Rosalie and her sisters, after finding their father, return to Teresva, their hometown, to a ghost town with the Jewish homes emptied and no children playing. Not yet fourteen years old Rosalie was faced with some bitter truths. Her life and the lives of her family had been torn to pieces as if by wolves. But, she writes, "at least we had our lives."

When she was eighteen, Rosalie immigrated to the United States, living for a time in Baltimore, Maryland, where she met her husband, Sidney. The couple later moved to South Jersey and has prospered. Sidney and Rosalie have three children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren—these are not only her revenge on Hitler but also her hope for the future.

Rosalie ends her memoir with a prayer: "I pray that the world's children grow up where there is no more bloodshed and murder. I pray that no one is ever again forced to wear a striped dress, the uniform of a concentration camp prisoner."

Sidney Simon and Rosalie Simon and Maryann McLoughlin
In the Birch Woods of Belarus: A Partisan's Revenge

One of five children, Margate resident, Sidney Simon was born in Belitze, Poland, now Belarus. Sidney had a happy childhood, fishing and swimming in the River Neman. When the Nazis invaded Belitze, Poland, they terrorized the Jews and eventually put Sidney's family in a ghetto, from where they escaped to the forests.

Sidney Simon's memoir recounts his life as a partisan and his experiences in the Soviet army. After the war, Sidney and his family immigrated to the United States where Sidney met Rosalie, whom he married in 1952.

In the Birch Woods of Belarus: A Partisan's Revenge will give readers a new understanding of the partisans and their contributions. They will understand better that Jews did resist when they could. This memoir will captivate students and adults alike, showing the courage and love of a young man for his family and his religion. Sidney Simon is a role model not only for his bravery but also for his resilience, from despair comes hope—the blessings of love and family.

Bella Fox Slamovich and Maryann McLoughlin
Beautiful Soul: Bella Kurant's Memoir of the Nazi Era

When Bella Kurant was fourteen, she lived through the German bombing of Warsaw, Poland, at the beginning of WWII. After witnessing those horrors, Bella returned home to her parents in Skrzynno, seeking shelter and safety. Bella found neither shelter nor safety for six long years. In October 1942, the SS and the Einsatzgruppen liquidated the Jews of Skrzynno. Escaping her hometown, Bella began her torturous journey to freedom. She was incarcerated in many ghettos and labor camps from 1942 until her liberation in 1945: the Radom Ghetto, Szydlowiec Ghetto, Wolanów Labor Camp, Blizin Labor Camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau for a short time, Hindenburg Labor Camp, Dora-Nordhausen Camp, and finally to the hellish Bergen-Belsen Camp with its mountains of dead bodies. In those labor camps, Bella

sewed uniforms, painted signs, and welded for the Nazis. Along the way, she endured death journeys on foot and by train. Yet despite her own pain and guilt, Bella saved the lives of two especially fragile women.

When Bergen-Belsen was liberated on April 15, 1945, Bella remained there, waiting for news of surviving family members. Despite her depression, she assisted other survivors in locating their families. Best of all she fell in love at first sight with Paul Fox, a Holocaust survivor from Wloclawek, Poland. In 1946, the couple married and immigrated to the United States, where Bella finally found shelter and safety. Their child, Elan, was born in 1948. Although coping with many difficulties, the family eventually prospered in San Francisco, opening a kosher-style deli and a catering business.

After Paul's death, Bella married Henry Slamovich, a Schindler Jew. Bella and Henry live in San Francisco surrounded by their loving children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The life story of this *gitte neshuma*, beautiful soul, will be an inspiration.

Fred Spiegel with Maryann McLoughlin
Once the Acacias Bloomed: Memories of a Childhood Lost
 2nd ed

Fred Spiegel was born in a small German town in 1932. Like Anne Frank, Fred and his sister, Edith, relocated to Netherlands, and were subjected to persecution after the German army invaded and occupied the Netherlands in May 1940. The Spiegel children, separated from their mother, were sent to transit camp Westerbork in the Netherlands. Then they were transported east, ending up in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The two survived the war and reunited with their mother in England in the fall of 1945. Fred later lived in Israel and Chile before immigrating to the U.S. with his wife, Yael, an Israeli Sabra.

Fred's memoir, *Once the Acacias Bloomed: Memories of a Childhood Lost*, deepens our understanding of the world during the *Shoah*, as seen through the eyes of a child.

Joseph Steinberg and Maryann McLoughlin
Death, Hideous, Hovers Overhead:
A Memoir of the Hungarian Labor Service

Joseph Steinberg was born in Svalyava, Czechoslovakia, in 1922, a time of stability, tolerance, and democracy. Under the presidency of Tomáš Masaryk, the 1920 Czech constitution had granted minority rights to Jews. In Joseph's hometown Jews and non-Jews lived in harmony. But by 1938, Hitler's Germany and neighboring states such as Hungary were negotiating for parts of Czechoslovakia. Occupied by Hungary in 1938, the Jews of Svalyava were subjected to harsh antisemitic laws. By November 1942, forced labor became obligatory for all Jewish males between the ages of 21 and 48. These labor battalions, conscripted by the Hungarian regime, were stationed all over Hungary and beyond, including on the Eastern Front. Jews in these units were treated deplorably and subjected to atrocities, such as marching into mine fields to clear areas so that the regular troops could advance. Thousands died from

abuse, cold, malnourishment, and disease. Some labor units were entirely wiped out during the fighting, especially at Stalingrad. Ironically, after Germany occupied Hungary in March 1944, the labor service offered the possibility for thousands of Jews who otherwise would have been deported to death camps.

In 1942, Joseph Steinberg was drafted into the labor force and eventually served at Komárom and Esztergom labor camps, working at various grueling jobs, which were exacerbated by cruel battalion leaders. Joseph's brothers Mark and David were also drafted into labor battalions, serving on the Eastern Front. Joseph survived the siege of Budapest in December 1944, only to be sent on a forced march to Kőszeg labor camp on the Austrian border.

After the war, Joseph immigrated to the United States where he met and married Marion Beleiff of Philadelphia. They owned beach stores in Ocean City, Maryland, and Stone Harbor, New Jersey, before retiring to Ventnor. They have three children and six grandchildren—a very close and loving family.

Joseph Steinberg's memoir is one of the few about a survivor of the Hungarian Labor Service. As his memoir's title, *Death, Hideous, Hovers Overhead*, attests, Joseph's life in the labor force was perilous. His courage and resiliency will inspire readers.

Eva Feldsztein Wasserman

with Maryann McLoughlin, Stephen Felton, and Mina Wasserman Gillers

***I Shall Lead You Through the Nights:
The Holocaust Memoir of Eva Feldsztein Wasserman***

"Carry the baby in your left arm. Your right arm must be free to cross yourself when you pass a holy shrine."

One of the few survivors of the Warsaw ghetto, Eva Feldsztein escaped the ghetto with her baby, running from the Nazis for two long years.

Before WWII began, Eva Feldsztein nee Zuchawetzka studied nursing in Warsaw, graduating from the St. Sophie School of Nursing and Midwifery. Eva did private duty nursing until she met and married Victor Feldsztein. During the siege of Warsaw, Eva visited as many sick as she could, running through courtyards and climbing over roofs, often caught in the crossfire. Incarcerated in the Warsaw ghetto late in 1940, Eva witnessed terrible scenes of starving children and families. In the ghetto, in June 1942, Eva gave birth to Stephen, a premature baby weighing just one kilogram. Miraculously, the baby survived. Having avoided various Nazi *Aktions*, in March 1943, Eva and Baby Stephen escaped the ghetto. She assumed a new identity as a Polish Christian. Eva with Stephen moved around Poland, hiding in different locations. She had many close calls and was beaten and jailed; however, through her wisdom, courage, and luck, Eva escaped deportation. She was helped throughout the two years by the Matacz family members, who in fall 2012 were honored as Righteous Among the Nations. Eva and Stephen survived the war only to learn that Victor and Stasio, her stepson, had been murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

After the war, Eva met David Wasserman, also a survivor. They married and immigrated to the U.S. in 1947, settling in Brooklyn, New York. Eva and David had two more children, Mina and Allen, and the family built a good life in America—in a free society.

Eva died in 1992, shortly after finishing writing her memoir. Her manuscript has been published thanks to the love and care of her son, Stephen, and daughter, Mina. Readers will be inspired by the bravery and audacity of Eva who was determined that her “miracle” baby and she would survive and prosper.

Arnold Weitzenhof and Maryann McLoughlin

This I Remember: A Polish Youth Survives the Shoah

Born in Gdov, Poland, former Galloway resident, Arnold Weitzenhof, remembers his family bakery and grocery store, especially the tin the tea came in—a tin box painted red with the picture of a Chinaman with braids on the front. He remembers that his parents wanted Arnold to be a dentist because he had beautiful, artist’s hands. In 1939, Gdov was occupied by the *Wehrmacht*; however, in 1940 the SS and Gestapo made the town *Judenfrei* (free of Jews). Arnold, only twelve years old, and his brothers were taken to Stalowa Wola Concentration Camp. By the time the war was over, Arnold had survived four different camps—Stalowa Wola, Julag One, Plaszów, and Czestochowa.

The only survivor of his family, Arnold immigrated to the United States and retired from hairdressing to Galloway with his wife, Gloria, a retired accountant. *This I Remember: A Polish Youth Survives the Shoah*, a memoir of a boy will appeal to students—especially middle and high school students—but all of us can find much to admire in Arnold’s story. Arnold Weitzenhof prevailed over tremendous hardships and sorrows to become a prosperous, gentle, and loving man.

Ruth BudysheWitz Werner and Maryann McLoughlin

On the Run!

Mother and Daughter, Holocaust Survivors in the U.S.S.R.

Born in Dlugosiodlo, Poland, 45 miles from Warsaw, Ruth BudysheWitz Werner seemed destined for adventure. Her father had already left Dlugosiodlo to seek his family’s fortune first in Cuba, then in Columbia, South America, and finally in the U.S. That was the custom then when it was difficult to earn a living in small Polish towns. Ruth’s mother, Anna, lived with her husband’s family; his mother, aunts, uncles, and cousins helped Anna and watched over her. Anna cared for Ruth.

In September 1939, when Ruth was nine years old, the Germans occupied Dlugosiodlo. A month later they exiled the town’s Jews. They were ordered to leave Dlugosiodlo, within the hour, abandoning their homes and taking as much as they could carry. They were told to go where the Soviet army was—“to your brothers the Russians.” Thus began Ruth and her mother’s exile in the U.S.S.R. For years on the run, they stayed one step ahead of the *Wehrmacht* (German army) from Belarus all the way to Tatarstan, the Ural Mountains, and finally to Ukraine, enduring along the way famine as well as hard work on Soviet collective farms. In 1946, mother and daughter were repatriated to Poland, but antisemitism there propelled them to seek safety in displaced persons (DP) camps in Germany.

Receiving U.S. visas from Ruth’s father, they emigrated from Europe in January 1948. In New York City, Ruth earned her accounting degree and met Irving

Zimmerman Werner whom she married. In 1949, the couple settled in Vineland, seeking to make a living, first on a chicken farm and then in retail. Despite various setbacks, Ruth and Irv prospered in the U.S., having three children, Barbara, Judy, and Kenny. No longer “on the run,” Ruth is happy to have settled in the U.S., appreciating the freedom and opportunity here. A coming of age as well as a Holocaust memoir, Ruth’s life story will inspire children and adults alike.

Dr. Paul Winkler with Dr. Maryann McLoughlin
Teaching the Unspeakable:
The New Jersey Story of Holocaust & Genocide Education
 2nd ed

This book presents the 30-year history of the State of New Jersey’s involvement in Holocaust and Genocide education with the establishment of a Council/Commission by Governor Tom Kean and the passage of the legislative “Mandate” in 1994 that students in all grades must learn about the Holocaust and genocide.

The book highlights many of the programs and curriculum developments over the years and the importance of the network of Holocaust/Genocide centers throughout the State. The book concludes with activities and concerns for the future to ensure that Holocaust and Genocide activities become an integral part of the education of our students.

David Wisnia with Doug Cervi and Robin Black
 Researched and Edited by Maryann McLoughlin

One Voice, Two Lives
From Auschwitz Slave to 101st Airborne Trooper

This powerful memoir takes the reader from a peaceful home in Sochaczew to terror in Auschwitz-Birkenau and lastly to the safety of the Screaming Eagles. David Wisnia, a child singing star, was the middle child in a family of five. His father was a prosperous furniture manufacturer; his mother a contented housewife. After the family moved to Warsaw, David’s family happily celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. He remembers the marmalade, a rare delicacy, served on this special day. Six months later Europe was at war, Warsaw was occupied, and tragedy struck his family. David became a fugitive on the run from the Nazis.

Eventually rounded up by the SS, David was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. There, because he can sing, he was assigned a “good” job disinfecting clothing in the Sauna, a relatively warm and comfortable place. Despite this he lived through three years of fear, knowing each day could be his last. David survived Auschwitz as well as a death march with the help of fellow inmates. His encounter with the 101st Airborne after escaping from the SS was the stuff of fairy tales. “Little Davey,” as he was called, at eighteen years, ended up being “adopted” by the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division who assisted him in immigrating to the U.S.

David's story is unique: he is a Holocaust survivor and also one of a band of liberators. *One Voice, Two Lives* adds a new dimension to Holocaust narratives.

Shelley M. Zeiger and Maryann McLoughlin
The Wheel of Life: A Memoir

An inspiring memoir about an exceptional person—Holocaust survivor, immigrant, husband, father, entrepreneur, rescuer, developer of joint ventures and cultural exchanges with the USSR.

Born in 1935 in eastern Poland, Mr. Zeiger was a child when his hometown Zborów was occupied first by the Soviet Union, in 1939, and then in 1941 by the Germans. With the aid of Anton Suchinski, the “town’s fool,” Shelley’s family escaped from the ghetto. For over a year the Zeiger family of four and two orphan girls were hidden in cramped conditions under a root cellar. Liberated by the Red Army in July of 1944, the family eventually fled Zborów for the West, immigrating to the United States in late 1949.

Despite language and cultural differences, Zeiger quickly completed Grades K to 12. After a year or two at Seton Hall University, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, becoming a citizen. The years following this were devoted to marriage and establishing a family and businesses, including joint ventures with the USSR. Because of Shelley’s efforts to foster international development with the USSR, he was dubbed “The Unofficial Ambassador to The Soviet Union.” He is also known as “Mr. Trenton,” for his efforts to revitalize the capital. Shelley Zeiger’s philosophy is, “Do good, and good will come back to you.” In 1988, Shelley was reunited with Anton. Anton was honored by Tom Kean, NJ Governor, and by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, as “Righteous among the Nations.” Shelley M. Zeiger continues to do “good” in Trenton and the world.

Rose Pinkasovic Zelkovitz and Maryann McLoughlin
From the Carpathian Mountains to the New Jersey Seashore
2nd ed

Rose Pinkasovic Zelkovitz wrote her memoir, *From the Carpathian Mountains to the New Jersey Seashore*, especially for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. However, Rose also wanted to share her story of surviving the Holocaust with school children of all ages.

Rose was born in Czechoslovakia in the Carpathian Mountains, one of eight children. In the 1940s, Rose and her family were driven from their village and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Rose eventually was imprisoned in three concentration camps—Auschwitz-Birkenau, Stutthof, and Brumberg—and forced on a death march.

Along with two sisters and two brothers, Rose survived the Holocaust. After liberation in 1945, Rose met and married her husband, Mayer, the only survivor of a family of ten. Rose and Mayer with their two-year old son, Herman, immigrated to the United State in August of 1950. They lived and worked in Baltimore, Maryland,

until retiring, when they moved to Atlantic City to be closer to their son and his family.

Rose's memoir is a story of survival and resilience—of a courageous, hard-working, and loving woman.

Forthcoming Spring 2016

Eva Gutman and Maryann McLoughlin

*Farewell the Chestnut Trees, Blossoming Pink and White:
The Memoirs of Latvian Holocaust Survivors Eva and Rudy Gutman*

Marion Groch Zeiger and Maryann McLoughlin

Sacrifice and Resilience, The Memories of a Jewish German Family

Leo Schoffer and Maryann McLoughlin

**From Leaden Skies to Days of Blue:
The Holocaust Memoir of Sam Schoffer, Vilna Partisan**

Rose Rechnic. Editor and Researcher Maryann McLoughlin

Try to Survive . . . and Tell the World.
2nd ed.

Forthcoming Fall 2016

Terry and Arthur Kühnreich and Maryann McLoughlin

Gary Mednik and Maryann McLoughlin

Forthcoming Spring 2017

Ida Shames and Maryann McLoughlin

G. Eugene Gottlieb and Maryann McLoughlin

Memoirs can be ordered from ComteQ Publishing:
<http://www.comteqpublishing.com>

**Sarah Messina, Stockton University, Graphics Production,
 designed 95% of the covers.**

**Teacher Guides prepared
 by the Center and/or graduate students:**

- Teacher's Guide for *Leaves Swept by a Cruel Wind* by The Holocaust Journals of Ilona Elefánt Schwarcz—1945-1949, with contributions by Eta Elefánt Hubscher. Edited by Maryann McLoughlin and Marianne M. Meyer. Stockton P, October 2014. 68 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *Weep Tears of Blood* by Rabbi Dr. Murray Kohn and Dr. Maryann McLoughlin. Amanda Beiling (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, September 2013. 52 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *I Shall Lead You Through the Night* by Eva Feldsztein Wasserman. Amanda Beiling (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, June 2013. 40 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *Interrupted Lives* by Miriam Yonish Greenman. Kathy Tabasso (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, May 2013. 40 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *Ernest Triumphant!* by Ernest Paul. Kelsey Schneider (graduate student) Stockton P, November 2012. 44 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *Once a Flower, Always a Flower* by Terry Herskovits. Jessica Hulten (graduate student). Stockton P, October 2012. 48 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *Flower of Ice, Cobweb of Lace: Escape to the USSR* by Nella Juffe. Jessica Hulten (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, August 2012. 48 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *In the Birch Woods of Belarus: A Partisan's Revenge* by Sidney Simon. Courtney Sands (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, August 2012. 44 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *A Red Polka Dotted Dress: A Memoir of Kanada* by Shirley Gottesman. Jessica Scheuren (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, August 2012. 36 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *Sara Triumphant!* by Ernest Paul. Kelsey Schneider (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, August 2012. 44 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *Two Voices: A Mother and Son, Holocaust Survivors* by Donald Berkman. Nate Klein (graduate student) with Maryann McLoughlin and Gail Rosenthal. Stockton P, April 2012. 48 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for New Jersey Council for the Humanities Grant seminar "Justice, Genocide, and the Environment in the Ukraine and Chinese Famines." Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, Oct. 2011. 26 pages.
- Nanking Massacre and other Japanese Atrocities, 1931-1945*, New Jersey Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education Curriculum. Maryann McLoughlin with Rosemarie Wilkinson and Francis Flaherty. Sept. 2010. 270 pages.

- Teacher's Guide for New Jersey Council for the Humanities Grant seminar "Lincoln's Legacy: Civil and Religious Freedoms." Stockton P, Oct., 2009.
- Teacher's Guide for the memoir *A Comb, A Prayer Book, Sugar Cubes, and Lice* by Shana Fogarty and the play *A Comb and A Prayer Book* by Pam Hendrick. Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, 2007. 54 pages.
- Teacher's Guide for *In Sunshine and In Shadow: We Remember Them* by Vera Goodkin. Maryann McLoughlin Stockton P, 2006.
- Teacher's Guide for *Beyond the Ouija Board: A WW II Teenager in Occupied Belgium* by Arlette Michaelis. Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, 2006. 32 pages.
- Teacher's Guide to *Once the Acacias Bloomed: Memories of a Childhood Lost* by Fred Spiegel. Maryann McLoughlin. Stockton P, 2004.

Most of the guides were designed by Jena Brignola, Stockton University, Graphics Production