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 allows 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 These unique historical documents put a face on what was lost, and allow readers to grasp the enormity of what happened to six million Jews – one story at a time.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
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The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program was established by the Azrieli Foundation in 2005 to collect, publish and share the memoirs and diaries written by survivors of the Holocaust who came to Canada. We have published the stories of over 125 survivor authors. These books are read every year by students across Canada, and we have provided more than 700,000 copies of our award-winning memoirs to Canadian educators and students.

Students tell us how important these books are to them and how moved they are by the authors’ experiences. The memoirs encourage readers to engage thoughtfully and critically with the complexities of the Holocaust by creating meaningful connections with the lives of survivors.

Stories bring history to life, and that’s why we distribute these memoirs — published in both English and French and available as print books, ebooks and PDFs — free of charge to educational institutions across Canada, as well as a limited number of copies of our new audiobooks. The books and audiobooks are also available for sale online for everyone.

Our editorial and research staff carefully fact-check the accounts and offer readers supplementary material, such as glossaries, introductions written by experts and maps. We also create a variety of bilingual educational materials, made for and tested by the teachers who use these memoirs in their classrooms. We are here to make it easier for you to bring the subject of the Holocaust into your classroom, by helping your students connect with history through first-person stories.
Canadian students come from all walks of life. Some students may have experienced or are currently experiencing some form of trauma in their lives. Your students' diverse backgrounds will inform the way you teach sensitive subjects.

Studying the Holocaust includes exploring themes such as inadequate housing, food disparity, education restrictions and limitations, illness and disease, racism and discrimination, violence and abuse (physical, sexual and emotional), death, murder, escaping or fleeing dangerous situations, as well as war and other significant personal traumas. Students may identify with one or more of these themes as a result of their own experiences.

When teaching about subjects such as the Holocaust, it is beneficial to approach the content with a proactive mindset and to embed proper supports into the planning of any unit.

Although we want as many students as possible to read our memoirs, not every story will work for every student. Due to the traumatic and often horrific nature of the authors’ experiences surviving the Holocaust, the memoirs contain sensitive material, which sometimes includes violence and sexual content. It is our policy not to excise these passages; we maintain the integrity of the survivors’ accounts, editing only for clarity, consistency and historical accuracy.

Our memoirs have been classified by age according to content and not by reading level. While our books do have a recommended minimum age, there is no upper age limit. You are the best evaluator of a memoir’s appropriateness. We strongly urge you to use discretion and note the age recommendation icons alongside each book listed, as well as the mature content notice where applicable. We also recommend that you read any memoir you intend to provide to your students.

Memoirs that are considered 11+ do not contain any graphic violence, sexual violence or sexual content. Generally shorter and less complex than our other memoirs, books in the 11+ category are perfect for students who are ending elementary school or who are starting high school, but are also appropriate for older readers.

Memoirs that are considered 14+ might have some descriptions of graphic violence or sexual content. They may be a bit longer and have a higher level of complexity than those in the 11+ category. The 14+ category is suitable for more experienced high school students.

Memoirs that are considered 16+ are usually longer and more complex, and might also contain descriptions of graphic violence, sexual violence or sexual content. We recommend these books to students who are about to graduate high school or start post-secondary education.

Memoirs that are considered 18+ are usually longer and more complex, and might also contain descriptions of graphic violence, sexual violence or sexual content. We recommend these books to students who are about to graduate high school or start post-secondary education.

Canadian students come from all walks of life. Some students may have experienced or are currently experiencing some form of trauma in their lives. Your students’ diverse backgrounds will inform the way you teach sensitive subjects.

Studying the Holocaust includes exploring themes such as inadequate housing, food disparity, education restrictions and limitations, illness and disease, racism and discrimination, violence and abuse (physical, sexual and emotional), death, murder, escaping or fleeing dangerous situations, as well as war and other significant personal traumas. Students may identify with one or more of these themes as a result of their own experiences.

When teaching about subjects such as the Holocaust, it is beneficial to approach the content with a proactive mindset and to embed proper supports into the planning of any unit.

Trauma comes in many forms and may not always be known or visible. While you do not need to be an expert on trauma, here are some things you can do as an educator to support your students:

- Know your students
- Be thoughtful about the chosen content and methodology
- Be present, available and observant throughout the unit of study and beyond
- Foster opportunities for choice, collaboration and connection
- Check in frequently with your students
- Be prepared with resources
- Avoid assumptions
- Bring students safely in and safely out of the learning space

These strategies are essential for some but good for all.

For more information on trauma-informed teaching, explore the following resources:

https://linktr.ee/hsmp
SIGNIFICANT DATES AND CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

There are certain days and months throughout the school year when the Holocaust is formally acknowledged in a community or global context. We encourage you to use these times as opportunities to bring the subject of the Holocaust into your classroom. Take a look to see how they might fit into your long-range plans for the upcoming school year.

Holocaust Education Week and Month
November is Holocaust Education Month, with a week early in the month designated as Holocaust Education Week. Check with your local Jewish Federation to learn more.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)
> January 27, 2024

Yom HaShoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day
> Sunday, May 5, 2024 (sundown) to Monday, May 6, 2024* (sundown)

Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
> May 2024

* This date is determined based on the Hebrew calendar and changes each year on the Gregorian calendar.

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

In history and social studies courses, the Holocaust can be studied as a way to develop historical thinking concepts (historical significance, primary source evidence, continuity and change, cause and consequence, historical perspectives, ethical dimensions). It is also relevant in courses that cover World War II and immigration. Although study of the Holocaust most naturally fits into history courses that cover this time period, there are many additional opportunities to cover other areas of the curriculum through Holocaust education.

In language and literature courses, the Holocaust can be studied through the reading of a Holocaust survivor memoir. Students can explore memoir as a literary genre, develop oral comprehension skills through a read aloud of a memoir (see page 22), participate in a text study (such as literature circles) or build media literacy skills through propaganda or photo analysis activities.

The study of the Holocaust can be brought in through other areas, such as humanities, law, civics, world issues, ethics, genocide studies and general school-wide character education initiatives.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

We connect educators and students across Canada to first-hand accounts of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Canada and we provide teachers with the resources they need for an individualized approach to Holocaust education.

Learning about history through first-person stories is a powerful way for students to develop a multi-layered understanding of:

- The specific historical, geographical, socio-political and political contexts of each story. Students realize the enormous multiplicity and diversity of experiences.
- The people who lived ordinary lives before they were disrupted by war and genocide. Students see survivors as individuals, rather than as statistics or victims.
- The individualized impact of the Holocaust and its aftermath. Students engage in historical empathy and recognize our shared humanity.
- Critical thinking about complex and sensitive topics. Students develop the capacity to understand contemporary global issues and debates.
RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Our tools for educators and professional development opportunities help you engage with the history of the Holocaust. Our resources are designed to build your knowledge, share best practices in the field of Holocaust education and explain our approach to Holocaust education using the voices of survivors.

Sarah P.
Teacher, Our Lady of Peace School

I have found the Azrieli Foundation’s educational resources, including the memoirs, to be incredibly helpful tools for learning and reinforcing concepts across a wide range of topics related to the Holocaust. The lesson plans are clear, engaging and easy to follow, and the exercises are well-designed to help reinforce the student’s learning. The resources are also designed to be accessible to students of all learning styles. My students have enjoyed everything from the memoirs and the supportive worksheets and maps to the well-organized and easy-to-use digital resource Re: Collection.
The First Step: A Guide for Educators Preparing to Teach about the Holocaust

The First Step helps both new and experienced educators to feel more confident teaching about the Holocaust. This guide provides educators with reflective exercises, trusted resources and tangible takeaways and tools for use in the classroom.

**THE FIRST STEP HELPS YOU ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS**

1. What was the Holocaust?
2. Why do I want my students to learn about the Holocaust?
3. How do I safely, respectfully and successfully teach my students about the Holocaust?

**THIS GUIDE COVERS**

- The core content (define the Holocaust and gather a sense of the scope and sequence of the Holocaust)
- Teaching goals (create a learning objective)
- Methodology (explore best practices for teaching)

For educators who are interested in completing this guide with support from our education team, virtual and in-person teacher training is available. To schedule a teacher training, send an email to memoirs@azrielifoundation.org.

The First Step can be accessed directly from the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program website.

Our education team offers complimentary professional development to schools or school boards across Canada.

**EDUCATOR TRAINING IS OFFERED**

- Virtually or in-person
- Bilingually

**TRAINING IS AVAILABLE FOR**

- An overview of our offerings
- Implementing any of our Education Programs and Activities in the classroom
- Using our digital resource Re:Collection
- The First Step: A Guide for Educators Preparing to Teach about the Holocaust
- Planning a unit of study using our resources
- Co-planning and co-teaching

* Partial funding may be available to cover the cost of substitute teachers for daytime professional development.

Thank you for the excellent teacher training session. I have taught the Holocaust for years and have a degree in History and I still learned so much and now have more tools and resources that I will be able to implement into the classroom immediately.

Natasha P.
Teacher, St. Malachy’s Memorial High School
We offer diverse educational materials that can be adapted to the needs of your classroom based on the age of your students, the subject you teach or the time that you have available. Our resources include memoirs, education programs and activities, short films and digital tools. Each resource has been thoughtfully created to support students learning about the Holocaust. Students will explore important themes related to the Holocaust and build their knowledge of the historical context of survivors’ stories.

Our memoirs can be ordered on our website and are available for free as print books, ebooks or PDFs. All of our educational materials are available in English and French and can be accessed digitally on our website.
Use these educational materials in conjunction with the stories of Canadian survivors that are available in our memoirs or on our digital resource Re:Collection (see page 32).

**Education Programs:** These multi-lesson units offer a complete program of study on the Holocaust, using the stories of survivors and covering different themes such as rescue, immigration, identity and persecution. Each program includes an introduction to the Holocaust and is adaptable to the needs of your classroom.

**Education Activities:** These short activities are designed to supplement a broader unit of study on the Holocaust. Each activity centres around one theme or a survivor's story and takes approximately one lesson to complete.
AT GREAT RISK: HOLOCAUST RESCUE AND THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS

MATERIALS NEEDED
- Teacher’s guide
- Student workbook
- Student reflection journal
- Short film — Holocaust Rescue and the Righteous Among the Nations
- Final assignment proposal (optional)
- Class set of At Great Risk: Memoirs of Rescue during the Holocaust

DURING THIS PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL
- Read one memoir on the theme of Holocaust rescue
- Learn about the historical context of the Holocaust
- Engage in meaningful discussions with peers
- Reflect on their personal opinions and feelings
- Complete a final assignment (optional)

After completing the Education Program, students will recognize that the act of rescue during the Holocaust was a rare occurrence due to the extreme risk associated with helping Jews. Students will develop a greater understanding of the complex context in which people made decisions that went against the rules of the society they were in and the significant outcomes of those decisions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Learn about the Holocaust by discovering its historical context and understanding the dynamics of Holocaust rescue
- Learn from the Holocaust by analyzing forces that shape human behaviour in times of crisis and by applying this learning to become responsible global citizens
- Reflect on the value of first-person testimonies in remembering and responding to past events

FEATURED ANTHOLOGY

Fishel Philip Goldig  
*The Survival Story of a Six-Year-Old Boy*
- Born in Poland in 1933
- Arrived in Canada in 1948; lives in Montreal, QC
When Fishel and his parents escape from a ghetto and certain death, a farmer helps them survive in his potato cellar, creating an underground bunker.

David Korn  
*Saved by Luck and Devotion*
- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1937
- Arrived in Canada in 1965; lives in Halifax, NS
As deportations to Nazi camps begin in Slovakia, David’s parents place him and his brother in a Lutheran orphanage, where a pastor directs his staff to protect Jewish children.

Eva Lang  
*Three Stars in the Sky*
- Born in Belgium in 1930
- Arrived in Canada in 1974; lives in Netanya, Israel
Separated from their parents when they are released from an internment camp in France, Eva and her sister are moved from refuge to refuge by a clandestine network determined to save Jewish children.

If you are interested in Holocaust rescue, you might also like these memoirs:
HIDDEN CHILDREN, IDENTITY AND THE HOLOCAUST:
Surviving in the Margin of the Catastrophe

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Teacher's guide
- Student package
- Technology for accessing Re:Collection
- Re:Collection instructions

DURING THIS PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL

- Read a memoir and/or use Re:Collection to explore video clips, memoir excerpts, photographs and artifacts related to their assigned authors
- Explore the concept of identity during the Holocaust

After completing the Education Program, students will understand the variety of ways Jewish children experienced the Holocaust in hiding, as well as the value of using personal accounts to study this history.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the Holocaust by discovering its historical context and understanding the different survival strategies used by the Jewish population
- Learn from the Holocaust by understanding the formation and suppression of identity during the Holocaust, applying this knowledge to the concept of identity as a whole
- Develop critical thinking skills through analysis of primary sources
- Explore the Canadian context by discovering the process of immigration after the war and the diversity of experiences upon arrival in Canada
- Analyze primary sources to consider the context of rising discrimination and persecution
- Create a timeline or newspaper article
- Reflect on the experience of immigration to Canada after the Holocaust

FEATURED MEMOIRS

Claire Baum
The Hidden Package
- Born in the Netherlands in 1936
- Arrived in Canada in 1951; lives in Toronto, ON
Claire and her younger sister are hidden with a non-Jewish family and eventually find security with Tante Nel, who they forge a lifelong connection with.

Muguette Myers
Where Courage Lives
- Born in France in 1931
- Arrived in Canada in 1947; lives in Montreal, QC
Muguette and her family flee Paris and find refuge in the quaint rural village of Champlost, where they live under false identities and are protected by the townspeople.

Arthur Ney
W Hour
- Born in Poland in 1930
- Arrived in Canada in 1948; lived in Montreal, QC
Arthur is separated from his family in the Warsaw ghetto and he must fend for himself. As he flees the city and lives first on a farm and then in an orphanage, he learns to hide his Jewish identity and figure out who he can trust.

If you are interested in hidden children, you might also like these memoirs:
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the historical context of the Holocaust
- Build aural comprehension skills
- Learn to identify features of memoir as a literary form
- Develop historical thinking concepts

DURING THIS PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL

- Listen to a memoir written by a Holocaust survivor
- Analyze and compare similar literary forms (memoir, biography, autobiography and historical fiction)
- Engage in reflective and meaningful discussion
- Develop historical thinking concepts

After completing the Education Program, students will gain an understanding of the Holocaust through the lens of survivor testimony. As the book is read aloud to students, they will learn about the value of memoirs as both a literary form and a tool for studying history.

FEATURED MEMOIRS

Marguerite Élias Quddus
*In Hiding*

- Born in France in 1936
- Arrived in Canada in 1967; lives in Longueuil, QC

As Marguerite and her sister struggle to accept their separation from their mother, they are taken from convents to farms and must learn how to lie about their identities to survive. This story is beautifully illustrated by the author.

Morris Schnitzer
*Escape from the Edge*

- Born in Germany in 1922
- Arrived in Canada in 1947; lived in Montreal, QC, and Ottawa, ON

Morris escapes Nazi Germany for the Netherlands, only to find himself on the run once again when the Nazis invade the country. Through Belgium and France, through arrests and interrogations, Morris's false identities and quick thinking help him to survive when he is denied refuge in Switzerland.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Teacher's guide
- Sample discussion questions
- Author background reading
- Language notes and content warnings
- Copy of selected memoir
- Supplementary visuals

Available in French
THE WARSAW GHETTO: FROM PERSECUTION TO RESISTANCE

MATERIALS NEEDED
- The Warsaw Ghetto activity instructions
- Access to the digital exhibit *Four Stories from the Warsaw Ghetto* (see page 35)
- Technology for accessing Re:Collection
- Re:Collection instructions

DURING THIS ACTIVITY, STUDENTS WILL
- Complete a collaborative research task
- Explore the digital exhibit *Four Stories from the Warsaw Ghetto*
- Explore the Warsaw ghetto special collection on Re:Collection

This inquiry-based activity uses survivor testimony to encourage students to gather knowledge. Using Re:Collection and the digital exhibit *Four Stories from the Warsaw Ghetto*, students will explore pre-war Jewish life in Poland, life in the Warsaw ghetto and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Develop an understanding of pre-war Jewish life in Poland, life within the Warsaw ghetto and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
- Recognize the impact of anti-Jewish attitudes and discrimination on Jewish life in Europe
- Reflect on the agency of Jews during the Holocaust

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<td><strong>Six Lost Years</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Born in Poland in 1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Arrived in Canada in 1954; lived in Toronto, ON</td>
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<td>After the German authorities create a ghetto in Lodz, Amek and his family escape to Warsaw, hoping to live in safety. Their respite is brief — forced into the misery of the Warsaw ghetto, life becomes unbearable, and Amek’s father makes a quick decision to escape once again.</td>
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| **Pinchas Gutter**  |
| **Memories in Focus** |
| - Born in Poland in 1932 |
| - Arrived in Canada in 1985; lives in Toronto, ON |
| In the Warsaw ghetto, Pinchas studies in secret and observes the increasing starvation, death and despair that surrounds him. He tries to bury his emotions, but his fear is ever-present, and the images are ingrained in his memory. |

| **Elsa Thon**  |
| **If Only It Were Fiction** |
| - Born in Poland in 1923 |
| - Arrived in Canada in 1980; lived in Toronto, ON |
| Seventeen-year-old Elsa is faced with a monumental decision in the Warsaw ghetto — escape with her parents or stay with her sister who has joined a youth movement, driven by the hope of resistance. Amid the horrendous conditions in the ghetto, Elsa feels both trapped and uncertain, and she makes a fateful decision. |

If you are interested in Jewish pre-war life in Poland and the Warsaw ghetto and uprising, you might also like these memoirs:
DURING THIS ACTIVITY, STUDENTS WILL

- Explore the digital exhibit Education Disrupted
- Learn from a variety of first-hand accounts
- Using the Azrieli Foundation's digital exhibit Education Disrupted, students will explore what education and its disruption meant to Jewish students before, during and after the Holocaust.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Think critically about themes such as persecution, resistance and rebirth
- Learn about the Holocaust through the lens of education
- Develop historical empathy by making connections to survivors’ personal experiences with education
- Understand the global efforts to secure a child’s rights to an education
- Engage in higher-order thinking questions and tasks
- Complete a final task (optional)
- Final task (optional)
- Access to the digital exhibit Education Disrupted (see page 34)

FEATURED MEMOIRS

Felicia Carmelly
Across the Rivers of Memory*
- Born in Romania in 1931
- Arrived in Canada in 1962; lived in Toronto, ON
On a dirt floor in the misery of the Shargorod ghetto in Transnistria, Felicia manages to continue her education with a small group of girls and a teacher. As an adult, she becomes an educator in commemorating the tragedy of Transnistria.

David Newman
Hope’s Reprise
- Born in Poland in 1919
- Arrived in Canada in 1951; lived in Toronto, ON
Education is at the heart of David’s life — a teacher before the war, he clandestinely continues this work during the Nazi occupation. Later, in the Buchenwald concentration camp, David teaches the Jewish children there, bringing much-needed hope to the desolation.

Henia Reinhartz
Bits and Pieces
- Born in Poland in 1926
- Arrived in Canada in 1951; lived in Toronto, ON
As teenaged Henia endures the darkest moments of the Nazi camps, she promises herself that if she survives, she will live in Paris and become a Yiddish teacher. In her freedom, she fulfills both these youthful promises.

* Contains graphic violence

If you are interested in more stories from the Education Disrupted exhibit, you might also like these memoirs:
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

FEATURED MEMOIRS

Nate Leipciger
*The Weight of Freedom*
- Born in Poland in 1928
- Arrived in Canada in 1948; lives in Toronto, ON

Eleven years old when the war begins in Poland, Nate grows up in Nazi death camps and concentration camps. As he struggles to survive, he forges a new, unbreakable bond with his father and dreams of an uncertain future.

Leslie Meisels
Suddenly the Shadow Fell
- Born in Hungary in 1927
- Arrived in Canada in 1967; lived in Toronto, ON

In a ghetto in Debrecen, Hungary, Leslie makes a decision for his family that luckily gets them on a transport to forced labour in Austria instead of one bound for Auschwitz-Birkenau. His path to liberation is difficult, but Leslie is among the lucky few to survive with his immediate family.

Margrit Rosenberg Stenge
Silent Refuge
- Born in Germany in 1928
- Arrived in Canada in 1951; lived in Montreal, QC

Margrit and her parents narrowly escape Germany for Norway, only to find that they must flee once again on a perilous journey from Nazi-occupied Norway to neutral Sweden.

If you are interested in more author biography activities, you might also like these memoirs:

MATERIALS NEEDED
- Background reading about the author and historical context
- Author Biography Activity
- Timeline Activity
- Technology for accessing Re:Collection
- Re:Collection instructions

DURING THIS ACTIVITY, STUDENTS WILL
- Read a short introduction about a survivor author
- Use Re:Collection to answer questions about the survivor author’s story
- Create a timeline of the survivor author’s life alongside global historical events

The author biography activities are effective tools for learning about one or more survivor stories. They may be used to introduce a survivor’s story, to learn about multiple stories, to consolidate what students have learned after studying a survivor’s story or to prepare students for a survivor presentation.

To access the full collection of our author biography activities, see the Activities tab under Educational Materials on our website.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Build historical empathy skills by engaging with survivor testimony
- Develop media literacy skills by researching a survivor’s story on the digital resource Re:Collection
- Improve historical-thinking and critical-thinking skills by completing a timeline

The author biography activities are effective tools for learning about one or more survivor stories. They may be used to introduce a survivor’s story, to learn about multiple stories, to consolidate what students have learned after studying a survivor’s story or to prepare students for a survivor presentation.

To access the full collection of our author biography activities, see the Activities tab under Educational Materials on our website.

If you are interested in more author biography activities, you might also like these memoirs:

Available in French
The Azrieli Foundation’s Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program has such a wide range of memoirs, written by survivors from different backgrounds and experiences, that you are sure to find one suitable for your classroom. But most enriching for students are the survivor speakers themselves. With some of the memoirs, you can read the text and then have the author come in and speak to your students. Having Pinchas Gutter spend time with my students was an experience none of us will soon forget. He’s such an amazing person, and having him sitting in our classroom brought an immediacy to my students’ learning that I could never have offered on my own.

Ben. B
Teacher, Riverdale Collegiate Institute

At the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, we are fortunate to work with survivors who are passionate about Holocaust education.

Students may have the opportunity to participate in a survivor presentation after completing a preliminary study of the survivor’s story. In the classroom, students will compile questions that directly relate to the story or the survivor. A member of our education team facilitates the presentations, in which students will engage in a meaningful dialogue with the survivor in a question-answer style activity.

This style of presentation provides an opportunity for deeper learning, empathy building and establishing a human connection to the history students are learning.
Re:Collection is an educational tool for exploring the history of the Holocaust through first-hand accounts of survivors. This innovative digital resource combines video interviews with memoir excerpts, photos and artifacts, and features interactive timelines and maps to place survivors’ stories in historical and geographic context.

There are no graphic images on Re:Collection, and the content is appropriate for all students mature enough to study the Holocaust.

Use Re:Collection in your classroom to help students understand the experiences of individual survivors and learn about important themes in the history of the Holocaust.

Access Re:Collection online through the Education section of our website.

FEATURED THEME: PRE-WAR DAILY LIFE

Jewish life in pre-war Europe varied greatly in terms of religious practice, socio-economic status, family size and level of acculturation into European society. Some Jews lived as minorities in cities and others lived in shtetls – small market towns with large Jewish populations. Many Jews, especially in Eastern Europe, were observant and organized their daily lives around Judaism, while others were secular and defined themselves as Jews based on shared history, ancestry and customs. Despite the variation across and within Jewish communities in Europe, there were many commonalities among European Jews who shared religious and linguistic history, cultural traditions and family bonds. Some of the most important aspects of survivors’ accounts are their memories of life before the war. To begin to understand all that was lost during the Holocaust, it is essential to know how Jews lived before their lives were disrupted by war and genocide.

If you are interested in pre-war life, you might also like these memoirs:

**Pinchas Eliyahu Blitt**
*A Promise of Sweet Tea*
- Born in Poland in 1931 or 1932
- Arrived in Canada in 1948; lives in Montreal, QC
Young Pinchas grows up in a vibrant village in western Ukraine, his life steeped in Yiddish culture, folklore and ancient customs in a close-knit community. When the Nazis begin murdering his people and destroying his beloved village, Pinchas and his family escape to the forests of Eastern Europe. Pinchas’s vivid, wry and humorous writing bring his village back to life.

**Sonia Caplan**
*Passport to Reprieve*
- Born in Poland in 1922
- Arrived in Canada in 1945; lived in Montreal, QC
Sonia brings us back to her childhood home of Tarnów, Poland, in this evocative, literary memoir of a family’s escape from Poland. Seventeen when the war breaks out, Sonia paints an engaging portrait of her town — the diverse youth movements and levels of observance, acculturation and education — and her close ties of friendships with an idealistic, eclectic group on the brink of adulthood.

**Ibolya Grossman**
*Stronger Together*
- Born in Hungary in 1916
- Arrived in Canada in 1957; lived in Winnipeg, MB, and Toronto, ON
In the city of Pécs, Hungary, Ibolya grows up in a blended family with four sisters, learning how it feels to live in poverty. When she moves to Budapest, marries and has a child, her perspective changes — she is young and optimistic — until her husband is sent away for forced labour four months after their child is born.

*Contains graphic violence*
**EXHIBITS**

**Resources for the Classroom**

**EXHIBITS**

**Education Disrupted**

*Available in French*

Education Disrupted explores the role of education in the lives of those who experienced the Holocaust as children and youth. It looks at the school life of Jewish students, the significance of being denied an education, and how Jews resisted persecution and pursued an education during the Holocaust. The exhibit also highlights the value of education and the role it played for survivors who were rebuilding their lives after the war.

**Liberating Our Stories**

Liberating Our Stories presents first-hand accounts of the moment of liberation for five survivors. For many, freedom from the Nazi occupation did not mean being free from suffering and antisemitism. Survivors often had difficulty leaving their painful pasts behind, and some remained silent about what they had experienced. Yet their moments of liberation were the beginning of another story. As they restarted their lives after the war, these five survivors gained a new sense of freedom through opening up about what they had experienced.

**Sustaining Memories**

The Sustaining Memories Project online exhibition highlights the diverse experiences of ninety-five survivors through excerpts of their partner-written memoirs. Sustaining Memories was created to give interested survivors of the Holocaust the opportunity to “write” their memoirs alongside a writing partner and was created in 2011 in partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University (then Ryerson University). The online exhibition brings these incredible stories to the public for the first time. Available in English only.

**Resistance in the Ghetto**

Four Stories from the Warsaw Ghetto shows how four survivors — Pinchas Gutter, Arthur Ney, Amek Adler and Elsa Thon — endured death and destruction in the largest Nazi ghetto. Although it is impossible to completely convey the horrors of the Warsaw ghetto, with so many thousands of stories that will never be told, this exhibit explores the daily struggle to stay alive and the different types of resistance taking place, while also commemorating the hundreds of thousands of Jews who were murdered.
In partnership with Penguin Random House Canada, we’ve produced a series of audiobooks based on our memoirs, sharing survivor voices and stories with listeners across the globe. Four titles in this collection are the first audiobooks ever narrated by Holocaust survivors themselves; the fifth is narrated by acclaimed Jewish-Canadian actor Jake Epstein in place of Morris Schnitzer, who passed away in 2020. These audiobooks are a powerful and moving new way to connect with the stories of survivors and learn about Holocaust history.

A small number of these audiobooks are available for free to teachers and can otherwise be purchased online wherever audiobooks are sold. Contact us if you are interested in our audiobooks.
MILESTONES

This year marks meaningful anniversaries in the lives of many Azrieli authors. These milestones can be used as an engaging way to bring an author’s memoir into your classroom and to help students connect with their story. In 2024, we are recognizing three significant milestones.

85 Years since the MS St. Louis was Denied Entry into Canada (1939)
In May 1939, 937 mostly German Jewish refugees boarded a ship in Hamburg, Germany, hoping to find a haven from the persecution and violence plaguing their lives since 1933, when Hitler came to power. Cuba, the United States and Canada all denied entry to these refugees, indicative of the restrictive and antisemitic immigration policies of the time. Forced to return to Europe, most of which was soon to be under Nazi occupation, more than 250 of those passengers would end up being killed in the Holocaust.

Stay tuned for new resources about Canada’s wartime and postwar immigration policies.

80 Years since the German Invasion of Hungary (1944)
In response to Hungarian negotiations with the western Allies, German forces occupied Hungary in March 1944 and set up a new collaborationist government loyal to the Nazi regime. Already subjected to antisemitic laws and oppression before the German occupation, Hungarian Jews now faced intensified persecution. Outside of Budapest, Jews were forced into ghettos and most were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau between May and July 1944. In Budapest, Jews faced increased violence and restrictions, and by fall, under the Arrow Cross regime, were forced into ghettos or rounded up for deportation or murdered. By 1945, approximately 550,000 Hungarian Jews had been killed.

Introduce your students to this moment in Holocaust history through the stories from our memoirs.

Ten Years of Publication (2014)
The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program has published the memoirs and diaries of 125 Canadian Holocaust survivors. 2024 marks ten years since the release of the following memoirs:

Celebrating our authors at the launch of their memoirs. Toronto, 2014.
The explosions scared me. I knew I could be hurt or killed. I was safer if I did and said nothing. So I became as invisible as a quiet little mouse hiding in the garden.

"Hide and Seek: In Pursuit of Justice"

Ben Carniol

When Ben’s parents pick him up from kindergarten one day in 1942, he doesn’t yet know that it is the last time he will see them. The Nazis have invaded his hometown of Brussels, Belgium, and Ben’s parents, sensing the danger that awaits them, send their only child to the countryside to live with a non-Jewish couple who are active in the Belgian resistance. There, in the village of Baudour, Ben learns to be a good Catholic boy amid the explosions of war and the frightening presence of German soldiers. After the war, Ben, now an orphan, finds a home in Ottawa, Canada, with his extended family. As he grows into adulthood, Ben reclaims his Jewish identity and begins a lifelong journey toward personal and societal healing. In Hide and Seek: In Pursuit of Justice, Ben Carniol, social work educator, activist and author, describes a childhood filled with loss and violence and his response to it: a deep commitment to creating a safe and just society for all.

About the author

Ben Carniol was born in Teplice-Šanov, Czechoslovakia (now Teplice, Czech Republic), in 1937 and moved with his parents to Brussels, Belgium, in 1939. He immigrated to Canada as an orphan in 1947 and was adopted by his mother’s family in Ottawa. Ben became a social worker and worked in the fields of social advocacy, social services and social work education in Cleveland, Montreal, Calgary and Toronto. He authored the seminal book Case Critical: Social Services and Social Justice in Canada. Ben is professor emeritus at Toronto Metropolitan University, was scholar-in-residence at Laurier University’s Indigenous Field of Study social work program and was awarded an honorary life membership for distinguished contributions to social work education in Canada by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education. He and his wife, Rhona, live in Toronto.
We could not leave; we were trapped. I remember a very heavy feeling in my chest, a foreboding feeling.

New Releases

A Symphony of Remembrance
Stefan A. Carter

Stefan Carter grows up in Warsaw, Poland, between two very different worlds. Barely aware he is Jewish, he and his family are part of a small, assimilated community that is steeped in Polish language, literature and music. But in 1939, when Nazi Germany occupies Poland, Stefan and his family suffer the same fate as the rest of the Jewish community — forced into the Warsaw ghetto and at constant risk of violence and deportation to the Treblinka death camp. Stefan manages to escape the ghetto and go into hiding, a time marked by isolation and the danger of being exposed as a Jew. After the war, Stefan focuses on building a new and meaningful life in Winnipeg, pursuing a career in vascular medicine, developing a passion for classical music and engaging in Holocaust education. In A Symphony of Remembrance, Stefan Carter composes a tribute to his family and friends, and to the brave people who helped him survive. He also sounds an urgent call to learn from the past, acknowledge ongoing human suffering and create a more just future.

About the author
Stefan Carter was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1928. In 1948, he immigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and enrolled in medical studies at the University of Manitoba. Stefan graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in 1954 and went on to have an illustrious career in vascular medicine, working as a clinician, directing a laboratory, and teaching and publishing in his field. An advocate for Holocaust education in Winnipeg, Stefan spoke to many students about his wartime experiences. He was a long-time badminton player and classical music aficionado, and his book Mozart: A Meditation on His Life and Mysterious Death was published in 2006. Stefan Carter passed away in 2023.
This dangerous, hustling lifestyle quickly came to dominate my childhood. It was depressing to realize that other children were playing with toys while I was risking my life to feed my family.

The walls of Warsaw’s ghetto are high, and the holes in the wall are so small that only children can squeeze through, so it’s up to the bravest young inhabitants to smuggle food back to their starving loved ones. Nazi guards patrol the ghetto walls, and the punishment for being caught is death. Only nine years old, Jankiel (Jack) Klajman risks his life to give his family a chance to survive. When the Jews in the ghetto rise up against the Nazis in 1943, Jack turns his smuggling efforts to the aid of the resistance, and narrowly escapes during the rebellion. Along with other Jewish boys passing as gentile, he then makes a living selling cigarettes in the heart of the city to the Nazi soldiers. Jack represents the Smallest Hope of a once-great Jewish community. Although he suffers immense losses during the war, when Jack leaves behind the fire-scarred ruins of Warsaw he finds a way to flourish, making his way to Canada and building a life full of music, family and hope for a better future.

About the author
Jack Klajman was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1931. An orphan after the war, he was supported through a program of the Central British Fund for German Jewry to immigrate to England in 1945. In 1948, he immigrated to Canada through the War Orphans Project. Jack settled in London, Ontario, where he owned a fur store for many decades. In 2013, he was featured in the documentary Little Heroes from the Warsaw Ghetto, which chronicles his and other Jewish boys’ survival in Warsaw after the destruction of the ghetto. With his wife, Sonia, he had four children and three grandchildren. Jack Klajman passed away in 2019.
**Judy Abrams**  
**Tenuous Threads**  
Eva Felsenburg Marx  
**One of the Lucky Ones**  
224 pages / 11+ / Available in French  
- Born in Hungary in 1937 (Judy); born in Czechoslovakia in 1937 (Eva)  
- Parallel stories of two children in hiding and surviving under false identities  
- Both arrived in Canada in 1949

**Amek Adler**  
**Six Lost Years**  
144 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Born in Poland in 1928  
- Confinement in two ghettos, deportation to forced labour and concentration camps  
- Arrived in Canada in 1954

**Ferenc Andai**  
**In the Hour of Fate and Danger**  
276 pages / 16+  
- Born in Hungary in 1925  
- Deportation to Bor, Serbia, as part of the Hungarian forced labour service  
- Translation from Hungarian; literary account that includes poetry by Miklós Radnóti, who was in the author’s barracks in the camp  
- Arrived in Canada in 1957

**Molly Applebaum**  
**Buried Words: The Diary of Molly Applebaum**  
184 pages / 16+ / Available in French  
- Born in Poland in 1930  
- Fled from a ghetto with family, in hiding with a cousin in a barn and underground with aid of a non-Jewish farmer  
- Wartime diary translated from Polish, with postwar memoir  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

**Claire Baum**  
**The Hidden Package**  
132 pages / 11+ / Available in French  
- Born in the Netherlands in 1936  
- In hiding with her younger sister with non-Jewish families; includes drawings and postcards they sent to their parents, who were hidden separately  
- Arrived in Canada in 1951

**Bronia and Joseph Beker**  
**Joy Runs Deeper**  
144 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Both born in the same town in Poland; Bronia in 1920, Joseph in 1913  
- Descriptive scenes of pre-war Jewish life  
- A couple during the war who escaped from a ghetto together and were in hiding together  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

**Tibor Benyovits**  
**Unsung Heroes**  
192 pages / 14+  
- Born in Hungary in 1932  
- In hiding and under a false identity; part of a Jewish underground resistance in Budapest  
- Arrived in Canada in 1962

**Pinchas Eliyahu Blitt**  
**A Promise of Sweet Tea**  
344 pages / 16+  
- Born in Poland in 1931 or 1932  
- Rich descriptions of pre-war Jewish life and culture  
- On the run from the Nazis and in hiding with his family in a forest  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If Home Is Not Here</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Born in Poland in 1921; moved with his family to Canada when he was two; returned to Europe in 1933; escaped from occupied France to Spain and held in an internment camp; arrived in Canada again in 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport to Reprieve*</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Born in Poland in 1922; confined in a ghetto; released after obtaining Nicaraguan citizenship documentation; held in civilian internment camp in Germany and released to Switzerland; arrived in Canada in 1945, before the end of the war</td>
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<tr>
<td>Across the Rivers of Memory*</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Born in Romania in 1931; deported to Transnistria and confined in a ghetto; arrived in Canada in 1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hide and Seek: In Pursuit of Justice</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>Born in Czechoslovakia in 1937; in hiding in a village in Belgium with a non-Jewish couple; arrived in Canada in 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Symphony of Remembrance</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>Born in Poland in 1928; escaped from Warsaw ghetto; under a false identity, hiding and passing as gentile in Warsaw; arrived in Canada in 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Out Alive*</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>Born in Hungary in 1925; raised in a family that had converted from Judaism but still targeted as Jewish during the Holocaust; escaped from a mass shooting at the Danube River in Budapest; arrived in Canada in 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Cry in Unison*</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Born in Hungary in 1928; confined in a ghetto and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen and a forced labour camp; arrived in Canada in 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Childhood Unspoken*</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>14+</td>
<td>Born in Belgium in 1935; in hiding in Brussels; arrived in Canada in 1947</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence | Available in French
Leslie Fazekas  
*In Dreams Together: The Diary of Leslie Fazekas*  
208 pages / 14+  
- Born in Hungary in 1925  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to Austria; forced labour in Vienna  
- Wartime diary and love letters translated from Hungarian, with postwar memoir  
- Arrived in Canada in 1956

Elly Gotz  
*Flights of Spirit*  
240 pages / 14+  
- Born in Lithuania in 1928  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to a subcamp of Dachau concentration camp  
- Arrived in Canada in 1964  
- Available as an audiobook

John Freund  
*Spring's End*  
136 pages / 14+  
- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1930  
- Confined in Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto and concentration camp and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948  
- Available in French

Margalith Esterhuizen  
*A Light in the Clouds*  
128 pages / 14+  
- Born in Romania in 1927  
- Deported to Transnistria and confined in a ghetto  
- Arrived in Canada in 1989

Anita Ekstein  
*Always Remember Who You Are*  
232 pages / 14+  
- Born in Poland in 1934  
- Smuggled out from a ghetto by her father; in hiding with non-Jewish families under a false identity  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

René Goldman  
*A Childhood Adrift*  
328 pages / 16+  
- Born in Luxembourg in 1934  
- Fled occupied Belgium for France with his parents; hidden in convent, children's homes and with non-Jewish families under a false identity  
- Arrived in Canada in 1963  
- Available in French

Marian Domanski  
*Fleeing from the Hunter*  
224 pages / 14+  
- Born in Poland in 1928  
- Escaped from a ghetto and a transport  
- Under a false identity, worked as a farmhand in different villages  
- Arrived in Canada in 1970  
- Available in French

Susan Garfield  
*Too Many Goodbyes: The Diaries of Susan Garfield*  
256 pages / 14+  
- Born in Hungary in 1933  
- Survived in Budapest Red Cross house and in hiding with relatives  
- Wartime diary and part of postwar diary translated from Hungarian, with postwar memoir  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Elita Esterhuizen  
*A Light in the Clouds*  
128 pages / 14+  
- Born in Romania in 1927  
- Deported to Transnistria and confined in a ghetto  
- Arrived in Canada in 1989

Anita Ekstein  
*Always Remember Who You Are*  
232 pages / 14+  
- Born in Poland in 1934  
- Smuggled out from a ghetto by her father; in hiding with non-Jewish families under a false identity  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

René Goldman  
*A Childhood Adrift*  
328 pages / 16+  
- Born in Luxembourg in 1934  
- Fled occupied Belgium for France with his parents; hidden in convent, children's homes and with non-Jewish families under a false identity  
- Arrived in Canada in 1963  
- Available in French
Ibolya Grossman and Andy Réti  
**Stronger Together**  
288 pages / **14+**  
- Both born in Hungary; Ibolya in 1916, Andy in 1942  
- Separate accounts by mother and son  
- Confined in Budapest ghetto  
- Arrived in Canada in 1957

Pinchas Gutter  
**Memories in Focus**  
192 pages / **14+** / 🎧 / Available in French  
- Born in Poland in 1932  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to Majdanek and several other forced labour and concentration camps  
- Arrived in Canada in 1985

Anna Molnár Hegedűs  
**As the Lilacs Bloomed***  
256 pages / **16+** / Available in French  
- Born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1897  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and a forced labour camp; escaped from a death march  
- Written in 1945 and translated from Hungarian  
- Arrived in Canada in 1952

Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung  
**The Vale of Tears**  
368 pages / **16+**  
- Born in Poland in 1912  
- Escaped to Soviet-occupied Poland and to China and Japan  
- Written in 1944 and translated from Yiddish  
- Arrived in Canada in 1941

Bronia Jablon  
**A Part of Me***  
160 pages / **16+**  
- Born in Poland in 1918  
- Escaped from a ghetto with her young daughter; in hiding together with aid of a non-Jewish blacksmith  
- Includes afterword by daughter she survived with  
- Arrived in Canada in 1967

Helena Jockel  
**We Sang in Hushed Voices***  
128 pages / **14+** / Available in French  
- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1919  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau  
- Arrived in Canada in 1988

Jack Klajman  
**The Smallest Hope***  
248 pages / **16+**  
- Born in Poland in 1931  
- Escaped from Warsaw ghetto; under a false identity, hiding and passing as gentile in Warsaw  
- Witnessed Warsaw Ghetto Uprising  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Eddie Klein  
**Inside the Walls**  
120 pages / **14+**  
- Born in Poland in 1927  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and several forced labour and concentration camps  
- Arrived in Canada in 1956

*I Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence  
Available as an audiobook
Fred Mann
*A Drastic Turn of Destiny*
304 pages / 16+ / Available in French
- Born in Germany in 1926
- Escaped to Belgium, France, Portugal and Jamaica
- Held in an internment camp in Jamaica
- Arrived in Canada in 1952

Michael Mason
*A Name Unbroken*
192 pages / 14+ / Available in French
- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1928
- Forced labour in Hungary and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and several forced labour and concentration camps
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Leslie Meisels with Eva Meisels
*Suddenly the Shadow Fell*
176 pages / 14+ / Available in French
- Both born in Hungary; Leslie in 1927, Eva in 1939
- Separate accounts by a couple who met and married after the war
- Confined in ghettos and deported to Austria and Bergen-Belsen (Leslie); confined in Budapest ghetto (Eva)
- Arrived in Canada in 1967 (Leslie) and in 1957 (Eva)

Rachel Lisogurski and Chana Broder
*Daring to Hope*
248 pages / 14+
- Both born in Poland; Rachel in 1911, Chana in 1938
- Separate accounts by mother and daughter
- Escaped from a ghetto; in hiding with aid of non-Jewish farmers
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence

Alex Levin
*Under the Yellow & Red Stars*
208 pages / 14+
- Born in Poland in 1932
- Escaped from a ghetto and mass shooting; in hiding in a forest
- Arrived in Canada in 1974

Nate Leipciger
*The Weight of Freedom*
360 pages / 16+ / Available in French
- Born in Poland in 1928
- Confined in ghettos and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and several forced labour and concentration camps
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Michael Kutz
*If, By Miracle*
184 pages / 16+ / Available in French
- Born in Poland in 1930
- Escaped from a mass shooting and hid in a forest with partisans; part of an underground resistance group
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence

Leslie Mezei with Magda Mezei Schwarz, Klari Mezei Noy and Annie Wasserman Mezei
*A Tapestry of Survival*
192 pages / 14+
- Born in Hungary in 1931
- Survived in Budapest under a false identity
- Separate accounts by author’s two sisters and his wife after the war
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence
Marguerite Élias Quddus
*In Hiding*
256 pages / 11+/ Available in French
• Born in France in 1936
• In hiding in convents and on a farm, under a false identity
• Includes author’s illustrations in colour, depicting her story
• Arrived in Canada in 1967

Maya Rakitova
*Behind the Red Curtain*
112 pages / 14+
• Born in Russia in 1931
• In hiding and under a false identity in Ukraine and in Transnistria
• Arrived in Canada in 1981

Henia Reinhartz
*Bits and Pieces*
112 pages / 14+/ Available in French
• Born in Poland in 1926
• Confined in a ghetto and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen and a forced labour camp
• Arrived in Canada in 1951

Betty Rich
*Little Girl Lost*
256 pages / 14+/ Available as an audiobook
• Born in Poland in 1923
• Escaped to Soviet-occupied Poland and deported to the Arkhangelsk forced labour camp in Siberia
• Arrived in Canada in 1949

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence
Paul-Henri Rips  
**E/96: Fate Undecided**  
160 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Born in Belgium in 1929  
- Interned in France and in Belgium  
- In hiding and under a false identity  
- Arrived in Canada in 1997

Steve Rotschild  
**Traces of What Was**  
144 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Born in Lithuania in 1933  
- Confined in a ghetto; in hiding during deportations  
- Escaped from ghetto to forced labour camp with his mother  
- Arrived in Canada in 1956

Judith Rubinstein  
**Dignity Endures***  
192 pages / 16+  
- Born in Hungary in 1920  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and concentration camps  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Martha Salcudean  
**In Search of Light**  
232 pages / 14+  
- Born in Romania in 1934  
- Confined in ghettos and deported to Bergen-Belsen with her family  
- Released to Switzerland before war’s end  
- Arrived in Canada in 1976

Kitty Salsberg and Ellen Foster  
**Never Far Apart**  
208 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Both born in Hungary; Kitty in 1932, Ellen in 1935  
- Separate and interwoven accounts by sisters  
- Confined in Budapest ghetto  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Morris Schnitzer  
**Escape from the Edge**  
228 pages / 11+ / Available in French  
- Born in Germany in 1922  
- Sent on a Kindertransport to the Netherlands; later fled to Belgium and France under a false identity  
- Joined a resistance group in Belgium and the American army as an interpreter  
- Arrived in Canada in 1947

Joseph Schwarzberg  
**Dangerous Measures**  
248 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Born in Germany in 1926  
- Escaped to Belgium and France, under a false identity  
- Joined the French Resistance  
- Arrived in Canada in 1968

Zuzana Sermer  
**Survival Kit**  
192 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1924  
- In hiding during deportations and escaped to Hungary; under a false identity, held in internment camp  
- Arrived in Canada in 1968

*Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence
Rachel Shtibel  
**The Violin***  
Adam Shtibel  
**A Child’s Testimony**  
296 pages / 16+ / Available in French  
- Both born in Poland; Rachel in 1935, Adam in 1928  
- Separate accounts by couple who met and married after the war  
- Escaped a ghetto with her family; in hiding together (Rachel)  
- Under a false identity (Adam)  
- Arrived in Canada in 1968

Margrit Rosenberg Stenge  
**Silent Refuge**  
272 pages / 11+ / Available in French  
- Born in Germany in 1928  
- Escaped to Norway, in hiding with her family  
- Escaped to Sweden with her family  
- Arrived in Canada in 1951

Ann Szedlecki  
**Album of My Life**  
240 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Born in Poland in 1925  
- Escaped to Soviet-occupied Poland and deported to the Ust-Kamenogorsk forced labour camp in Siberia  
- Arrived in Canada in 1953  
* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence

Maxwell Smart  
**Chaos to Canvas**  
240 pages / 14+  
- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1930  
- Escaped from a deportation; in hiding in a forest  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

George Stern  
**Vanished Boyhood**  
184 pages / 14+ / Available in French  
- Born in Hungary in 1931  
- Survived in Budapest under a false identity  
- Arrived in Canada in 1970

Willie Sterner  
**The Shadows Behind Me***  
256 pages / 16+ / Available in French  
- Born in Poland in 1919  
- Confined in a ghetto and deported to forced labour and concentration camps  
- Arrived in Canada in 1948  
* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence

Gerta Solan  
**My Heart Is at Ease**  
208 pages / 14+  
- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1929  
- Confined in Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto and concentration camp and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau  
- Arrived in Canada in 1968

Zsuzsanna Fischer Spiro  
**In Fragile Moments**  
Eva Shainblum  
**The Last Time**  
176 pages / 14+  
- Both born in Hungary; Zsuzsanna in 1925, Eva in 1927  
- Parallel stories of teenagers in the Nazi camp system  
- Both confined in ghettos and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau  
- Arrived in Canada in 1957 (Zsuzsanna) and in 1948 (Eva)  
* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence
William Tannenzapf
*Memories from the Abyss*

Renate Krakauer
*But I Had a Happy Childhood*

176 pages / 14+ / Available in French

- Both born in Poland; William in 1911, Renate in 1941
- Separate accounts by father and daughter
- Confined in a ghetto; escaped and in hiding (William)
- In hiding with a non-Jewish family (Renate)
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Elsa Thon
*If Only It Were Fiction*

304 pages / 16+ / Available in French

- Born in Poland in 1923
- Confined in ghettos; escaped and joined a youth underground movement
- Under a false identity; discovered and deported to forced labour camps
- Arrived in Canada in 1980

Agnes Tomasov
*From Generation to Generation*

240 pages / 14+ / Available in French

- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1930
- In hiding with her family in a forest
- Arrived in Canada in 1968

Joseph Tomasov
*From Loss to Liberation*

216 pages / 14+

- Born in Czechoslovakia in 1920
- Confined in a forced labour camp
- Joined Slovak National Uprising resistance movement
- Arrived in Canada in 1968

Leslie Vertes
*Alone in the Storm*

192 pages / 14+ / Available in French

- Born in Hungary in 1924
- Survived in Budapest under a false identity
- Sent to Soviet forced labour camps after the war
- Arrived in Canada in 1957

Anka Voticky
*Knocking on Every Door*

192 pages / 14+ / Available in French

- Born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1913
- Escaped with her family from Czechoslovakia to China; confined in a ghetto in Shanghai
- Arrived in Canada in 1948

Sam Weisberg
*Carry the Torch*

Johnny Jablon
*A Lasting Legacy*

256 pages / 14+ / Available in French

- Both born in Poland; Sam in 1927, Johnny in 1926
- Parallel stories of teenagers in the Plaszow forced labour camp
- Both deported to several forced labour and concentration camps
- Arrived in Canada in 1959 (Sam) and in 1948 (Johnny)

Elsa Thon
*If Only It Were Fiction*

Available in French

- Born in Poland in 1923
- Confined in ghettos; escaped and joined a youth underground movement
- Under a false identity; discovered and deported to forced labour camps
- Arrived in Canada in 1980

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence
Anthologies

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

606 pages / 16+ / Available in French

- Twenty short narratives, including poems and diaries, recount women’s wartime experiences in hiding, passing under false identities, in camps and in the Soviet Union
- Introduction and section forewords by editor Myrna Goldenberg

Confronting Devastation:
Memoirs of Holocaust Survivors from Hungary

488 pages / 16+

- Excerpts from twenty-two accounts by Hungarian Holocaust survivors curated into sections on pre-war life, forced labour battalions, camps, survival in Budapest and liberation
- Introduction and section forewords by editor Ferenc Laczó

At Great Risk:
Memoirs of Rescue during the Holocaust

416 pages / 14+ / Available in French

- Three short memoirs by survivors Eva Lang (France), David Korn (Slovakia) and Fishel Philip Goldig (Poland) about different experiences of hiding and rescue, connected by the theme of Righteous Among the Nations
- Includes section of short rescue stories from thirteen previously published Azrieli Foundation authors

* Contains sexual content and/or graphic violence

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program exists to share these stories. To learn more about the many authors and their memoirs, visit memoirs.azrielifoundation.org or email memoirs@azrielifoundation.org.

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ABOUT THE AZRIELI FOUNDATION

For more than 30 years, the Azrieli Foundation has quietly funded institutions as well as operated programs on the ground. The Foundation supports Holocaust education, scientific and medical research, music and the arts, higher education, youth empowerment and school perseverance, architecture and quality of life initiatives for people with developmental disabilities.

www.azrielifoundation.org