

## Suggested Memoirs

All of these books are available from the Holocaust Center's library.

### Local Authors

#### ***Sharing is Healing* by Noemi Ban**

"Noemi Ban's story of the loss of her mother, grand-mother, thirteen year-old sister and 6 month-old baby brother and of the suffering she survived while in Auschwitz-Birkenau is tragic, however, the message of this award-winning teacher's new book is one of tolerance hope and love of life." (sharingishealing.com)

Ban, Noemi, and Ray Wolpow. *Sharing is Healing, a Holocaust Survivor's Story*. 2003. Reprint. Bellingham, WA: Holocaust Educational Publications, 2006. Print.



#### ***Neither Yesterdays Nor Tomorrows: Vignettes of a Holocaust Childhood* by George J. Elbaum**

George is only a year old when Germany invades Poland. In 1942, "we escape from the Warsaw Ghetto and my mother places me with a series of Polish Catholic families who raise me for the next three years." The book is written the way a child's memory works – with short pieces of the story shedding light on the greater experience.

Elbaum, George. *Neither Yesterdays Nor Tomorrows: Vignettes of a Holocaust Childhood*. 2010. Free access to this book is available at [www.scribd.com](http://www.scribd.com).

#### ***Looking Like the Enemy: My Story of Imprisonment in Japanese American Internment Camps* by Mary Matsuda Gruenwald**

"In 1941, Mary Matsuda Gruenwald was a teenage girl who, like other Americans, reacted with horror to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Yet soon she and her family were among 110,000 innocent people imprisoned by the U.S. government because

of their Japanese ancestry. In this eloquent memoir, she describes both the day-to-day and the dramatic turning points of this profound injustice: what it was like to face an indefinite sentence in crowded, primitive camps; the struggle for survival and dignity; and the strength gained from learning what she was capable of and could do to sustain her family." (amazon.com)

Gruenewald, Mary Matsuda. *Looking Like the Enemy: My Story of Imprisonment in Japanese American Internment Camps*. Portland: Newsage Press, 2005. Print.

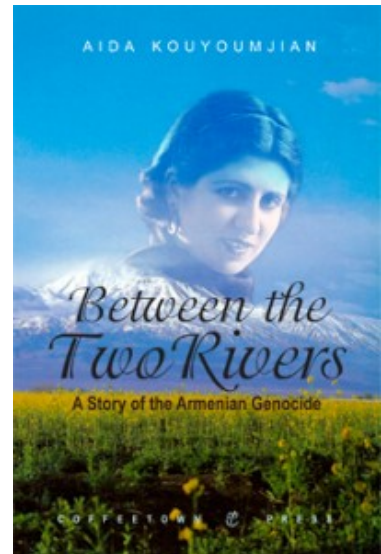
### ***Broken for You* by Stephanie Kallos**

"*Broken for You* introduces a storyteller of dazzling charm and tremendous heart. ... Stephanie Kallos brings to life a delightful set of characters, among them an old woman who converses regularly with her porcelain collection; a young woman who can fix a leaky sink but can't stop her own tears from falling; a Yeats-loving bowling enthusiast; and a woman who survived a world war with her sense of humor." (book cover and bookbrowse.com)

Kallos, Stephanie. *Broken for You*. 1st ed. New York: Grove Press, 2004. Print.

### ***Between the Two Rivers: A Story of the Armenian Genocide* by Aida Kouyoumjian**

"*Between the Two Rivers* is the story of Mannig, a young girl growing up in the years following the Armenian Genocide. Mannig has seen both her parents and most of her siblings murdered by the gendarmes. After years living on the streets... she enters an orphanage set up for the surviving Armenian children. Later, the children are transferred to Bagdad, where she begins life anew. *Between the Two Rivers* is a candid and moving memoir of the author's mother, who endured indescribable atrocities and hardship growing up Orthodox in a Muslim land." (amazon.com)



Kouyoumjian, Aida. *Between the Two Rivers: A Story of the Armenian Genocide*. Seattle: Coffeetown Press, 2010. Print.

### ***My Personal Brush with History* by Kurt Mayer and Joe Peterson**

The story of a 10-year-old boy and his family escaping Nazi Germany on one of the last ships to leave Europe, *My Personal Brush with History* is an account of hardship, opportunity, triumphs, mistakes, family and faith. (amazon.com)

Mayer, Kurt, and Joe Peterson. *My Personal Brush with History*. Kurt Mayer, 2009. P

***Eyes are Watching, Ears are Listening: Growing up in Nazi Germany 1933-1946* by Eycke Strickland**

"*Eyes are Watching, Ears are Listening*, tells the story of Eycke Strickland's unusual childhood in the Third Reich. In beautiful prose, the author relates fascinating memories of a large, loving, and unconventional family in pre-war Germany and in war-time (German-annexed) Poland." (amazon.com)

Strickland, Eycke. *Eyes are Watching, Ears are Listening: Growing up in Nazi Germany 1933-1946*. New York: iUniverse, Inc., 2008. Print.



***From A Name to a Number: A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography* by Alter Wiener**

Wiener's autobiography is a testimony to the tragedy that took place during WWII. Sending the message of what prejudice may lead to and how tolerance is imperative, this book reveals more than just Wiener's story, showing responses to his story and enabling readers to understand the horrors and to start to empathize with the plight that Holocaust victims faced. (amazon.com)

Wiener, Alter. *From A Name to a Number: A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse, 2007. Print.

**More Suggested Memoirs**

***Alicia My Story* by Alicia Appleman-Jurman**

"Her name is Alicia. She was thirteen when she began saving the lives of people she did not know--while fleeing the Nazis through war-ravaged Poland. Her family cruelly wrenched from her, Alicia rescued other Jews from the Gestapo, led them to safe hideouts, and lent them courage and hope. Even the sight of her mother's brutal murder could not quash this remarkable child's faith in human goodness--or her determination to prevail against overwhelming odds." (back cover)

Appleman-Jurman, Alica. *Alicia My Story*. New York: Bantam Books, 1988. Print.

***From the Ashes of Sobibor* by Thomas Blatt**

The story of a young man's life during the German occupation of Poland, Blatt recounts his childhood in Poland, his deportation to Sobibor, his time in the death camp, his part in the uprising, and his escape.

Blatt, Thomas, *From the Ashes of Sobibor*, Evanston: Northwestern University, 1997.

### ***Things We Couldn't Say* by Diet Eman**

A first -person narrative of a young Dutch woman's saga to rescue Jews imperiled by Nazi persecution in occupied Holland. Diary entries during the war as well as excerpts from personal letters that passed between Diet and her fiancé, Hein, detail their thoughts and emotions during those years.

Eman, Diet. *Things We Couldn't Say*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1994. Print.

### ***Zlata's Diary* by Zlata Filipovic**

Zlata wrote her diary... from 1991 to 1993 during the Bosnian war. Starting the fifth grade in the beginning of 1991, the war begins just before her eleventh birthday. It chronicles her daily life as the war has an increasing impact on her city of Sarajevo. (Wikipedia.com)

Filipovic, Zlata. *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo*. Reissue ed. Boston: Penguin (Non-Classics), 2006. Print.

### ***On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood* by Irmgard Hunt**

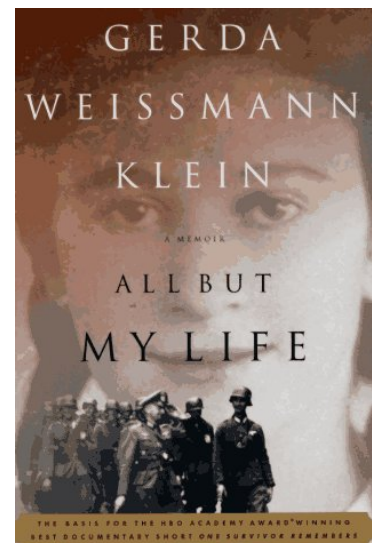
A remarkable memoir of an "ordinary" German childhood spent in the shadow of Hitler's Eagle's Nest.

Hunt, Irmgard A. *On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming the Legacy of a Nazi Childhood*. New York: Harper Collins, 2005. Print.

### ***All But My Life: A Memoir* by Gerda Weissmann Klein**

"Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. ... Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. ...Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome." (amazon.com)

Klein, Gerda Weissmann. *All But My Life: A Memoir*. New York: Hill And Wang, 1995. Print.



### ***Survival in Auschwitz* by Primo Levi**

"*If This Is a Man* (Italian title: *Se questo è un uomo*; United States title: *Survival in Auschwitz*) is a work by the Italian writer, Primo Levi, describing his 11 months—from February 21, 1944 until liberation on January 27, 1945—in the German concentration camp at Auschwitz in Poland, during the Second World War. The book is described as a memoir, but it goes beyond mere recollection by seeking to consider in narrative form the human condition in all its extremes." (Benchouiha, Lucie [2006]. *Primo Levi: Rewriting the Holocaust*. Troubador Publishing Ltd.)

Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. 1958. Reprint. New York: Touchstone, 1995. Print.

### ***In My Hands: Memoirs of a Holocaust Rescuer* by Irene Gut Opdyke**

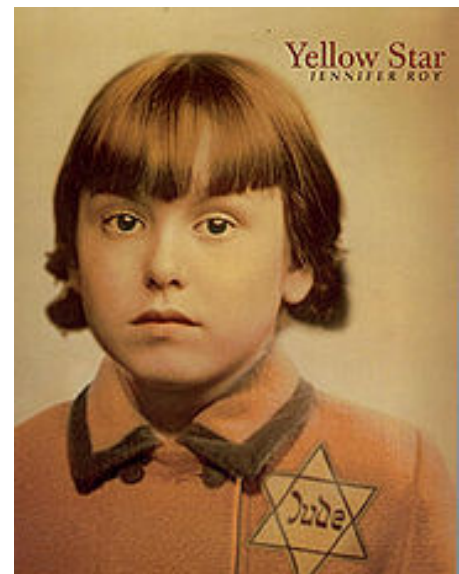
The story of a sixteen year old Catholic girl who survived abuse from Russian soldiers and found the strength to save the lives of Jews bound for extermination.

Opdyke, Irene Gut. *In My Hands: Memoirs of a Holocaust Rescuer*. New York: Anchor Books, 2001. Print.

### ***Yellow Star* by Jennifer Roy**

The story, biographical and written in free verse, depicts life through the eyes of a young Jewish girl whose family was forced into the Łódź Ghetto in 1939 during World War II. Roy tells her aunt Sylvia's story, covering her life as she grows from four and a half to ten years old in the ghetto. Since its publication in 2006, the book has received several awards, starred reviews, and has been made into a well-received audiobook. (Wikipedia.com). An excellent book for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2006. Print.



### ***Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust* by Yad Vashem**

A diary of a 14-year-old Polish Jewish girl, written over a period of four months in 1943 before she perished in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

Magazine, Editors of 'Time,' and Yad Vashem. *Rutka's Notebook: A Voice from the Holocaust*. New York: Time, 2008. Print.