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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Performative Book Preview

***Stories of the Holocaust: Art for Healing and Renewal* at the Embassy of the Czech Republic**

Washington, DC – On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM, join us at the Embassy of the Czech Republic for a performative book preview of *Stories of the Holocaust: Art for Healing and Renewal*, a two-volume collection edited by Karen Berman, Ph.D. and Gail Humphries, Ph.D. This evening of reflection, remembrance, and renewal honors the legacy of the Holocaust and celebrates the resilience of the human spirit through the transformative power of art.

The event is presented by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, in collaboration with IPBooks, the Dr. David M. Milch Foundation, Viener & Partners, 333 Creative, and Victoria Diaz.

About the Books:

Stories of the Holocaust: Art for Healing and Renewal is a two-volume collection edited by **Karen Berman, Ph.D.**, and **Gail Humphries, Ph.D.** The books feature 33 chapters from an extraordinary international group of authors, artists, and scholars, who use art as a powerful means of combating hatred, bullying, and antisemitism.

“Stories of the Holocaust offers a rich constellation of artistic responses to the Holocaust. Editors Berman and Humphries have assembled a dynamic team of scholars and artists who tackle this weighty subject with clarity, confidence, and urgency.” ~ Henry Bial, PhD, author of Acting Jewish

About the Performative Book Preview:

The performative book preview, directed by Laurie Mufson and under the artistic direction of Gail Humphries, Ph.D., will feature a unique blend of music, readings, theatre, and dance performed by distinguished guest artists. The performance will honor the memory of the valiant individuals, families, and children lost during the Holocaust while celebrating the transformative power of art to heal, inspire, and promote renewal.

The evening will include:

- *Recorded Music of Terezin* presented by Maestro Murry Sidlin of Catholic University, performed by the Terezin New Music Society;
- *Carolyn Dorfman Dance Collage* by choreographer Carolyn Dorfman, founder of Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, honoring her parents who were survivors;
- *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* excerpt from the musical *I Leave You These* with poetry and vocals from children at Terezin, performed by Elizabeth Bartolotta and Lisa Weiner Jerden;
- *Lives Eliminated Dreams Illuminated* (LEDI), select images from the multimedia exhibit honoring girls who perished in various camps and survivor Lusia Rosenzweig Milch, with remarks by physician, philanthropist, and filmmaker David Milch in conversation with Hilarie Viener;



- Scene from play *Pankrác 45*, with commentary by ExPats Theatre's founding artistic director Karin Rosnizeck;
- Filmmaker Eva Lustigová sharing her father Arnošt Lustig's experience and work;
- *Music of Resistance* by composer and professor Laurence Sherr, performed by Yubin Choi (cello) and Mary Voutsas (piano);
- *Leaps of Defiance and Faith: Reckon, Heal and Renew* excerpt presented by playwright, professor, and director Caleen Jennings.

About the Editors of *Stories of the Holocaust*:

Karen Berman, Ph.D., is Dean Emerita of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, former Chair of Theatre at GCSU, and Co-Artistic Director of Washington Women in Theatre. She has directed over 150 productions, including in the Czech Republic and Off-Broadway.

Gail Humphries, Ph.D., Fulbright Senior Scholar at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, Czech Republic, and a Likhachev/Yeltsin Cultural Fellow, St. Petersburg, Russia, has directed more than 180 productions in the US, throughout Europe and Russia. She is Dean Emerita, Stephens College and College of Fellows of the American Theatre, and Professor Emerita at American University, with a long history of advocacy for social justice through the arts.

Both editors are passionate advocates for the role of art in promoting social change and preserving historical memory.

Event Details

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM (Doors open at 6:15 PM)

RSVP by March 20: <https://StoriesoftheHolocaust.eventbrite.com>

Location: Embassy of the Czech Republic
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Admission: Free. Limited seating.

Parking & Embassy Policy

Non-metered parking is available on Spring of Freedom Street and Tilden Street.

The Embassy is about a 15 to 20-minute walk from the Van Ness Metro Station. Attendees must provide RSVP confirmation and photo ID for entry. Due to security protocols, no large bags are allowed, and small purses will be checked through security.

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