

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

more than a library...it's an experience

610 North Fairbanks Court, 2nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: 312-587-0234
Fax: 312-587-7311
pritzkermilitarylibrary.org

Contact:
Mark Heiden
External Affairs Coordinator
312-587-0234
mheiden@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net

“PRISONER OF HER PAST”: A FILM SCREENING AND INTERVIEW AT THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

CHICAGO, IL – Sonia Reich believes that she is being hunted. Her food is rancid and hair ridden with lice; her doctors are trying to poison her, and someone has painted a yellow Star of David on her lawn to mark her for the executioners. After raising a family in Skokie, Illinois, more than six decades later, the 76 year old woman is again a 9 year old girl in the small Polish village of Dubno, struggling to survive the Holocaust.

On Monday, March 31st, Howard Reich will appear at the Pritzker Military Library for a screening of an excerpt from his in-progress documentary, *Prisoner of Her Past*, and an interview with Rick Kogan. This event is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a reception for Library members at 5:00 p.m. It will also be recorded for television broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20.

Sonia Reich does not have Alzheimer's, dementia, or other ailments commonly diagnosed in senior citizens. She has a little-known illness called late-onset Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In every other respect an alert, self-sufficient adult, she can no longer distinguish her childhood memories from real life. Dubno was a flourishing village of more than 12,000 Jews before World War II, and less than 100 are estimated to have survived the Holocaust.

Her story first appeared in print with an article by her son in the Tribune, and then in his book, *The First and Final Nightmare of Sonia Reich: A Son's Memoir*. Howard Reich is currently working on *Prisoner of Her Past* with Chicago's Kartemquin Films, producers of the award-winning *Hoop Dreams*. The film includes scenes from present-day Dubno, now located in the Ukraine, and documents its history through interviews with other survivors – and Sonia Reich herself, as a son tries to understand why his mother is reliving this horrific trauma for a second time.

Howard Reich has been a Chicago Tribune arts critic and writer since 1983. In addition to covering jazz, blues and gospel music, he has authored several investigative reports on cultural issues, including the systematic theft of royalties from the jazz composer Jelly Roll Morton and the illicit trade in looted musical instruments. His cultural investigations have been featured on ABC-TV's Nightline and National Public Radio. He is the author of two other books: *Jelly's Blues: The Life, Music and Redemption of Jelly Roll Morton* (2003), with William Gaines, and *Van Cliburn* (1993).

Rick Kogan is currently senior staff writer and columnist for the *Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine* and host of the popular *WGN-AM Sunday Papers* radio program

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net.

For more information, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events.

###

About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a private, non-partisan research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 26,000 historical, reference, biographical and rare books on military subjects, over 800 original antique military posters and prints, and other military artifacts from private donors and the collection of COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.). Since opening in October 2003, the Library has produced over 180 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs program on military issues, *Front & Center with John Callaway*. Evening programs in the Library's McHenry Atrium are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, broadcast live on the Internet, and taped for broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available as audio podcasts on the Library website and at iTunes. A complimentary reception for Associate Members with wine and light refreshments precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing at author events by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

Contact:

Mark Heiden
External Affairs Coordinator
Pritzker Military Library
Library: 312.587.0234
E-Mail: mheiden@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net

Ryan Yantis
Executive Director
Pritzker Military Library
Library: 312.587.0234
E-Mail: execdirector@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net