

B O O K L A U N C H

July 1944

Deportation of the Jews of Budapest Foiled

Thursday, May 10, 2018 – 6 PM

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Katalin Kádár Lynn

Editor and Publisher, Helena History Press LLC

Géza Jeszenszky

*Historian, former Foreign Minister of Hungary,
Ambassador to the United States of America, Norway and Iceland*

PRESENTATIONS

**Attila Bonhardt, Deborah Cornelius, Géza Jeszenszky,
Ferenc Koszorus Jr., Lovice Maria Ullein-Reviczky,
Tamás Stark**

Q&A WITH THE AUDIENCE

Led by

Géza Jeszenszky

BOOK SIGNING AND RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

tonight's program is being streamed live
on the world wide web

<https://youtu.be/rBlZcfsqUYU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBlZcfsqUYU>

C o n t r i b u t o r s

Géza Jeszenszky (b. 1941) is a retired professor of history at Corvinus University of Budapest, as well a politician and diplomat. Instrumental in the transition of Hungary into a democracy in 1989, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the first freely elected government (1990-94) after the fall of communism. From 1998 to 2002 he served as the Hungarian ambassador to the United and States and to Norway and Iceland from 2011 to 2014.

He was visiting professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in Warsaw, Poland, and in Cluj/Kolozsvár in Romania. He is the author of a large number of scholarly publications, his latest book in English is *Post-Communist Europe and Its National/Ethnic Problems* (Budapest, 2009). His memoir and analysis of Hungary's relations with its neighbors during the years of the regime change (in Hungarian) came out in 2016.

Charles Fenyvesi. A student of Central European history, Charles Fenyvesi was born in Debrecen in 1937. Joined the revolution of 1956, then fled to Austria in December of 1956. He won a full scholarship to Harvard and received a BA (cum laude) in 1960 and won a graduate fellowship to study philosophy at the University of Madras, India and received an MA (first class) in 1962. From 1970 to 1979 he served as editor of the National Jewish Monthly. In 1979 he joined the Washington Post as a staff writer, later garden columnist and frequent contributor to the Op-Ed page and Outlook section. From 1985 to 1997 he was a columnist for the U.S. News & World Report. Since then he has been a free-lance writer, in 2000 he spent a year as writer and editor for the U.S. Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the U.S. He has authored seven books on history and botany including *When Angels Fooled the World: Rescuers of Jews in Wartime Hungary* (University of Wisconsin/Dryad Press, 2003).

Deborah S. Cornelius is a historian of East Central Europe. Her research focuses on the formation of a new political order after the Treaty of Trianon and movements for social and political reform. Her book, *Hungary in World War II: Caught in the Cauldron*, examines efforts of the truncated Hungarian state to restore governance, institutions, and the economy after World War I, and the path by which it agreed to an alliance with Nazi Germany during World War II in hopes of restoring its lost lands. The book, translated and expanded, was published with the title: *Kutyaszorítóban: Magyarország és a II. világháború*. Among other topics she has also written on questions of national identity, radical youth movements, the folk college movement and education for a new peasant leadership. She is currently researching the collapse of the traditional social order in Hungary after 1945. She received her PhD in History from Rutgers University.

Susanne Berger b. 1963 in Hannover, Germany, (B.A. International Relations, American University, Washington D.C.). Her research addresses the political and economic aspects of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg's humanitarian mission to Budapest during WWII, as well as his disappearance in the Soviet Union in 1945. Ms. Berger's studies have also focused on the fate of other disappeared Swedish citizens during the Cold War period.

Since 2001, Ms. Berger, together with historian Dr. Vadim Birstein, has conducted a detailed correspondence with Russian archivists and officials about the Raoul Wallenberg case. Their research confirmed that important additional documentation with direct relevance for the Wallenberg case remains available in key Russian archival collections, especially those of the former Soviet State Security and Intelligence Services.

Ms. Berger's reports and more than one hundred articles about the Wallenberg case and related issues have appeared in various international publications. She is the founder and coordinator of the Raoul Wallenberg Research Initiative (RWI-70) and the Raoul Wallenberg International Roundtable.

Dr. Vadim J. Birstein is a geneticist and historian, born in Moscow and educated at Moscow State University. Since coming to New York in 1991, he has been a Visiting Scientist at the American Museum of Natural History, NY, and an Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In 2001, Dr. Birstein published his first history book, *The Perversion of Knowledge: The True Story of Soviet Science* (Westview Press). In 2012, his second history book, *SMERSH: Stalin's Secret Weapon, Military Counterintelligence in WWII*, was published in London (Biteback Books). It received the inaugural St. Ermin's Intelligence Book Award, beating out 33 other nominated books. In 2013, *SMERSH* was published in Poland. Dr. Birstein is also the author of over 150 scientific papers and three scientific books and papers on the Raoul Wallenberg case and Soviet military counterintelligence. He is a member of the American writers' Authors Guild.

Frank Koszorus, Jr., is an attorney and a life-long student of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

Mr. Koszorus has lectured at various universities; debated foreign policy issues on radio; testified before congressional committees; and briefed government officials concerning CEE. Mr. Koszorus has written letters to the editor; chapters; and articles relating to that region, including *Reflections on March 19, 1944 and Its Aftermath: A Perfect Storm of Tragedy and Folly*. He co-authored *Group Rights Defuse Tensions*, The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs. He also participated in a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace self-determination project.

In 1997, Mr. Koszorus traveled to NATO headquarters and CEE as a member of a government fact-finding mission on NATO enlargement. He was also appointed a public member of the U.S. delegation to the Paris meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on the Human Dimension.

Mr. Koszorus is the recipient of several awards, including the The Commanders' Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary. Mr. Koszorus graduated from The American University and from DePaul University College of Law *cum laude*.

István Deák, who is an emeritus professor at Columbia University in New York City, was born in Hungary and studied history in Budapest, Paris, Munich, and at Columbia University where he obtained his PhD degree in 1964. For numerous years he was the director of Columbia's Institute on East Central Europe. His publications include, *Weimar Germany's Left-wing Intellectuals* (California, 1968); *The Lawful Revolution: Louis Kossuth and the Hungarians, 1848-1849* (Columbia, 1979); *Beyond Nationalism: A Social and Political History of the Habsburg Officer Corps, 1848-1918* (Oxford, 1990); *Essays on Hitler's Europe* (Nebraska, 2001), and *Europe on Trial: The Story of Collaboration, Resistance and Retribution During World War II* (Westview Press, 2015). Almost all the books appeared in several languages. He has been a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and *The New Republic*. István Deák is an external member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and has received other awards and honors.

György Ránki (1930–1988) was Professor of History at Debrecen University and Director of the Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Science. He was elected member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1976). Having survived the Auschwitz concentration camp studied economics and history in Budapest. His interest and his many publications covered the economic history of Central Europe, international relations, the Second World War, and Hungary's political history in the 20th century. He was the first vice chairman of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, and member of the editorial board of several scholarly publications.

Thomas Lantos was an American politician who served as a Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives from California, serving from 1981 until his death in 2008 as the representative from a district that included the northern two-thirds of San Mateo County and a portion of southwestern San Francisco. A Hungarian-American, Lantos was the only Holocaust survivor to have served in the United States Congress.

In 2008, after his death, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which he founded in 1983, was renamed the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Its mission is partly "to promote, defend and advocate internationally recognized human rights". In 2011, the Tom Lantos Institute was set up in Budapest to promote tolerance and support minority issues in Central and Eastern Europe and in the world.

Tamás Stark received his PhD from the Eötvös Lóránd University of Budapest in 1993. From 1983 he was a researcher at the Institute of History, Research Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and in 2000 he was appointed a senior research fellow. His specialization is forced population movements in East-Central Europe in the period 1938-56, with special regard to the history of the Holocaust, fate of prisoners of war and civilian internees, and the post war migrations. He was involved in numerous international research projects. In 1995/96 he was Pearl Resnick Post-Doctoral fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In 2014 he was Fulbright professor at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY, USA. His main publications include *Hungary's Human Losses in World War II* (Uppsala, 1995), *Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust and after the Second World War, 1939-1949: A Statistical Review* (Boulder, CO 2000), *Magyarok szovjet fogságban [Hungarians in Soviet Captivity]* (Budapest, 2006), *A magyar polgári lakosság elhurcolása a Szovjetunióba a korabeli dokumentumok tükrében. [Deportation of Hungarian civilians to the Soviet Union. Documentary Collection]* (Budapest, 2017).

Attila Bonhardt (b. 1954). Studied history, geography and archival studies at Eötvös Lóránd University in Budapest, graduating in 1979. In the same year he joined the Military History Archives as an archivist. He received a Ph.D. in 1984 with a dissertation on the return of Hungarian POW's to their homeland after World War I. In 1989 he was appointed deputy director of the Military History Archives. From 1997 he served as the archivist in the Hungarian collection at the *Kriegsarchiv* in Vienna. Soon after his return, in 2004, he was appointed Director of the Military History Archives with the rank of colonel. Recently his area of scholarship focuses on the history of the Hungarian artillery in the period 1938–1945.