

Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program

The Azrieli Foundation (<http://www.azrielifoundation.org>) is a Canadian philanthropic organization that supports a wide range of initiatives and programs in the fields of education, architecture and design, Jewish community, Holocaust commemoration and education, scientific and medical research and the arts.

The Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs was launched in the fall of 2005 under the leadership of Foundation executive director, Dr. Naomi Azrieli, and with the scholarly assistance and guidance of a senior editorial board comprised of academics from York University's Centre for Jewish Studies. The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program collects, archives and publishes these remarkable testimonies and **distributes the printed editions free of charge** to libraries, schools and Holocaust-education programs across Canada and to the general public on request. Online, printable versions of the books will soon be available on our web site. To date it has received over 170 eligible memoirs for publication and is thrilled at the continued interest in its books and program.

The Azrieli Series gives readers the opportunity to witness first-hand accounts of the Holocaust written by fellow Canadians. The books reflect a wide diversity of experiences, geographic locations, perspectives and writing styles as they describe the lives and communities in which the authors lived before the war, how they survived the persecution of Nazi terrorism through their own bravery and the courageous acts of others, and their eventual arrival in Canada. Our program is very much guided by the conviction that each survivor has a remarkable story to tell and that their accounts play an important role in teaching us about tolerance and diversity.

The inaugural series of memoirs was recognized with two prestigious awards in 2008: the complete series received a Gold Medal from the Independent Publishers Book Awards in the Freedom Fighter category and *Bits and Pieces*, by Henia Reinhartz won the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Award in Holocaust Memoir and Literature category at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards. Series II is currently in production and is slated for publication in April 2009.

To order the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs **at no cost**, please visit www.azrielifoundation.org/memoirs.