



Nathan & Esther Pelz
Holocaust Education
Resource Center

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

NEWS RELEASE

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ACCLAIMED AUTHOR ELIZABETH BETTINA TO SPEAK ABOUT THE RESCUE OF ITALIAN JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Milwaukee—On Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Italian Community Center, 631 East Chicago Street, the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, the National Italian American Foundation and the Italian Community Center will host author Elizabeth Bettina and Holocaust survivor Ursula Korn-Selig who will speak about Italy and the Jews during World War II.

Bettina, a New York-based marketing executive, spent her childhood summers visiting her family in the Italian village of Campagna. Her book, *It Happened in Italy*, tells the amazing story of how her discovery of a single faded photo taken in 1940 led her on a quest that uncovered the little-known story of how thousands of Jews were saved throughout the Italian countryside during World War II. During her research, she met and befriended Jewish survivors of Italy and ultimately brought several of them back to Italy to reconnect and thank their Catholic neighbors and friends. This moving story ignites the soul, emphasizing that acts of kindness and humanity were possible amidst a time of great sadness and horror.

Ursula Korn Selig is one of Bettina's discovered survivors. She was a young German who fled to Italy at the beginning of World War II. When Germany invaded and occupied Italy in 1943, members of the Catholic clergy rescued Ursula and her family and helped them to escape and hide in a convent in the mountains of the Italian countryside. The Korn Family, along with over 30,000 other Jews, survived World War II with the help of many brave and compassionate Italian Catholics.

The public is invited. No charge to attend. Donations are gratefully accepted. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author. Ms. Bettina will also present a small segment of the documentary *Italy and the Holocaust: the Hidden Story*. This program is made possible in part through a generous donation made in honor of Dr. Fred Shafrin. For more information, including contact information to interview Ms. Bettina or Ms. Korn-Selig, please contact Bonnie Shafrin at the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center at 414-963-2719 or bonnies@milwaukeejewish.org

The Holocaust Education Resource Center is a program of the Coalition for Jewish Learning, the education program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

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