

KATAHDIN PRODUCTIONS RECEIVED NEH PRODUCTION GRANT

WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY

LOS ANGELES, CA. April 3, 2017 - Katahdin Productions announced today that it received a prestigious National Endowment For the Humanities Production Grant for the film *Who Will Write Our History*, a feature documentary film about Emanuel Ringelblum and the secret archive he created in the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII. The film is based on a best-selling book of the same title by Trinity College professor Samuel Kassow.

"This may well be the most important book about history that anyone will ever read."

— *The New Republic*

Who Will Write Our History is in post-production and will be released in January 2018.

Roberta Grossman, producer and director of the project, stated: "We feel honored to receive funding from the National Endowment For the Humanities (NEH) to help us bring Sam Kassow's masterwork to the screen. Without the NEH, serious films about history and why it matters such as *Who Will Write Our History*, would rarely get off the ground."

WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY reveals the gripping story of Emanuel Ringelblum and his resistance to Nazi oppression within the Warsaw Ghetto. In Nazi-occupied Warsaw of 1940, Emanuel Ringelblum established Oyneg Shabes, a clandestine organization chartered to document all facets of Jewish life under Hitler and to preserve a historical record for an unknown audience in an uncertain future. Though decimated by murders and deportations, the group persevered in its work into the spring of 1943. Before Ringelblum and his family perished in March 1944, he managed to hide thousands of the Oyneg Shabes documents in milk cans and tin boxes. In 1946 the first of the buried time capsules were discovered, followed by a second capsule in 1950.

"The Ringelblum archive in the Warsaw Ghetto is a stirring reminder that one could resist the Nazis with pen and paper as well as guns. Of the 60 men and women in the Ringelblum team, only three survived the war. But their collective heroism was not in vain. The "time capsules" they buried sent a message that the doomed Polish Jews were not faceless, anonymous victims but real people, members of a proud and resilient nation. This is an amazing story and it deserves to be told in a film." Samuel D. Kassow - Author

SAMUEL D. KASSOW is the Charles Northam Professor of History at Trinity College. He is author of: *Students, Professors, and the State in Tsarist Russia: 1884-1917*, (University of California Press, 1989); *Between Tsar and People: the Search for a Public Identity in Tsarist Russia*. Edith Clowes, Samuel Kassow, James L. West eds. (Princeton University Press, 1991); *The Distinctive Life of East European Jewry*, (YIVO, New York, 2004); and *Who will Write our History: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Oyneg Shabes Archive*, (Indiana University Press, 2007).

ROBERTA GROSSMAN is an award-winning filmmaker with a passion for history and social justice. She has written and produced more than forty hours of documentary television. She was the series producer and co-writer of *500 Nations*, the eight-hour CBS mini-series on Native Americans hosted by Kevin Costner. Her 2008 documentary *Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh* was shortlisted for an Academy Award and nominated for a Primetime Emmy. Grossman most recently produced and directed *Hava Nagila: The Movie* (2013), and directed Nancy Spielberg's *Above and Beyond: The Birth of the Israeli Air Force*, (2014).

About Katahdin Productions

Katahdin Productions is a nonprofit documentary production company based in Berkeley, California, with production offices in Los Angeles. Founded by Lisa Thomas, cofounder and former CEO of Clif Bar, Inc., Katahdin's mission is to tell compelling stories often ignored by mainstream media - stories that inform, inspire and engage. Katahdin films include: *Above and Beyond: The Birth of the Israeli Air Force* (2014); *Dorothea Lange: Grab a Hunk of*

Lightning (American Masters/PBS 2014); *Hava Nagila: The Movie* (2012); *Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh* (2008); *Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action* (2005).

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