

OBITUARIES

LADY ZAHAVA KOHN MBE

Born: 5th August 1935, Ramat Gan, Palestine
Died: 29th July 2022, London



Zahava Kohn never defined herself as a Holocaust survivor. For most of her life, she never spoke about her wartime experiences. Her parents had always encouraged Zahava and her brother Jehudi to look forwards – to be optimistic and build a happy life ahead.

Despite enduring unimaginable brutality and hardship, as well as serious illness, she took this lesson to heart. She later came to realise that there is a fine balance to be struck between not allowing the past to bury her in anger and hate, and the need to bear witness to her own struggles for the sake of future generations.

Zahava Kanarek was born in British-Mandate Palestine and grew up in pre-war Amsterdam. These were anxious times for European Jewish families living in the shadow of Nazi Germany. In May 1943, Zahava and her family were rounded up and sent to Westerbork transit camp in Holland, and in January 1944 they were sent to Bergen-Belsen. They were released in 1945 and following a prolonged period of intensive rehabilitation in Switzerland, settled back in Amsterdam, hoping to re-build their disrupted and shattered lives. In 1958, Zahava moved to London. She married Dr Ralph Kohn (the late Sir Ralph Kohn), a pharmacologist, in March 1963, and lived in London ever since. She had three daughters and five grandchildren.

In 2001, after her mother, Rosy died, Zahava discovered her mother's archive of documents and relics – precariously hidden during the war – secreted

away in a small suitcase at the back of a cupboard. Armed with this treasure trove of memories, Zahava wove together the story of her family's wartime experiences in a book, *Fragments of a Lost Childhood*, published in 2009.

Soon after, she and her daughter, Hephzibah started a Holocaust Education Programme, 'Surviving the Holocaust' for children of all denominations and backgrounds across the UK, as well as in Germany. Zahava shared with these young people her wartime experiences – and the messages of the Shoah. It was an inspiration for them to bear witness to her story and they immediately responded to the way she presented it without drama or self-pity. The simple facts and her quiet resilience and inner strength were infinitely moving. In the words of her daughter Hephzibah, "Anyone can tell horror stories, but what the youngsters experienced first-hand in meeting Zahava was the uncrushable dignity of the human spirit". Her story also featured in many news articles, various online exhibitions and in numerous interviews over the years, and in October 2020, she was awarded an MBE for her work in Holocaust education.

Zahava was a superb linguist, fluent in Dutch, German, Swiss German, English and she also spoke French, Yiddish, and Hebrew. She was actively involved in a range of charitable work over the years, supporting the arts and music as well as scientific, educational, and humanitarian causes. Family was paramount to Zahava, who loved nothing better than spending time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

Zahava is survived by her daughters, Hephzibah, Michelle and Maxine.

Hephzibah Rudofsky

DAVID SIGALL

Born: 12 November 1943, Windsor
Died: 29 May 2022, London

David Sigall was the doyen of London classical music agents. His parents were refugees from Nazism: a Russian mother, and German father from Leipzig who prospered in the fur trade once the family became established in London.

David left City of London School to train as a solicitor. Happily for the world of music and perhaps also for the law, better judgement prevailed and he jumped ship early on. He joined the Ingpen & Williams agency (founded by Joan Ingpen whose dachshund was named Williams), eventually inheriting the business in partnership with his colleague, Jonathan Groves. When many agencies merged to become music supermarkets during the 'Big Bang' years of the 80s Ingpens remained an independent, bespoke business. David's client list was crème de la crème: Alfred Brendel, Joan Sutherland, Jessye Norman, Georg Solti, Pierre Boulez, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Daniel Barenboim's West – Eastern Divan Orchestra, amongst other star names. He was also an astute spotter and nurturer of young talent. He admired and loved his artists, even the most demanding, and they reciprocated. He served as chairman of the British Association of Concert Agents and later as president of the International Artist Managers' Association. The motto 'do the right thing' could have been invented for him. His long-time assistant, later a successful manager in her own right recently told me, "I learnt so much from him, and had fun along the way".

Tall, cultured, smiling and stylish, he