Discovering Lithuania’s Hidden Holocaust

March 16 | 7 p.m.
Wallace All Faiths Chapel, Fish Interfaith Center

Rūta Vanagaitė
Lithuanian journalist and author

AND

Dr. Efraim Zuroff
Holocaust historian and director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center’s Israel Office and Eastern European Affairs

In this presentation based on their book Our People: Discovering Lithuania’s Hidden Holocaust, Lithuanian writer Rūta Vanagaitė and Israeli Holocaust historian Efraim Zuroff expose the significant role played by leading politicians and local officials who actively assisted the Nazis in implementing the Final Solution in Lithuania.

Together Rūta Vanagaitė—some of whose relatives were complicit in the murders—and Efraim Zuroff—named for his great-uncle murdered in the Holocaust in Lithuania—visited dozens of mass murder sites in Lithuania and neighboring Belarus. As they searched for neglected graves, interviewed eyewitnesses, and uncovered remnants of what was once a thriving Jewish religious and cultural life, they tackle the controversial question of why thousands of Lithuanians participated or silently acquiesced in the murder of their Jewish neighbors.

Ms. Vanagaitė was named “Woman of the Year” in Lithuania in 1993, is the author of several best sellers and is one of Lithuania’s most popular public personalities. She became persona non grata in her homeland after this book was published there. She now lives in Jerusalem. Dr. Efraim Zuroff is the chief Nazi-hunter of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Holocaust historian, lecturer, and author. He lives in Jerusalem.

For more information, please contact (714) 628-7377 or RodgersCenter@chapman.edu
Chapman.edu/holocausteducation
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Rūta Vanagaitė and Efraim Zuroff
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