

# An Evening with Author, Henryk Grynberg

Sunday, October 3 at 7:00 PM

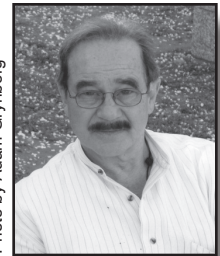
at Beth Shalom Congregation, 8070 Harriet Tubman Lane, Columbia, MD 21044\*

Sponsored by Columbia Jewish Congregation,  
Beth Shalom Congregation and Bet Aviv Congregation

## “When Reality Overwhelms Imagination: Why I Write Documentary Prose”

In his talk, Mr. Grynberg will give examples from his work to demonstrate that in writing about the Holocaust, reality surpasses the writer's imagination, that the actual truth is more important than the so-called artistic truth, and that it is better to tell everything as it was, even if one does not understand it.

Photo by Adam Grynberg



Henryk Grynberg, a child survivor of the Holocaust, was born in 1936 in Warsaw, Poland and grew up in the village of Radoszyna, where his father was a milkman. After WWII he studied journalism and then worked as an actor in the Polish State Jewish Theater. In 1967 he defected to the United States to protest the regime's anti-Semitic campaign and the censorship of his writing. He worked for the Voice of America in Washington, D.C., for twenty years.

Most of Grynberg's writings are fictionalized versions of his experiences; surviving with his mother under German occupation, life in Stalinist Poland, work in the theater, defection to the U.S. and his mother's death. Recent work has taken new directions, including "documentary" stories about the experiences of others, including *Children of Zion*, about Jewish children deported to Siberia. He has received most major Polish literary prizes, the YIVO Institute's Jan Karski-Pola Nirenska Award (1996), and the 2002 Koret Jewish Book Award for *Drohobycz, Drohobycz and Other Stories*.

*His books in English will be available after the talk  
for purchase and signing:*

**Children of Zion (1997);**

**The Jewish War and the Victory (2001);**

**Drohobycz, Drohobycz and Other Stories (2002).**

**All are welcome.  
Admission is free.**



\*Driving directions: [http://www.beth-shalom.net/about\\_us/about\\_us.php3?page=190](http://www.beth-shalom.net/about_us/about_us.php3?page=190)