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Wallenberg Day 2020 generously sponsored by the Estate of Frank & Rosie Nelson







Masumi Kikuchi photographer







Norwegian Fjord Smoked Steelhead Salmon generously donated by DOM International

















## FIFTEENTH ANNUAL VANCOUVER

## RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY

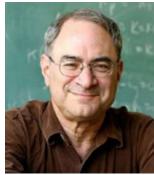
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre - Auditorium Sunday, January 19, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Keynote speaker: George Bluman

Film: Persona Non Grata: The Story of Chiune Sugihara

Donations are appreciated - Reception to follow www.wsccs.ca

GEORGE BLUMAN is a descendant of Sugihara's visa recipients. His parents, Nathan and Susan Bluman, fled to Lithuania after Germany invaded Poland in 1939. They received transit visas from Sugihara, enabling them to travel through the Soviet Union and enter Japan. The Blumans were fortunate to get temporary permits for entry to Canada for the duration of the war and to board the last ship



sailing from Japan to Vancouver prior to Pearl Harbour. Their story is recounted in a memoir written by their daughter Barbara Ruth Bluman, I Have my Mother's Eyes.

George Bluman, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, UBC, maintains a close relationship with the Sugihara family. He was an invited speaker at the opening of Tokyo's Chiune Sugihara Sempo Museum in March 2019. See <a href="http://www.math.ubc.ca/~bluman/ChiuneSugiharaLists.html">http://www.math.ubc.ca/~bluman/ChiuneSugiharaLists.html</a> for detailed information on the 2100 Sugihara visa recipients, compiled by George Bluman and Akira Kitade.

Raoul Wallenberg Day pays tribute to the courageous actions by people engaged in selfless acts of civil courage in the spirit of Raoul Wallenberg and Chiune Sugihara, who each rescued thousands of Jews during World War II.

We are seeking nominations for potential Civil Courage Award recipients – full criteria are at <a href="https://www.wsccs.ca/award-criteria">www.wsccs.ca/award-criteria</a>.

PERSONA NON GRATA: THE STORY OF CHIUNE SUGIHARA. Serving as vice-consul for Japan in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1940 during WW2, at great personal risk, he issued unauthorized transit visas to travel through Japan, saving thousands of desperate Jews from the Holocaust. The film weaves that act of extraordinary civil courage into the rich complexity of Sugihara's life. We come to know him as a shrewd Russia-specialist diplomat and spy, as a husband and father, as a courageous humanitarian, and as an almost-forgotten hero.

## **PROGRAM**

WELCOME / MC Alan Le Fevre, President

CITY OF VANCOUVER PROCLAMATION Christine Boyle, Deputy Mayor / Councillor

KEYNOTE ADDRESS – George Bluman Light in the depths of darkness: Chiune Sugihara and his legacy

FILM INTRODUCTION

Note - there will be no break during the film (2h:20min)

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FILM - Persona Non Grata: The Story of Chiune Sugihara

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**RECEPTION**