

RETIREE MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich, CT.

MARIANNE SZEGEDY-MASZAK

***I KISS YOUR HANDS MANY TIMES; HEARTS, SOULS AND
WARS IN HUNGARY***



I Kiss Your Hands Many Times is the sweeping story of Marianne Szegedy-Maszak's family in pre- and post-World War II Europe, capturing the many ways the struggles of that period shaped her family for years to come. But most of all, it is a beautiful love story, charting her parents' devotion in one of history's darkest hours. Her memoir of her parents, based on their love letters only discovered after their deaths, provides a searing insight into a family's courageous struggle against the backdrop of a world gone mad. Her father, a Gentile, who was prominent in the Hungarian Foreign

Ministry, tried to negotiate a separate peace with the Allies and was imprisoned in Dachau. Meanwhile, her mother's family, the most prominent Jewish industrialists in Hungary, negotiated a famous deal with Heinrich Himmler who, miraculously, kept his side of the bargain. Unlike most Hungarian Jews, her mother's family went to Portugal instead of Auschwitz. Hanna and Aladar fell in love in 1940, but could not marry because of the Jewish Laws and his political prominence. Five years later, they were married in battle-scarred Budapest, before travelling to Washington D.C. where Aladar was the Hungarian ambassador during the brief coalition government before the Communists took over.

Though this is a family memoir, the author applies her skills as a journalist to researching the historical context of the time, so that *I Kiss Your Hands Many Times* is also the story of Hungary. The juxtaposition of the historical and personal is necessary in a story like this, as it conveys the sheer magnitude of the forces arrayed against the protagonists and their loved ones, both Nazism and Communism. The encounter between the historic and the personal is most viscerally embodied in a meeting between Aládar and Adolf Hitler. What is most remarkable about their love story is not so much in the obstacles at its beginning -- his political career and her Jewish roots -- as in the way their love triumphed over so many years of trauma and separation.

Our speaker is a journalist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *Newsweek*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* and *Psychology Today*, among others. She was a Professor of Journalism at American University and a senior writer at *U.S. News and World Report*. She has received awards from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the National Mental Health Association and the American Psychological Association. She is a leader on the Board of the Center for Public Integrity, and its former chair. She is the recipient of a Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship and the Alicia Patterson Foundation Fellowship.

Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com. , or see our web site, greenwichtma.org.