

For Immediate Release

## ***An Inconvenient Time, the Story of Holocaust Survivor Ruth Ravina***

Whippany, NJ, January 17, 2020 — Ruth Ravina, a long-time Montclair resident, was 2 years old when the Nazis arrived in her hometown of Kozienice, Poland, in 1939. By the time the Russians liberated Poland, Ruth at the age of 7 survived countless tragedies, years on the run and three concentration camps. Once liberated, Ruth learned her father was dead and that she was the only surviving child from Kozienice. She and her mother made their way to the United States through Sweden, eventually settling in Manhattan. Ravina attended college, married, and raised a family. And it wasn't until her husband, Oscar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal violinist for the New York Symphony (who was discovered by Leonard Bernstein and Isaac Stern) passed away in 2010 that she decided to fully share her harrowing story. Since then she's shared it anywhere people would listen and has been an active participant in Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ's Holocaust Council, which is dedicated to keeping the stories of the Holocaust alive.

Now Ruth's story has been captured in a full-length documentary film, ***An Inconvenient Time: The Story of Ruth Ravina***, which includes interviews with her two sons; world renowned history professor Mark Ravina Ph.D. author of "The Last Samurai", and Bernard Ravina MD world renowned leading researcher in Parkinson's disease. Professors of Holocaust Studies Ann Saltzman and Mary Johnson are also interviewed to bring a larger perspective to the film.

The film was created, produced, and scored by Denny Klein of North Caldwell. Klein learned of Ravina's incredible story eight years ago when his twin daughters, Evie and Rebecca, were paired with Ruth as part of the Federation's Twin with a Survivor Program for their mitzvah project leading up to their b'not mitzvah, which was arraigned by his wife Cathy. Evie, Rebecca, and Cathy also narrate the film. Through the project, the family became very close with Ravina and her family, getting together for frequent dinners out and celebrating family events together ever since.

Right from the start, Klein was compelled to record Ravina's story. "The more I got to know Ruth and to learn about her inspiring life, the more I realized that her story needed to be shared with the world at large. And when Ruth and the few survivors left are no longer here, the responsibility is on us," he said. "I studied multi-media, film, and music in college then kicked around Hollywood while apprenticing at Theatre East for three years before working since 1981 at my day job as third generation in the insurance agency business, but it was as if G-d tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'You gotta do this.' I have now subsequently made documentary and independent filmmaking my second avocation. I am now working on two additional projects related to Americana music with Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Richie Furay of Buffalo Springfield and Poco fame"

So he started arranging for interviews and gathering photos. He raised money to fund the project from community members who know and admire Ruth and two leading foundations in the arts. He also brought on a production partner, Joe Schreiber of 3 Penny Films, and illustrator/animation supervisor Greg Betza, whose drawings vividly capture the point of view of child during the Holocaust. This labor of love took more than six years to complete and all involved are thrilled to be able to watch the final result along with Ruth Ravina and their families.

“Ruth’s incredible odyssey is a captivating and unique story of survival and triumph and her memory from those times is truly uncanny. Plus, her message of ‘Never Again’ is even more important in this era of rising anti-Semitism and other continuing genocide” Klein said. “Ruth always says that history that is ignored often repeats itself. I hope everyone will join with us and let Ruth know that her story will indeed live on through all of us to succeeding generations.”

*Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ (Federation) stands at the center of a network of partner agencies dedicated to providing comprehensive social services and meeting the educational, vocational, recreational, and social needs of Jews locally, in Israel, and in 70 countries around the world.*

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