



## Remembering the Holocaust

film screening at

the **Israel Institute for  
Advanced Studies** (IIAS)

**Thursday**

April 16<sup>th</sup>

at 16:30

Feldman Building

Lecture Hall 130

The Hebrew University

Edmond J. Safra Campus

Givat Ram, Jerusalem

[www.as.huji.ac.il](http://www.as.huji.ac.il)

  
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

  
המכון הישראלי ללימודים מתקדמים  
Israel Institute for Advanced Studies

## Tunnel of Hope (2015)

Presented by the Director  
Dror Shwartz

This film is a feature documentary about courage and survival during the Second World War and their impact on the 2nd and 3rd generation survivors.

The starting point is the successful escape of all the remaining 250 Jewish slave workers from a Nazi labor camp in Novogradok, then East Poland, now Belarus, via a tunnel they had dug. Two thirds of them managed to reach the forests and the partisans, and survive the war.

The escape became a defining event in the lives of the escapees with many of them keeping in close touch after the war. Together with their children and grandchildren, who grew up with the story of the escape in their blood, a new, virtual family was created: the Family of Escapees.

In August 2012, three of the remaining six escapees alive today, accompanied by fifty children and grandchildren of escapees, arrived at the site of the former labor camp in an attempt to find the tunnel. The archaeological excavations dug up not only piles of dirt and some physical remnants, but also dredged up many memories of life before the war, the horrors of the war itself and their amazing determination to survive.

The marvellous beauty of Novogradok and its environs, the open fields and dense forests, stand in contrast with the dark secrets that are hidden just under the surface. It is upon this backdrop that the children and grandchildren dig in the dirt as they sway from the optimism of verifying the tunnel's existence, to the burden of the memories and pain, which they carry as their legacy.

The historical story of digging the escape tunnel and the present story of digging in search of the tunnel merged to become one story.