

# Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Fall 2020 Speaker Series & the Annual Bella Mischinsky Memorial Lecture Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Social Responsibility



## Theodora “Dora” Klayman

### Testimony of a Holocaust Survivor from Croatia

presented by the Paul Peck Humanities Institute

Tuesday, November 10, 12:30 p.m.  
Virtual via Zoom

<https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/95682380836>

**Dial-in using this phone number:** 301-715-8592  
**Webinar ID:** 956-8238-0836, **Passcode:** 017445

Holocaust survivor Dora Klayman will talk about her life in Croatia during World War II. She will discuss the particulars of the persecution of Jews by the Ustasa, the Croatian allies of Nazi Germany, which cost the lives of thousands, including many of her close family members. Dora will also recount the challenges she experienced after the war, and her path to become an educator.

Theodora Klayman was born Teodora Rahela Basch in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, on January 31, 1938. Her father, Salamon, owned and operated a small brush manufacturing plant. Her mother, Silva, a teacher, grew up in Ludbreg, a small town in northwest Croatia, where her father, Josef Leopold Deutsch, served as the community rabbi for more than 40 years.

In April 1941, while Theodora—whom the family called “Dorica”—was visiting her grandparents and extended family in Ludbreg, Nazi Germany invaded Yugoslavia. Croatia came under the control of the fascist Ustaša regime, which collaborated with the Nazis. By June, Teodora’s parents and infant brother, Zdravko, were arrested. Their housekeeper was able to get Zdravko released from jail and his mother’s family then took him to Ludbreg. Teodora and Zdravko’s father was deported to the Jasenovac concentration camp and their mother to Stara Gradiska, a subcamp of Jasenovac.

The recipient of degrees from the University of Maryland in French and in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), Theodora taught in the Maryland public school system for 30 years. She has two children and has volunteered at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum since 1999.

**This event fulfills the Multicultural Diversity Training requirement for MC employees.**

MC employees, please register for event using MC Learns to receive professional development credit.

If you have questions please contact email [athenaeum@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:athenaeum@montgomerycollege.edu).

