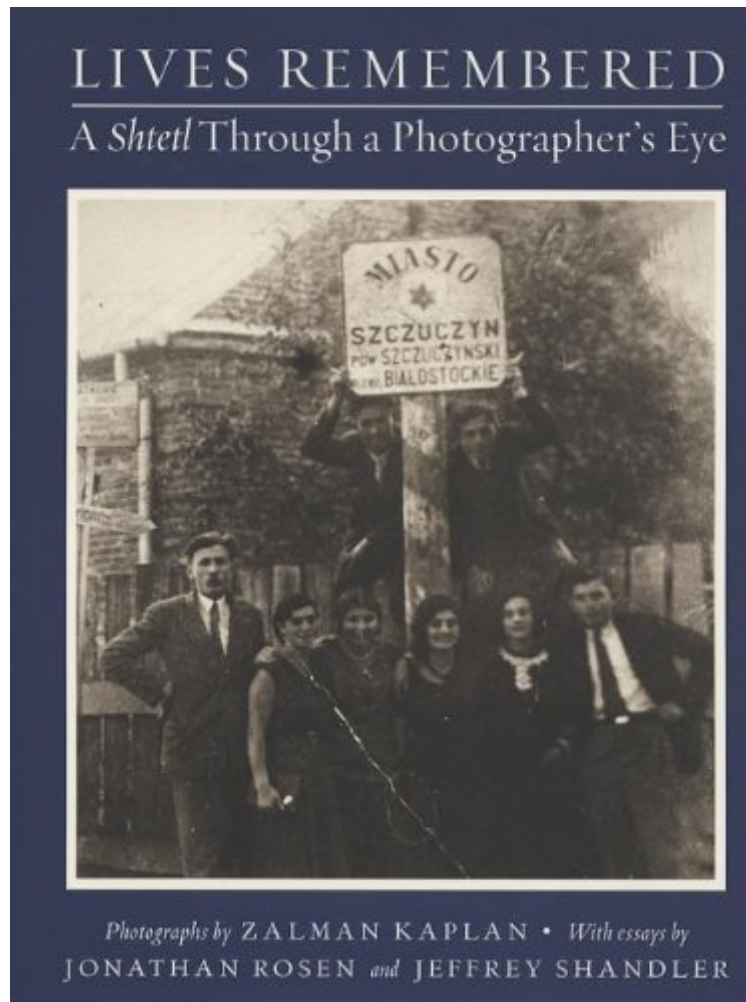


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Lives Remembered: A Shtetl Through a Photographer's Eye

Jonathan Rosen, Jeffrey Shandler

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Jonathan Rosen, Jeffrey Shandler : Lives Remembered: A Shtetl Through a Photographer's Eye before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lives Remembered: A Shtetl Through a Photographer's Eye:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy samVery interesting story and pictures.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Edna R. MullallyBeautiful images of people and a way of life that were subsequently destroyed.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Timeless Story Told in Unique PhotographsBy CustomerI have recommended this book for several years to dozens of people. It contains over 100 of Kaplan's photographs of Jewish and non Jewish daily life in this small Polish town from the late 1800's until 1939 when the Holocaust began. The book is unique because it smashes the stereotypes of Jewish small town life in Poland during Russian,Prussian/German,Nazi German, and Polish rule. And, the photographs make the case. everyday lives. From

the towns' theatre to schools, scout groups to families at the riverfront "beach", and civic institutions like the fire department, these were ordinary people just living their lives. Most of the three million Polish Jews killed in the Holocaust, were from towns like this. The tragedy of Szczuczyn is that ninety nine percent of its Jewish citizens-- including the photographer and his family-- were killed beginning in 1939, first by their Polish neighbors and finished by the Nazis. A timeline from the town's founding in the 1600's until 1945 and two incisive essays by Jonathan Rosen and Jeffrey Shandler put it all into perspective. Kaplan's photographs will be part of the permanent exhibit in the new, landmark Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which will open in 2013 in Warsaw.

Zalman Kaplan, the town's photographer, captured the history of Szczuczyn from within the community. So in addition to photographing the town cemetery and architecture and meetings, he also recorded Purim parties, family portraits, bicycle excursions, and other moments of carefree life. What is so poignant is that the town's nearly 3,000 Jews, pictured leading vibrant and joyful lives, had no idea what disastrous fate was to befall them. Compelling essays by Jonathan Rosen and Jeffrey Shandler provide excellent context for understanding the shtetl of Szczuczyn. Rosen's essay, for example, draws a parallel to September 11, how the photographs used on missing posters and in newspapers were of the subject at a time of joy. Photographs of lives lived, like the portraits in the book, now symbolize not how these people lived, but how they died.

About the Author Jonathan Rosen is the author of the novel "Eve's Apple," He created the Arts Letters section of "The Forward," which he edited for ten years. His essays have appeared in "The New York Times Magazine," "The New York Times Book Review," "The American Scholar," and several anthologies. He lives in New York City.