Katahdin Productions Press Release

**KATAHDIN ANNOUNCES START OF FILM PRODUCTION ON *"WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY"***

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Note to Editors: Artwork is available. Contact Roberta Grossman if interested.

**FIRST PHASE OF FUNDRAISING COMPLETE WITH PRELIMINARY SHOOT IN WARSAW, POLAND AND TEL AVIV, ISRAEL**

**LOS ANGELES, CALIF., January 16, 2015** – Katahdin Productions announced today that preliminary shooting has started on the highly anticipated documentary *Who Will Write Our History,* directed and produced by Roberta Grossman (*Hava Nagila (The Movie)),* executive produced by Nancy Spielberg *(Above and Beyond)* fromSamKassow’s best-selling book, *Who Will Write Our History?.* Production began with an interview of author Sam Kassow in Warsaw before moving to Israel to interview preeminent Holocaust historian Yehuda Bauer.

Preliminary fundraising for development and pre-production of *Who Will Write Our History* has been reached with generous donations from private foundations and individuals. A second phase of fundraising is now actively seeking funds for production expenses.

**About *Who Will Write Our History***

*Who Will Write Our History* reveals the gripping story of Emanuel Ringelblum and his resistance to Nazi oppression within the Warsaw Ghetto. In Nazi-occupied Warsaw of 1940, Emanuel Ringelblum established Oyneg Shabes, a clandestine organization chartered to document all facets of Jewish life under Hitler and to preserve a historical record for an unknown audience in an uncertain future. Though decimated by murders and deportations, the group persevered in its work into the spring of 1943. Before Ringelblum and his family perished in March 1944, he managed to hide thousands of the Oyneg Shabes documents in milk cans and tin boxes. In 1946 the first of the buried time capsules were discovered, followed by a second capsule in 1950.

Director/Producer Roberta Grossman continues her passion for history and social justice in *Who Will Write Our History,* saying, "It would be criminal if the Dead Sea Scrolls remained in a back room of an archive somewhere in Israel, unexplored and forgotten. Yet the contents of the Oyneg Shabes Archive are virtually unknown and the sacrifice of its creators unacknowledged. It's time the world learned the secrets of the archive and about the remarkable man who created it and the woman who fought to dig it out of the ruins."

**About the Filmmakers**

Director/Producer **ROBERTA GROSSMAN** is an award-winning filmmaker who has written and produced more than forty hours of documentary television. She was the series producer and co-writer of *500 Nations*, the eight-hour CBS mini-series on Native Americans hosted by Kevin Costner. Her 2008 documentary *Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh* was shortlisted for an Academy Award and nominated for a Primetime Emmy. Grossman most recently produced and directed *Hava Nagila: The Movie* (2013), and directed Nancy Spielberg’s A*bove and Beyond: The Birth of the Israeli Air Force*, (2014).

Executive Producer **NANCY SPEILBERG** is an accomplished businesswoman, fundraiser and philanthropist. In recent years she has turned her energy and talents to producing documentary films. In 2014 she released *Above and Beyond*, a film about the WWII pilots who volunteered to fly for Israel in the War of Independence. Spielberg served as consultant on the Oscar-winning documentary *Chernobyl Heart*, and is executive producer of *Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals*, which aired nationally on PBS, and the forthcoming documentary *Mimi and Dona*.

Author **SAMUEL D. KASSOW** is the Charles Northam Professor of History at Trinity College. He is author of: *Students, Professors, and the State in Tsarist Russia: 1884-1917*, (University of California Press, 1989); *Between Tsar and People: the Search for a Public Identity in Tsarist Russia*. Edith Clowes, Samuel Kassow, James L. West eds. (Princeton University Press, 1991); *The Distinctive Life of East European Jewry*, (YIVO, New York, 2004); and *Who will Write our History: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Oyneg Shabes Archive*, (Indiana University Press, 2007).

**KATAHDIN PRODUCTIONS** is a nonprofit documentary production company based in Berkeley, California, with production offices in Los Angeles. Founded by Lisa Thomas, cofounder and former CEO of Clif Bar, Inc., Katahdin's mission is to tell compelling stories often ignored by mainstream media—stories that inform, inspire and engage. Katahdin films include: Ab*ove and Beyond: The Birth of the Israeli Air Force (2014)*; *Dorothea Lange: Grab a Hunk of Lightning* (American Masters/PBS 2014); *Hava Nagila: The Movie* (2012); *Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh* (2008); *Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action* (2005).

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