

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Eva Krutein Bore Witness to WWII, Revolutionary Chile, and California in the 1960s**

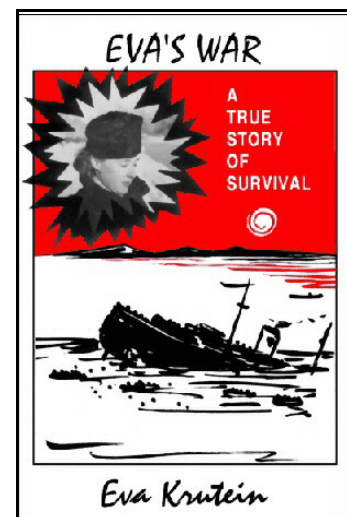
Eva Krutein, acclaimed musician and author, a WWII survivor and tireless champion for international understanding, died on May 6, 2016 at the age of 95. A private memorial was held for family and friends on July 16 in Laguna Woods, California.

Eva and her husband Manfred (1917-2002) were avid members of the SERVAS organization, traveling the world and hosting international guests in order to learn about others and better understand their circumstances. The Kruteins had seen more corners of the planet than most, under dire conditions; but surviving WWII and providing for a growing family through two emigrations never dampened their enthusiasm for new adventures and new friends. A visit to New Mexico hosted by fellow SERVAS members, Amador Publishers founders Harry Willson and Adela Amador Willson, brought together the four peace activists in warm friendship and a long-running literary collaboration. The press published four Krutein titles:

*Eva's War: a True Story of Survival* chronicles Eva's flight from Danzig with her baby daughter in January 1945. Danzig had been a Free City until seized by Hitler in 1939. With the city threatened by Soviet troops, and her husband caught up in the retrenchments of the defeated German Navy, Eva commences a year that will test her personal limits and her faith in humanity. Before she can start a new life, she must save herself and her child from starvation, find her husband, and learn the fate of her parents.

*Paradise Found, and Lost: Odyssey in Chile* follows the family's nine years in Chile during turbulent times. They find a beautiful land and caring people, strongly contrasted with social injustice and machismo. Sensing undercurrents of political violence and pending revolution and counter-revolution, Eva and Manfred come to the wrenching decision that the family must emigrate again.

*Amerika? America! From Immigration to Espionage* is the story of Eva's gradual, sometimes comical, adaptation to 1960s California with five teenagers and an often-absent husband. When the narrative is interrupted by the voice of Manfred, we learn that the alleged ocean mining assignment that keeps him away is really extended cover for a secret project. The account of how naval engineer Manfred Krutein assisted in raising a sunken Soviet submarine from the ocean floor, including orchestrating the "Glomar Explorer" cover story, is told with breathtaking immediacy in diary entries that are interspersed with Eva's chronicle, and which had to be vetted by the CIA before publication. (The history of the Glomar Explorer was not declassified until 2010.)



July 18, 2016

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**Eva Krutein**

Page 2 of 2

After sharing credit with Eva on *Amerika? America!* Manfred Krutein penned a book of his own. Based on his deep knowledge of German U-boats and his personal experiences with German and allied troops at the end of the war, his WWII spy novel *Hitler's Last Gasp* explores the rift between the Nazi SS and the German Navy.

The Krutein books remind us that war visits horror on all sides. It does not take much reading between the lines to find lessons for today.

Eva Krutein brought to her writing an artistic spirit and dedication cultivated over many years of musicianship. Long before she thought of writing, she excelled as a concert pianist, music teacher and opera coach. Her musical abilities and the opportunities they provided were literally her salvation on more than one occasion. Later in life, her performance skills readily translated to a mastery of public speaking. Eva spoke to numerous groups about her life experiences and the process of writing her memoirs. In a testament to the healing power of bearing witness, she told an audience in Albuquerque, NM that when she began to write the harrowing account that would become *Eva's War*: "...I cried, and each time I went over it I cried. But, with each time, I cried a little less."

In 1999, Eva Krutein was interviewed for the Peter Jennings/Todd Brewster book *The Century*, which was a companion to ABC and History Channel TV series of the same name. She and Manfred and their books were featured in many publications, and they acquired friends and fans all over the world. They were treasured members of the Amador Publishers family, and their books continue to be available in both print and electronic editions.



Eva and Manfred Krutein, 1943 / 1985

