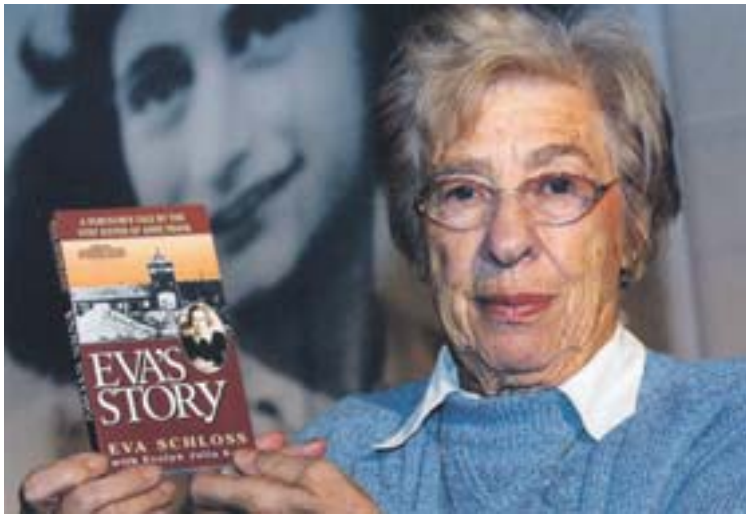


# Historic Evening with Anne Frank's Stepsister

Submitted by Rabbi D. Berkowitz



Eva Schloss

Photo provided

Families of all faiths are invited to hear a first-hand account from a woman whose life intersected with one of the most compelling figures in our history. Eva Geiringer Schloss, the childhood friend and stepsister of Anne Frank, will share her experiences including accounts of the publishing of Anne's famed diary at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 at the Orinda Theatre. The presentation is suitable for teenagers.

Schloss was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1929. She and her family immigrated to Belgium and eventually to Holland in 1938, shortly after Adolph Hitler annexed Austria.

In 1938, Germany invaded Austria, causing many Jewish families to flee the country to avoid persecution. Among the emigrants was 8-year-old Eva Geiringer, who with her mother, father, and brother moved first to Belgium and then to Holland, where one of her neighbors was a German Jewish girl of the same age.

The two girls became friends and playmates (though, as Schloss would say many years later, the girl was "much more grown-up and mature than me"). They passed the time by skipping, playing hopscotch and marbles, and drinking lemonade that the girl's mother prepared.

After the Germans invaded Holland in 1942, Schloss and her family went into hiding. Ultimately, both girls and their families were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Schloss and her mother were that family's only survivors. Anne Frank did not survive Auschwitz, but kept a diary that did.

After the war, Schloss' mother married Otto Frank, father of Anne Frank. Anne Frank's diary, her account of hiding from the Germans during the occupation of the Netherlands, was first published in 1950. Initially popularized through play and film adaptations, it is now one of the most widely read books in the world.

Since 1985, Schloss has devoted herself to holocaust education and global peace. She has recounted her wartime experiences in more than a thousand speaking engagements. She has written two books and has had a play written about her life. In 1999 Schloss signed the Anne Frank Peace Declaration along with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the niece of Raul Wallenberg, a legendary figure who rescued thousands of Jews in Budapest.

Schloss joins many courageous individuals who work tirelessly to end the violence and bigotry that continue to plague our world. Schloss' story is sensational and difficult to imagine, yet her insightful message reminds us that life is precious and fragile, that the creative spirit is stronger than fear, that the power of good is immeasurable, and that love makes a difference.

Ticket are \$25 for the main theater and \$20 for loges. A VIP package featuring priority seating, a reception with Schloss and a complimentary copy of her book is also available. The evening is sponsored by Chabad of Contra Costa, a Walnut Creek-based Jewish community center of Jewish life. Tickets are available at: www.JewishContraCosta.com.

## Shun Li and the Poet

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

This month, the International Film Showcase presents a beautiful and serious film from Italy. Set mostly on a working-class island in the Venetian Laguna, it depicts the collision of two worlds in crisis: that of an illegal Chinese immigrant who has to work to regain her freedom, and that of an old fisherman whose world is changing too fast.

The internal beauty of the two main characters is mirrored by the nostalgic beauty of the island; they try to reach each other

through poetry to alleviate their suffering, but conflicting social groups interfere.

*Shun Li and the Poet* is the tale of the tender friendship between Shun Li, a Chinese immigrant who works as a waitress in a tavern to save enough money for her son to join her in Italy, and Bepi, called "the poet" by his friends, an aging Croatian fisherman who refuses to leave the place where he's lived for 30 years to go live with his son.

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**Samira Says**



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

## How far is too far?

When it comes to your health driving a little further to the hospital of your choice doesn't seem like a big deal. Shouldn't the same apply when choosing your post-hospital rehabilitation care? If you are recovering from surgery, a debilitating illness or recent injury, choosing the right rehabilitation team is a critical important decision and can be overwhelming. Often times facilities are chosen based on location—close to home, work or friend and family. Although it is psychosocially fulfilling and important to be near friends and family, it is crucially important to have the opportunity to rehabilitate with a team that can get you to your highest

potential and with a facility that tracks their patients' outcomes. Choosing a facility based on convenience is not a good choice especially when it is the single most important decision for a successful recovery. ManorCare is focused on getting you back on your feet so that you can get back to your life. We encourage potential patients and families to tour facilities and ask questions. Choose a clinical team with a demonstrated track record for success and a proven commitment to clinical excellence. If this process is new to you we encourage you to ask some of the following questions:

- How do you measure the progress that patients make in rehabilitation?
- What evidence shows your team's success in helping patients improve their abilities to care for themselves?
- What evidence shows your team's success in helping patients improve their abilities to stand, walk or move from bed to chair?
- What evidence shows your team's success in helping patients and families prepare to confidently manage care at home?

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For a short video visit us on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/hcmanorcare](http://www.youtube.com/hcmanorcare)

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