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Contact: Sarah Miniaci
856.489.8654 x329 (U.S.)
sarah.miniaci@smithpublicity.com

***How Languages Saved Me:
A Polish Story of Survival***
By Tadeusz Haska & Stefanie Naumann

If you read one memoir this year, make it this one
**A RIVETING, DEEPLY AFFECTING AND DARKLY FUNNY TRUE
STORY OF SKILL AND SURVIVAL IN WORLD WAR II**

From boosting brain power and improving memory to creating career opportunities and providing a window into other cultures, there is no shortage of known benefits to learning a second (or third or fourth) language. Yet, despite the fact that it's never been easier to access instructional books, podcasts, apps, and communicate with people around the globe, 75% of Americans are still monolingual... and more people are now learning a new language on Duolingo than in the U.S. public school system.

Set for release on September 24, 2019 with Koehler Books, ***How Languages Saved Me: A Polish Story of Survival*** is a remarkable book that will resonate with anyone who has ever considered learning a new language, or who simply wants to be mesmerized by a tale of wit, skill, and heroism the likes of which has rarely been seen in a work of nonfiction.

Co-authored by Polish-American academic Tadeusz "Tad" Haska (1919-2012) and his granddaughter Stefanie Naumann, a professor at the Eberhardt School of Business at the University of the Pacific, ***How Languages Saved Me*** centers on Tad, a non-Jewish Pole who, after being orphaned at the age of 12, clung to the study of language like a lifevest.

"Our parents taught us that education is the only thing that could never be taken away from us," he shares in the book's first chapter, which provides an insightful and unique perspective on the volatile and challenging Great Depression years of post-World War I, pre-World War II Europe.

World War II erupted shortly after Tad's twentieth birthday, announcing its arrival with a sudden bombing on September 1, 1939 over Poznań, the city where he was preparing to begin his second year of university. "My world collapsed," he recalls, bringing the reader down to the ground level of a storm of humanity's horrors that would last for six years and forever change the course of countless lives.

How Languages Saved Me is an extraordinary account of how one young man's knowledge of nine languages helped him survive before, during, and after WWII. In one hundred and fifty heart-pounding -- and sometimes darkly humorous -- pages, readers will step inside Tad's recollections of translating German newspapers to farmers, job

instructions to French prisoners of war, and impersonating a German on occasion -- as well as escaping jail by the Soviet Secret Police, fleeing to Sweden, and smuggling his wife to safety in a coffin on an all-male Naval ship.

“My grandfather started writing his memoir in the early 1990s but had not finished it at the time of his passing in 2012 at age ninety-three,” Naumann shares in the book’s introduction. “I used recordings, as well as his journals and the letters he wrote to complete his memoir in his own words.”

“There are still political refugees in the world just as there were when Tad Haska escaped Poland,” she continues. “My grandparents faced unspeakable adversity, and they taught me what the courage of conviction means. They came to the United States because my grandfather fiercely believed in independence and the voice of the people being heard in government.”

A singular and significant addition to the canon of World War II biography, an important contribution to the study of language and multilinguists, and a touchstone to the legacy of a remarkable man and the difference he made, ***How Languages Saved Me*** is an unforgettable Fall release which will be available in hardcover, paperback, and ebook formats wherever books are sold as of September 24, 2019.

About the Authors:

TADEUSZ HASKA was born in 1919 in Mikołajki, Poland, and died in Monterey, California, in 2012. Orphaned at the age of 12, he used his knowledge of nine languages to survive World War II. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1949, where he earned his Ph.D. at University of California, Berkeley in Linguistics in his ninth language -- English. He taught, and served as chairman, in the Polish Department at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA for 35 years. His work was featured on the TV program *The Big Picture*.

STEFANIE NAUMANN, Tadeusz’s granddaughter, is a Professor of Management in the Eberhardt School of Business at University of the Pacific, where she has taught for 20 years. She earned her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, and has published over 30 journal articles. She is a 20+ year member of the Academy of Management, a lifetime member of the Polish American Genealogical Society of America, and has earned awards for her research, teaching, and service.

How Languages Saved Me [Koehler Books] will be available in hardcover, paperback, and ebook formats wherever books are sold as of September 24, 2019. Pre-order a copy today on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

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