

The facts behind the book...



The Warsaw Ghetto was established by the Nazis in 1940.

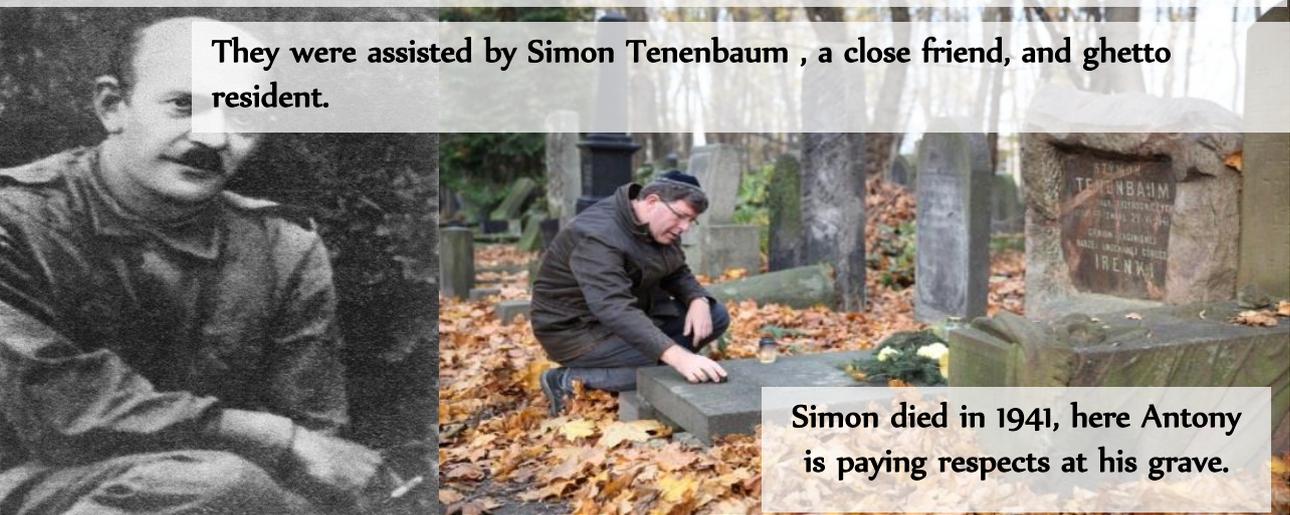
Most of its 400,000 Jewish inhabitants perished.



Jan and Antonina Zabinski ran the zoo before the war.

Jan was active in the Polish Underground

Most of the animals were killed during the bombing and at considerable risk, they turned the zoo into a place of refuge for Jews who they helped escape from the ghetto.



They were assisted by Simon Tenenbaum , a close friend, and ghetto resident.

Simon died in 1941, here Antony is paying respects at his grave.



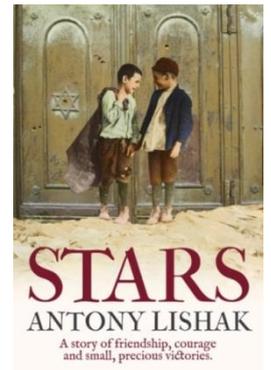
Over the course of the war the Zabinskis sheltered 300 Jews.

Many were hidden in the basement rooms of their villa.

THE MAKING OF STARS



A presentation by the author and educationalist Antony Lishak.



Antony Lishak is the author of over 30 books: novels, picture books and a wide range of non-fiction titles. He is an ex-teacher and is well known for leading stimulating writing workshops in schools across the country, having visited over 2000 schools.

STARS is the first book he has written that draws on his Jewish heritage and is inspired by an act of selfless generosity by his grandfather that sadly only came to light after his death. A considerable amount of research has gone into the creation of this book and it was crucial to him that the major events in the story were depicted as accurately as possible.

In his talk Antony will be speaking about the personal reasons for writing the book and the extensive research behind it. He will also describe the inspirational presentations he leads for children that result in thought-provoking writing workshops aimed at drawing a very personal response from the children to the book's major themes.

Warsaw, September 1939 - For twelve-year-old Stefan and Marcus, the zoo is their playground. Stefan lives with his family at the zoo and has grown up with the animals and their keepers. But Marcus is Jewish, and when Nazi troops invade Warsaw their world is torn apart. At enormous risk, their fathers devise a wild scheme to protect Stefan's family and other Jews. But boys will be boys and a rebellious act of revenge threatens to ruin everything.

Inspired by the fact that hundreds of Polish Jews found shelter in the abandoned cages and underground rooms of Warsaw Zoo, *Stars* is a story of brotherhood, courage and hope in the face of adversity.

For more information visit www.antonylishak.com