

*In conjunction with the 50th Annual Scholars' Conference
on the Holocaust and the Churches*



Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture

EVA & ROBERT RATONYI

“Holocaust Childhood: Wounds that Never Heal”

Sunday, March 8 | Reception - 6:30 pm | Lecture - 7:15pm
Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center

Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1938 Robert Ratonyi's early childhood was scarred by fear, upheaval and loss. He was six years old when forced to wear a yellow star and face the terrors of war and ghetto life without his parents, both of whom were deported. He grew up under communist dictatorship and was a freshman at the Technical University of Budapest when he was caught up in the bloody uprising against the regime in October of 1956. After the Russians crushed the uprising, he escaped to Austria and immigrated to Canada in 1957 where he met his wife, also a Holocaust survivor from Hungary.

Once in Montreal, Robert restarted his life, learned English, worked during the day and continued his education in an evening engineering program at a local university. In 1961, he transferred to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States, where he received his Bachelor and Master degrees in engineering. He also earned a Master's degree in Management from Drexel University and began a new career in business and finance. He regularly speaks about the Holocaust at schools, museums, and special events in his home of Atlanta, Georgia.

In this special lecture, Mr. Ratonyi will be introduced by his wife, Eva, a 1976 alumna of UT Dallas. He will provide some background information on the Holocaust in Hungary in general and discuss his personal experiences during the Holocaust.

